A Global Concern

The fight against cancer is a matter of global concern. Each advance in knowledge, like a piece in a vast puzzle, brings us one step closer to completing the picture. Recognized as a formidable source of scientific innovation, Israel plays a key role in this worldwide endeavor.



Against the Disease and for the Patient

Lending a Hand to Life

Forging Ahead in the Fight against Cancer

Making the Fight against Cancer a National Priority

2012 was a significant year for the Israel Cancer Association (ICA) as it proudly celebrated its 60th anniversary.

6 decades of achievement and relentless dedication, at the forefront of the fight against cancer. 60 years of lending an outstretched hand to save lives.

Throughout its existence, the ICA has worked continuously to make the fight against cancer a national priority - no simple matter in a nation beset by constant threats, economic hardships and social upheaval.

The ICA works in close collaboration with Israel's health authorities, however all of the Association's means are derived exclusively from public contributions, and it receives no government funding whatsoever, making each donation ever more crucial.

This independence enables ICA to operate according to strictly professional criteria, in a bias-free environment, while maintaining a global and national perspective and vision. Nevertheless, ICA acts as a complementary agent, while serving as a catalyst for innovation.

Ensuring that its administrative costs constitute less than 10% of the annual budget is something ICA takes pride in. ICA spearheads the battle against cancer, initiating and implementing essential long-term, nationwide programs

and goals for the benefit of all cancer patients and their families, in every sector and in every locale throughout the country.

Over 60 years of involvement and a proud record of achievement have earned ICA widespread recognition, both nationally and globally, as a prime leader in Israel's fight against cancer.

Since ICA's establishment, all Israeli Presidents have served as ICA's patrons. This was an initiative of the late **Mrs. Suzy Eban**, ICA's Founding President. **Prof. Eliezer Robinson**, ICA Chairman, served as Past-President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) from 1998 to 2002. He was appointed as a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Cancer Survivorship Committee, being the only non-US member of the Committee. Prof. Robinson currently serves as Chairman of the National Oncology Council for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment.

Mrs. Miri Ziv, ICA Director General, was appointed as a Member of the Executive Board of the UICC in 2006, and in 2008 she was selected to serve the maximum additional 4-year term. In June 2011, Mrs. Ziv was elected as Global Cancer Ambassador by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and participated in the delegation of the Israel Ministry of Health to the historical High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including cancer, of the UN General Assembly in New York.



CANCER ASSOCI

ISRAEL

The Goal: Reducing Mortality and Morbidity Rates of Cancer

ICA aims to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality by waging an all-encompassing fight – through the promotion of research, prevention and early detection, improved treatment modalities and enhanced rehabilitation and quality of life. ICA supports cancer patients and survivors throughout their ordeal and advocates for their rights.

ICA – Perpetuating Israel's Pioneering Spirit

From its very inception, the ICA has taken center stage in Israel's fight against cancer. ICA is Israel's largest, most prestigious reliable national volunteer organization, reaching every sector of society - Jewish and Arab populations, children and adults, women and men. The late **Prof. Jerzy Einhorn**, renowned world oncologist who was a member of the Swedish Nobel Prize Committee, assessed Israel's status in the battle against cancer and reported: "The contribution made by the ICA is critical for the quality of cancer control, cancer care and cancer research in Israel".

The ICA, like the country itself, owes its success entirely to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, both in Israel and abroad, who devote themselves to their work with a determined single-mindedness of purpose. Pioneering new frontiers, whether clearing swamps, greening the desert or breaking new ground in science and technology, is an integral part of the Israeli national character. This pioneering spirit, coupled with an inbred idealism, is the moving force behind the ICA.

ICA was awarded the Presidential Award for Outstanding Volunteer Organization during Israel's Jubilee celebrations.





The Presidential Award for Outstanding Volunteer Organization



Former Chairman of the ICA
Research Committee

Operating on all Fronts

With the ultimate goal of enhancing prevention and early detection, while improving treatment and rehabilitation for patients, ICA is involved in every aspect of cancer control. The following is a brief overview of the scope of ICA's activities and achievements.





Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel Prize Laureate Honorary President of ICA

Investing in Research that Knows no Territorial Boundaries – Investing in the Future

The ICA has accompanied **Prof. Aaron Ciechanover**, 2004 Nobel Prize Laureate, on his scientific journey with great admiration and pride. His collaboration with the ICA regulary assists in advancing the fight against all cancer diseases, which know no geographical boundaries.

The following is an excerpt from the leading morning radio news program "Good Morning Israel" on the day of "Door Knock" Campaign kick-off held the same year Prof.



Ciechanover became Nobel Prize Laureate, which clearly speaks for itself: "Some odd years ago, as a young researcher and physician, I received assistance from Israel Cancer Association research fellowships, and I learned from up close about the significant work that the Association does in promoting research, prevention, early detection, and improving treatment modalities for patients. It was then that I realized that research is inextricably bound with understanding the disease and is potentially life-saving. Today the "Door Knock" Fundraising Campaign is being launched and volunteers will be knocking on your doors for donations. I am calling upon all of you to open your pockets and hearts because your contribution will assist the Israel Cancer Association in advancing the fight for life. I thank you. Prof. Aaron Ciechanover."

For nearly a decade, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover served as a member of ICA's Research Committee and as a testimony of the high regard he holds for the Association, he agreed to serve as Honorary President of ICA after becoming a Nobel Prize Laureate.

Investment in research is vital for generating the scientific discoveries that will serve as the building blocks for tomorrow's medical advances. Treatments, such as bone marrow transplants and targeted therapy, would not be possible without the support of on-going related research. Today's groundbreaking research leads to tomorrow's treatments, medicines, and cures. Molecular biology and genetic engineering applications can access scientific breakthroughs to close in on cancer cures. ICA offers non-partisan support to virtually all of Israel's medical and scientific institutions.

A plethora of grants and fellowships are awarded each year, for research on topics ranging from epidemiology, through basic and clinical research, to psycho-social factors.

Cancer knows no geographical, ethnic or racial boundaries and every research breakthrough made may be applied both in Israel and worldwide.

Thanks to these research grants, achievements with universal implications have been attained.

Promoting Cancer Control

Generating Public Awareness and Prevention: The Most Effective Tool in the Fight against Cancer

Tremendous advancements have been made over the years and today it is possible to cope with cancer, and in many instances, cure the disease. Presently, prevention is still the most effective way of fighting the disease. Through education and broad-based media campaigns, ICA promotes awareness of the importance of prevention and encourages the public to adopt preventive measures. Hundreds of thousands of educational information pamphlets are distributed in a variety of languages.

ICA's "Tele-information" telephone service is another comprehensive information source on all aspects of cancer, made available to the public in Hebrew, Arabic and Russian. In addition, the ICA's Cancer Resource and Information Center provides assistance in seeking further knowledge by offering access to international databases and professional publications. In view of the diverse data services that it offers, ICA can take pride in serving as Israel's leading reliable source of information in the fight against cancer.



ICA website - English section

ICA has created a **clinical research database**, designed for cancer patients and professionals, which is accessible through ICA's website. Divided according to common types of cancer, the database is user friendly, and enables interested patients to review, search and consider clinical research relevant to them. ICA's Information Center also provides access to information about clinical research performed in Europe and the United States. Additionally, the ICA runs advisory committees comprised of the leading experts in diverse fields as well as 20 Forums relating to different types of cancer and key issues.

Due to the disturbing fact that **smoking** is the number one preventable cause of death in Israel and around the world, ICA places special emphasis on preventing this hazard and works with different age groups to reduce smoking and its harmful effects. ICA conducts various anti-smoking activities focusing on children and teens, manages media campaigns, initiates special events and projects, lobbies for anti-smoking legislation and offers smoking cessation programs.



ICA's intense efforts, in collaboration with additional entities, have proven to be successful: smoking rates have dropped significantly from 45% in the 80's to 20.6% in 2011. Upon ICA's initiative, Israel was one of the first 10 countries to pass a law restricting smoking in public places.

In 2008 the "energy balance" media campaign has resulted in a tremendous increase in public awareness of the need to avoid obesity and maintain a healthy life style that includes regular physical activity.



"Hooka Kills Like a Cigarette" Campaign



Smoking can cause impotence

אוחרה - עישון עלול לגרום לאימפוטנציה





A healthy lifestyle is not the only important issue, as the beautiful, sunny, warm climate of our region brings with it yet another matter of concern – the harmful effects of sun exposure, which when properly addressed, can be prevented. Here too, the ICA invests tremendous resources to focus on this area of prevention.

ICA's "Sun smart" programs do just that, by promoting awareness and education to prevent skin cancer among children and teens. The ICA targets the entire population through mass-media campaigns, public service announcements and informational brochures on the subject.

One of ICA's major campaigns was the implementation of Skin Cancer Awareness Week, first initiated in 1991, and conducted annually in collaboration with all the healthcare funds and the Association of Dermatologists and Plastic Surgeons.

Throughout this special week, held at the beginning of the summer, hundreds of skin cancer examination booths operate in public places throughout the country, providing free examinations to all citizens.

"First time at the beach?" poster



"Sun smart"

Although, globally speaking, a significant increase in melanoma incidence has been reported in Israel, among the Jewish population, **stability** in invasive melanoma incidence rates has been observed over the past decade, with the exception of a slight increase in 2012.

Melanoma in situ incidence rates have increased over the past decade, which indicates an increase in the early detection rates of the disease. Mortality rates due to the disease have been stable over the past decade among Jewish males, and have decreased by 32% among Jewish females. Among Israeli Arabs, the melanoma morbidity and mortality rates are extremely low.

In the past, Israel ranked third after Australia and New Zealand in melanoma incidence. ICA is pleased to report that, according to Israel Cancer Registry Statistics, Israel currently ranks 18th in the incidence of invasive melanoma, as compared to other countries around the globe.



Early Detection Saves Lives

ICA invests countless efforts to continually develop and implement new and effective early detection programs.

Breast cancer is Israel's most widespread malignant disease in Israel. But, thanks to early detection, approximately 90% of the women afflicted can be cured and here too, ICA is a prime mover in promoting the fight against breast cancer, tackling the matter from all angles.

The ICA initiated the **National Mammography Screening Project** and through ICA's "Invitation to Life" project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and healthcare funds, women in the target age group are personally invited to undergo a mammography exam. The national mammography screening program, along with ongoing ICA information campaigns, helped to significantly raise the level of awareness and compliance to early detection. To date, within the framework of this national program, over 5,000,000 examinations have been carried out. 72% of the women diagnosed were in the early stages of the disease with a very high chance of recovery.



The mobile Mammography unit

Upon the inception of the project we found that substantial gaps existed in the compliance rates to undergo mammography screening between women living in the central region of the country and those residing in the more remote areas. To tackle this concern, the ICA purchased a Mobile Mammography Unit, "Michal",

with the intent to increase screening compliance rates among women of the appropriate age, and among unique sectors of the female population – particularly in geographical and social peripheries such as in Arab villages, in towns in the geographical periphery, where there is a high percentage of new immigrants, and in ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods.

The current data indicate a significant reduction in the gaps between these sectors since the outset of the mobile unit's activity. The WHO survey of the European region in 2009 revealed that Israel leads in mammography compliance rates, while taking into consideration the narrowed gaps between different sectors of the population.

In 2011, Prof. Gad Rennert, who headed the Quality Control Program of the ICA-funded National Program for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer, reported that the disparity in mammography compliance rates was completely eliminated between the Arab and Jewish female populations in Israel, and cure rates have risen significantly - 87%. Most importantly, over the past decade, breast cancer mortality rates have dropped by 25% among Jewish and Arab women.

Thanks to these achievements Israel appeared as an example in the chapter entitled "Bridging the Disparity Gap", in the comprehensive report, 'World Breast Cancer Report', edited by Prof. Peter Boyle, President of the IPRP (International Prevention Research Institute).

ICA invests numerous resources to raise awareness of the early detection of the most prevalent types of cancer via **media campaigns**, lectures, seminars and instructional training courses held in community centers, workplaces, and the military, throughout the country, and especially to help break through the "barrier of silence" surrounding the disease and its implications. Campaigns included art exhibits on the subject of breast cancer held









at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and the Performing Arts Center in Jerusalem, the Estée Lauder Global Landmarks Illumination Initiative, featuring Tel Aviv's Peace (Azrieli) Towers, the Tower of David in Jerusalem, and other major landmarks illuminated in pink, as part of the international Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and so on and so forth.

Colorectal cancer is the second most prevalent cancer in Israel and incidence rates for men are about the same as for women. This form of cancer can be prevented and detected in its earliest stages. ICA invests enormous efforts to increase the early detection rate by financing various

activities and projects, especially for high risk groups and for the general population over the age of 50.

When the disease is detected at an early stage the chances of a cure reach 90%. Here too achievements have been recorded, but there is still a long road ahead.

Further to ICA's Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month initiative, the Ministry of Health announced a National Screening Campaign.



Initiating and Supporting Medical Services

Lending a Hand for the Wellbeing of the Patient

Cancer patients, and those who help them fight the disease, stand at the forefront of the fight, determined to regain their health and their lives.

The ICA continually lends a helping hand by building patient care infrastructures and facilities and by promoting enhanced treatment modalities.

In recent years, ICA has established and renovated numerous treatment facilities, including oncology departments in hospitals around the country for both adults and children. Working on behalf of patients, the ICA has ensured that oncology treatment units be moved from dark basement venues to sun drenched hospital floors and departments.

ICA also promotes the establishment of **comprehensive treatment** centers, where multidisciplinary medical teams provide optimal care, such as Breast Health Care Centers, as well as pediatric oncology units equipped with activity and recreation rooms.



Reuben Foundation Comprehensive Breast Care Center, Linn Clinic, Haifa

Display of 333 images of women in the square of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art represents the number of women diagnosed each month with breast cancer in Israel

Purchasing Innovative Medical Equipment

Medical equipment for cancer treatment is highly sophisticated and extremely expensive. Here too, the ICA assists medical centers in the purchase of state-of-the-art and innovative equipment.

Additionally, ICA finances computerized information systems for patient registration and follow-up.

Improving Cancer Treatment

Constantly seeking ways to improve medical care, ICA funds professional staff positions in treatment centers and communities throughout Israel - oncology nurses, social workers and psychologists for adults and children; breast cancer care coordinators - nurses and social workers serving as patient navigators who provide counseling, guidance and support, helping women make critical decisions; colostomy specialist nurses for post-operative colostomy patients; speech therapists for patients following laryngectomy; dieticians, psychologists, physiotherapists and other healthcare professionals.

Augmenting Professional Training

With the goal of improving treatment modalities, ICA helps train professionals in all oncology-related fields - ascertaining that the relevant professionals receive regular updates, granting scholarships for overseas inservice training, organizing national and educational conferences, seminars and symposia, and purchasing scientific literature.

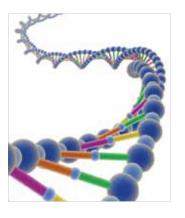


Global Genetics Laboratory

ICA has granted funding to promote the **genetic testing of breast and ovarian cancer**, which without a doubt will have significant bearing on future treatment and prevention strategies.

The breast cancer incidence rates in Israel are among the highest in the world, partly due to the high prevalence of BRCA 1/2 gene mutations among the Israeli population. Because of the large number of carriers, Israel may be regarded as a "natural genetics laboratory" which affords unique opportunities for prevention and treatment of breast cancer as well as related research.

The Israel Genetics Consortium, headed by Prof. Efrat Levy-Lahad, which operates under the auspices of the ICA and is engaged in cancer genetics research, continues to conduct joint and multi-center study on the genetics of breast cancer and ovarian cancer in Israel. Hundreds of BRCA1 and BRAC2 gene mutation carriers in Israel and the United States were examined in one of its research studies. This study appeared in the American Academy of Science's prestigious publication.



Improving Cancer Treatment National Clinical Protocols

ICA has endeavored to establish **National Clinical Protocols**, while assisting the Ministry of Health in the set-up and update of a National Cancer Registry and a separate registry for children with cancer. These valuable resources trace the prevalence and incidence of cancer in Israel, providing critical epidemiological information, and serve as a tool to monitor results.

For many years, the ICA has sponsored the implementation of national treatment protocols, especially for common types of childhood cancers, such as pediatric leukemia. This important protocol bridged the gaps once noted between the cure rates among Jewish and Arab children and between children treated in different hospitals.

Rambam Medical Center Oncology Department & its sea view





Davidoff Medical Center at Rabin Medical Center, Petah Tikva



Sarah Markovich Breast Care Center, Kaplan Medical Center, Rehovot





Claire & Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Comprehensive Breast Care Clinic, Holy Family Hospital, Nazareth

A linear accelerator



ICA initiates and implements rehabilitation and welfare programs for patients, survivors and their families, improves patients' quality of life, and offers a wide range of special activities.

ICA also plans and conducts unique activities, tailored especially for children who have cancer, breast cancer survivors, etc.

The ICA's wide range of rehabilitation and welfare programs include supportive home health care provided by trained medical care teams, and financial assistance for families of cancer patients who are in need.

THE ISRAEL CANCER ASSOCIATION



ICA's "Reach to Recovery" (Yad Lehachlama) program enlists volunteers who have recovered from breast cancer, and have received special training to assist women currently coping with the disease. Additionally, ICA offers speech rehabilitation for laryngectomy

ICA organized and finances the "Look Good Feel Better" project in which volunteer cosmeticians visit women who are undergoing treatment in oncology clinics. The patients are provided with beauty care, hair and wig care and consultation services free of charge, to raise their morale, make them feel better and help them cope with the

patients and rehabilitative support for colostomy patients.

disease and its side effects.

The aim of the "Steps to a Healthy Life" project, launched in 2008, is to expose cancer patients to the health-related advantages inherent in physical activity, to encourage them to integrate planned and structured activity into their routine, and to provide them with consultation and professional accompaniment.



Improving Patients' Quality of Life

The fight against cancer is waged on multiple fronts and ICA is active on all of them. Among the organization's most heartfelt endeavors is its work with cancer patients, extending them a helping hand at every stage of their confrontation with the disease.

"Steps to a Health

Life" Project

This unique service, moderated by sports medicine specialist, **Prof. Naama Constantini**, currently operates in all oncology institutes throughout Israel. The health-related, physical and emotional advantages of physical activity among cancer patients have been scientifically validated in recent years. Physical activity alleviates fatigue, decreases disease recurrence, improves sleep-patterns and enhances quality of life of patients.

Another innovative project provides sexual body image and fertility counseling for patients and their partners, including: information about cancer's impact on sexuality, fertility and reproduction, consultation on treatment for sexual problems and rehabilitation of sexual function.

ICA provides social workers and psychologists who organize **support groups** in medical centers and ICA branches throughout Israel, as well as psycho-oncology teams who operate its **telephone support hotline** for patients and their families. This service is also available in Russian and Arabic.

ICA's Suzy Rehabilitation & Training Center holds seminars for professionals and the general public while, through the "Strong Together" Community Center, it offers support groups, body-soul activities such as yoga, lectures and comprehensive workshops for patients, survivors and their families. The center hosts about 1,400 activities each year.

Improving patient quality of life is one of ICA's top priorities. It has played a major role in creating the first hospice for the terminally ill to ease the suffering of advanced stage cancer patients. ICA operates a Home Care Hospice Service, enabling patients to remain in warm familiar surroundings, while receiving 24-hour attention provided by a professional team consisting of physicians, nurses and social workers.

ICA's **Sir Charles Clore Hostel** accomodates patients from outlying areas who receive ambulatory care at medical centers in the central region, helping patients avoid the need for arduous daily journeys, while providing nursing services, recreational and supportive activities. ICA has also lent its assistance in the establishment of ambulatory cancer treatment and admission centers for children, such as a children's hospice at Sheba Medical Center and a hostel for young patients and their families at Rambam Medical Center.



"Give Kids the World" in memory of the late Miri Sheetrit





Hand in Hand with Children

Children with cancer are the focus of special attention. The ICA works on their behalf in every way possible – by promoting research, new treatment modalities and above all, by providing special rehabilitation activities.

Every year, ICA holds numerous activities for young cancer patients and their families - including **family vacation** camps offering a range of activities and experiences that provide a welcome break from tense medical routines, as well as a chance to "recharge their batteries" for the next round of therapy and hope for the future.

ICA's "Give Kids the World" program, in memory of Miri Sheetrit, is a unique travel experience. It takes children with advanced-stage cancer and their families to the special Orlando Children's Village in the US for what is often their last happy time together as a whole family.

The "Hope for Life" program provides tutors who help children keep up with their school studies when confronted with their disease. ICA's investment in the kids' future gives them and their parents the hope and strength to pursue their complicated struggle with the child's illness. In addition, ICA purchases computers that enable child patients to keep in touch with their schools and friends, as well as enjoy games and activities, even when confined to bed.

Another project, called "Embarking on Life" is geared toward patients in their early 20s, too old for children's programs, yet still too young for adult programs. These young adults who begin their independent life at a very problematic starting point are offered recreational trips and dedicated support groups and are trained for future work with other young cancer patients.



Family Vacation



"Hope for Life" program tutoring project

Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Activity and Support Center, Haifa





The Sir Charles Clore Hostel

Association

Safeguarding Patients and Public Rights

"Watchdog and Advocate"

Spearheading the fight for patients' rights, ICA serves as an advocate and "watchdog" for improved health services, keeps the public informed and safeguards its interests.

ICA continually lobbies and advocates for increased government "health basket" allocations for new medications and treatments, and helps patients cut through red tape in their dealings with the National Insurance Institute bureaucracy. ICA initiates and promotes legislation to enhance patients rights, such as prohibiting discrimination based on genetic testing, etc.

Support from Overseas

ICA is very fortunate to have the support of Friends Associations active in countries across the globe. These overseas volunteers play an important role as partners in our common endeavor that crosses all boundaries of background and nationality. The Friends Associations launch local annual fundraising campaigns, enabling the continuation of the myriad of activities and programs that ICA initiates and supports.

Looking Ahead

The ICA plays a key role as an integral part of the country's medical infrastructure by initiating and promoting creative and innovative activities to support the fight against cancer that has no territorial boundaries. ICA plans to continue in every sphere of activity reviewed above – educating and informing the public; promoting prevention; improving and augmenting diagnostic, treatment and care facilities; expanding welfare services and professional training; and supporting the broadest possible base of cancer research.

ICA looks to its many supporters in Israel and worldwide, and to the countless volunteers who devote themselves to its common endeavor. Together, we can pave the way to a healthier future.

Wherever and however it can, the ICA lends an outstretched hand to save lives with the help and support of dedicated volunteers and generous donors - in Israel and around the world. ICA works relentlessly "for the patient and against the disease", striving to eradicate cancer and to create hope for a cancer-free future.



Lending a Hand to Life

Earmarked Donations, In Memoriam Legacies, Bequests and Memorial Plaques

Donations earmarked for research studies, buildings, equipment, etc. are transferred in full with no overhead. Their necessity is reviewed by a professional committee, from an overall national perspective.

All such donations are listed in a special section of each ICA Annual Report, while memorial plaques are located at the Sir Charles Clore Hostel adjacent to ICA Headquarters,

and at the site of various ICA - sponsored projects, such as treatment and research centers throughout Israel. Donations dedicated in honor of family events are commemorated by registering the event in ICA's Book of Life. As an additional source of funding, the ICA receives donations in the form of legacies, bequests or memorial plagues.

All Earmarked Donations received are transferred in full - no overhead is taken, and hospitals and research institutions are not permitted to deduct any overhead costs from contributions transferred to them by ICA.