Faculty of Health Sciences

Being Different Means Making a Difference

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Commitment to the health of the Negev community – this guiding principle has remained central to our mission since the Faculty of Health Sciences was established in 1974.

Today, our medical education, interdisciplinary research, and community-based healthcare initiatives have made a decisive impact on the health of the Negev population while establishing the Faculty at the top level of the international scientific community.

The Faculty’s pioneering vision of involvement with the community continues to inspire all our efforts. What was known as the “Beer-Sheva Experiment”, when we began, has become the “Beer-Sheva Experience”, flourishing by delivering humanistic medical education to our students, conducting high-quality research, and promoting the health of individuals and communities in the Negev.

The Faculty has made a vital difference to the Negev region and the State of Israel, and at the same time has won a reputation for significant contributions to medical research and improved health care in the international arena.

Welcome to the story of the Faculty’s ongoing work.

S. Sofer
Professor Shaul Sofer
"I'm not interested in your opinions, or what your religion is. The only thing that interests me is what hurts you."  

Louis Pasteur

Why is this Faculty Different?

The Faculty of Health Sciences was established in 1974 out of an urgent need to address the special health-care problems of the Negev, where a large and diverse population is dispersed over a wide geographic area. The Faculty’s founding goals included:

- training humane and skilled physicians and medical personnel oriented towards primary care and community service
- pursuing advanced medical research at the very highest standards, with special focus on solving the health problems of the Negev
- improving health-care delivery in Negev communities while implementing innovative care models

This comprehensive and integrated ambition resulted in a radical rethinking of the admission process, curriculum, and educational methodology. Today, after three decades of development and growth, with an enrollment of more than 2,500 students, the Faculty can justly claim to have transformed the profile of health care and disease prevention in the Negev.

At the same time, the Faculty has achieved a national and international reputation for training physicians and health professionals uniquely prepared for the health challenges of the 21st century, as well as for high-quality medical research. Many of the Faculty’s innovations have been adopted by institutions in Israel and abroad.
What are the factors that have made so great a difference? Among them:

- A fully interdisciplinary approach to both research and clinical care
- Deep involvement in the community, including the establishment of a Division of Community Health
- A medical school whose innovations in student selection, curriculum, and educational methodology have transformed how we train physicians
- A close partnership between teaching and research, so that practical questions raised by clinicians are often solved by collaborative research in the basic sciences
- Special programming that integrates students into community work from the beginning of their training

In addition, the Faculty’s program responds directly to perceived health-care needs through initiatives that have:

- Decentralized medical services by establishing a network of community clinics throughout the Negev – the Negev Project
- Placed medical personnel, especially new medical graduates, into these community clinics – the Graduates Program
- Promoted a variety of programs and activities, in cooperation with the national health funds, the Ministry of Health, and community agencies, to improve community health in the Negev – Negev Health Forum
- Implemented collaborative research and public-health projects with neighboring countries, including the Palestinian Authority

The Faculty’s constellation of educational, research, and health-care institutions consists of:

- Joyce & Irving Goldman Medical School, including its framework of primary care teaching clinics, community-based outreach programs, and medical facilities
- Medical School for International Health, extending the Faculty’s community mission to include the health of the regional and global community
- Leon & Mathilde Recanati School for Community Health Professions
- School for Medical Laboratory Sciences
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Continuing Medical Education
- Undergraduate program in Health Systems Management (in collaboration with the School of Management)
- Undergraduate program in Biomedical Engineering (in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering Sciences)
- Graduate programs in Medical Sciences, Sociology of Health, Gerontology, Epidemiology, Public Health, Health-System Management
- A network of research and academic centers promoting studies in specific health related and scientific areas
To counter the trend toward specialists who focus only on the “sick” part of patients, the School initiated an innovative curriculum designed to train physicians to care for the patient as a whole. The School also aimed at decentralizing medical care and improving community health in the Negev.

This return to the true roots of medical care has made the Goldman Medical School a model of medical education and a world leader in the field of community medicine. The School’s innovative methodology makes it unique among faculties of medicine in Israel in several areas:

**Selection of students.** Candidates are evaluated primarily through extensive personal interviews that aim to reveal their innate values – to make certain that they will profit from a medical education that emphasizes humane, holistic, and community oriented patient-care. Seventy candidates are accepted each year out of nearly 1,200 applicants.

**Hands-on education.** Students’ clinical exposure begins in the first year of studies. They work in community clinics and hospitals throughout the Negev, learning not only from textbooks, case histories, and lectures, but by personal interaction with patients. During their last two years, outstanding students are given the opportunity to function as physicians’ assistants to hospital clinicians.

**A “spiral system” of teaching.** Starting with basic knowledge, the Faculty’s methodology adds advanced and complex data from varying perspectives, finally providing the students with a deep and fully integrated understanding of the subject matter.

**Treating the whole patient.** When treating an illness, students are trained to take into account not only the patients’ medical problems, but also their social and cultural background and role in the family and community. Tutors assist the student in fully grasping the human dimensions of an illness and demonstrate how to empathize and communicate with the human being lying in a hospital bed far from familiar surroundings.

This exceptional system of training produces doctors who provide compassionate care at the highest standards of medical service, using state-of-the-art medical techniques, in both hospital and community.

At its founding in 1974, the **Joyce & Irving Goldman Medical School** undertook a mission dramatically different from that of conventional institutions for medical education.
Established in 1978, the Leon & Mathilde Recanati School for Community Health Professions has more than 800 students enrolled in three professional departments: Nursing (including a graduate program), Physical Therapy, and Emergency Medicine. A track in Audiology and Speech Therapy is currently being planned.

The School’s mission is to:

• train health professionals to assume leadership roles in service, education, and research
• implement health-care services and programs for the Negev population
• conduct research in the health professions
• develop, execute, and evaluate innovative models of health-care delivery and professional health-care education

The School emphasizes community and family studies, health-service structure, and public health issues. Its nursing graduates annually achieve first place in Israel’s state certifying examinations. In recognition of the School’s national and international stature, its curricula have been adopted by several other institutions nationwide.

The School supplements its mission in the community through programs to aid the absorption of new immigrants, especially from the former Soviet Union and from Ethiopia; and by supporting underprivileged populations, especially the Bedouin, through affirmative action and extensive tutoring programs.

Founded in 1998 as a joint initiative with Columbia University, the unique four-year Medical School for International Health (MSIH) trains doctors in global health and cross-cultural medicine, including disaster medicine, health needs of populations, the connection between environment and health, medical response to bioterrorism, and other emerging international health issues. Students hail from around the world, including the United States, Brazil, Jordan, India, Venezuela, Tibet, Kenya, Korea, and Taiwan.

With admissions doubling each year, MSIH established itself as the world’s only fully integrated program in the field of international health. The curriculum combines medical subjects with related studies in behavioral and social sciences and in international health. All courses are taught in English, with Hebrew-language training to prepare students for clinical training in Israeli hospitals. The program also includes a two-month clinical clerkship in developing countries.

With its commitment to community health care and its network of research projects serving populations in the Negev, the Middle East, and Africa, Ben-Gurion University offers an ideal setting for the teaching and promotion of global health and medicine.

In the Faculty of Health Sciences, People Make a Difference

Rania Oqby
First Bread, Then Chocolate

The first Israeli Bedouin woman doctor, Rania Oqby, a graduate of the Goldman Medical School, grew up in a single-parent family, an unusual circumstance among Bedouins. The obstacles she faced, including feeling underprivileged and unequal even in her own community, might have deflected the ambitions of a less determined person.

But Rania had a secret weapon – a mother who imbued her with the message that education is essential for girls. So from childhood, Rania dreamed of being a doctor. Rania was helped in pursuing her dream by the outreach and educational-enrichment programs with which the Faculty of Health Sciences guides Bedouin youngsters toward careers in science and health care. “Ten years ago,” Rania points out, “there were eight Bedouin students at BGU. Now there are hundreds.”

Now 28, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, Rania Oqby is the first Bedouin gynecologist in the Negev, advancing the health of Bedouin women. As for herself, Rania says that “it is most important to me to work in my community.” She believes that community building is the necessary first step to helping her people.

*After the Bedouin community has many doctors, social workers, and teachers, then we’ll learn physics. First bread, then chocolate,* she says, and she credits the Faculty of Health Sciences with giving her a taste of both.
Established in 1996, the **School for Medical Laboratory Sciences** offers a three-year undergraduate degree program to:

- promote the professional standards of personnel in medical research and medical laboratories
- prepare students for leadership roles in research, service, and medical laboratories

The students are required to complete 145 credits in basic sciences and a full range of medical studies, as well as a 500-hour internship in clinical and research laboratories. This training is the basis for a career in medical laboratory sciences or a stepping-stone to careers in teaching, research, and high-tech. Graduates may continue their studies towards M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in the fields of natural and health sciences.

Inaugurated in 2001, the **School of Pharmacy**’s four-year program:

- emphasizes a clinical pharmacy approach
- stresses monitoring, control, and patient education in use of medications
- trains pharmacists to serve as essential members of the patient-care team

The School’s curriculum comprises 198 credits in basic pharmacy and biomedical disciplines, as well as up-to-date topics of cellular and molecular biology relevant to modern pharmacotherapy and pharmacogenomics, in addition to alternative medical disciplines that are gaining importance in the West. Following completion of academic studies, the student is required to undergo an additional 6-month period of practical training to receive professional licensing by the Ministry of Health. Graduates are qualified for community and hospital pharmaceutical services, in the pharmaceutical industry, or with public authorities, as well as choosing to pursue an academic career in pharmacy or other areas of life science research.

Established in 1996, the **School of Continuing Medical Education** organizes courses for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals from all around Israel.

The School:

- provides a study frame for primary care physicians working in the community
- offers courses that meet the learning needs of physicians and other healthcare providers in all specialties
- helps in the process of creation, organization, and implementation of new courses in various medical and paramedical areas
- develops a relevant educational program to maintain and uphold the professional quality for medical professions
- develops individualized continuing medical education based on specific learning objectives

The School provides a frame for post-graduate learning needs through high-quality programs. Each Continuing Medical Education course is designed to assist practitioners in the understanding and integration of the newest medical knowledge and advanced treatments into their practice; and their final mission is the improvement of patient.
Through community service, education, and research, the **Division of Community Health** emphasizes the integration of health-care services within community life.

**Community Service**
The Division supervises physicians in more than 20 outpatient clinics throughout the Negev and operates the following special Community Programs:

- Ambulatory Palliative Care Service in the Negev (24-hour on-call care)
- Ma’agan Community Center for Cancer Patients and their Families
- Domestic Violence Demonstration Project (detection of abused women in primary care settings)
- Bedouin Mobile Unit, a specially equipped vehicle, staffed by a physician, Arabic-speaking nurses, and medical students, that provides individualized care, including dialysis and other sophisticated procedures, to Bedouin settlements in outlying areas

**Teaching**
In its teaching mission, the Division trains individuals for careers in family medicine; provides special educational activities in chronic care and nutrition, pediatrics, general practice, and research; offers continuing education to family physicians, including a four-year Continuing Medical Education course for residents in Family Medicine.

**Research**
Through the Sial Research Center for Family Medicine and Primary Care, the Division conducts research providing health data about the Negev population and evaluates the health-care delivery system and intervention programs in the Negev.

The Division of Community Health is recognized as the National Teaching Training Program in Palliative Care.
The Faculty’s core research body in medical sciences is the Division of Basic Sciences, which teaches and supervises basic sciences in graduate and undergraduate programs and provides clinical laboratory services at Soroka Medical Center. The division is divided into six research departments:

**Microbiology and Immunology** specializing in microbiology, immunology, parasitology, molecular biology, and cell biology, especially in the fields of cancer and infectious diseases.

**Clinical Pharmacology** focusing on neuroendocrine-immune interactions and research into drug reactions, mechanisms of aging, gene therapy for cancer, and the molecular and cellular mechanisms of antitumor and antiviral drugs.

**Morphology** emphasizing neurobiology of the mammalian brain, including cellular mechanisms involved in learning and memory.

**Virology & Developmental Molecular Genetics** researching a wide variety of viral and other intracellular pathogens at the diagnostic, clinical, and mechanistic-molecular levels and developing new methods for diagnosis of viral infections. Investigating developmental pathways in human as well as animal models, mapping new genes and aiming at identifying the mechanisms at molecular levels in the fields of oxidative stress; and mechanisms of neuronal ion transport; electrolyte balance in mammals; integrative physiology – including molecular aspects of endocrinology, hematology, and lipid metabolism.

**Clinical Biochemistry** exploring mechanisms at molecular levels in the fields of endocrinology, infectious diseases, hematology, gastroenterology, nephrology, metabolic diseases, diabetes and insulin resistance, clinical endocrinology, hematology, and lipid metabolism.

**Physiology** exploring areas from molecular to integrative physiology – including molecular aspects of ion transport; electrolyte balance in mammals; oxidative stress; and mechanisms of neuronal operation while expanding the available research technologies in the field.

The departments of both Divisions, in turn, collaborate in multidisciplinary research through joint research seminars, joint training of research students, and the development of new academic programs.

Through the work of three departments, the Division of Public & Social Health Sciences emphasizes research into social, cultural, epidemiological, managerial, policy, and organizational issues in health-care systems.

**Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation** emphasizes promotion of preventive and curative medical care, while teaching all students in the Faculty the principles of Epidemiology, including Methodology and Biostatistics. Research focuses on the epidemiology of chronic and infectious diseases, evaluation of health services, and scientific bases for planning and decision-making in national health policy. Operates community intervention programs to reduce infant mortality and congenital defects and to prevent cardiovascular diseases.

**Sociology of Health** offers degree programs in Sociology of Health as well as Israel’s first MA program in Gerontology. Collaborates with health-care professionals, behavioral scientists, and gerontologists, nationally and internationally, in researching the psychosocial aspects of health and aging, health-care systems and professionals, and geriatric services and providers of services. Innovative curricula include multidisciplinary courses promoting doctor-patient communication skills and students’ understanding of the needs of patients, elderly persons, and their formal and informal caregivers.

**Health Systems Management** prepares students for management positions in the Israeli health-care system. Maintains close cooperation with academic institutions, hospitals, and ministries of health on national and international levels. Conducts research into health-systems policy and reform, diffusion of medical technology into the health-care system, allocation and costs of medical services, and history of public health and health policy in Israel.

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Prof. Rachel Levy, head of the Division of Basic Sciences, is an internationally known researcher and an outstanding teacher who received her education in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. After completing her doctoral studies, she was appointed to the Faculty of Health Sciences and soon after established the Laboratory of Host Defense.

“Our laboratory is always lively and full of energy, with many students in various graduate programs. As both a former student and a teacher, I know the communal spirit and warm relationships that characterize life in the Faculty of Health Sciences,” she says. “As researchers sharing painful disappointments and exhilarating accomplishments, we have developed deep and lasting ties, like those in a family.”

Having widely published in her field, Prof. Levy is credited with important basic-science contributions to clinical medicine, especially in understanding the body’s susceptibility to infection. “My current research,” she says, “focuses on the body’s defense mechanisms against infections and inflammation, particularly among elderly, immuno-compromised, and critically-ill patients. Our efforts are in advanced stages of developing a new treatment against inflammatory diseases.”

“From my early youth,” she reminisces, “I was fascinated with the processes within the human body and knew that I wanted to devote my life to studying and understanding them. To this day, and every day, I feel blessed to be fulfilling this ambition in the Faculty of Health Sciences.”
Clinical teaching takes place in the Faculty’s affiliated medical centers and outpatient clinics. Soroka Medical Center, the only tertiary care hospital for the entire Negev, is the main teaching facility. In addition to clinical practice and research, the six Clinical Divisions profiled below train and supervise residents and also shoulder teaching duties throughout the Faculty.

**Internal Medicine**  
More than 170 physicians, specialists, and residents staff the Division’s six departments, an intermediate-care unit, the departments of hematology, neurology, dermatology, nephrology, geriatrics, and the Institute of Oncology. Ambulatory departments include the Institute of Gastroenterology, the Institute of Infectious Diseases, the Rheumatology Unit, the Endocrinology Unit, the Pulmonology Unit, and the Hypertension Unit. Provides extensive in- and outpatient medical services, consultation to other divisions and community clinics, and clinical and basic-sciences research.

**Pediatrics**  
Provides all pediatric in- and outpatient services for the region in the Children’s Hospital. Emphasizes primary pediatrics and treats a wide range of illnesses, including conditions caused by desert living and lack of regular preventive care, such as commonly occurs among the region’s new immigrants, underprivileged residents, and the Bedouin population. Has the highest occupancy rate in the country. Organized into three general pediatric departments, an intensive-care unit, a hematology-oncology unit, a very active pediatric day-care center, a large neonatal unit, and a neonatal intensive-care unit. The pediatric emergency room admits more than 33,000 patients annually. Research focuses on pediatric infectious diseases, nephrology, pulmonology, pediatric sleep disorders, intensive-care medicine, pharmacology, toxicology, and metabolic and genetic disorders.

**Surgery**  
Encompasses the entire spectrum of surgical professions, including vascular, orthopedic, plastic reconstructive, cardio-thoracic, pediatric, urology, ophthalmology, ENT, and neurosurgery. Also serves as an active trauma center for the Negev region, serving soldiers and civilians injured in accidents and terrorist attacks. Performs more than 20,000 operations annually. As part of its community outreach, the division operates an innovative Breast Health Center offering early screening and special educational programs.

**Psychiatry**  
Emphasizes research and patient care by 20 faculty members at affiliated medical centers. Main areas of research include lithium treatment for manic-depressive illness and the development of safer substitutes; genetics of personality; treatment of anxiety disorders; magnetic brain stimulation as a treatment for depression; and chemical interventions for treating depression, panic, posttraumatic stress disorder, and schizophrenia. Operates a laboratory for anxiety and posttraumatic disorders and the International Center for Bipolar Research.

**Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
Includes three departments of obstetrics and two departments of gynecology, with several inpatient wards, a day-care clinic, and specialized units (IVF, infertility, gynecology-oncology, ultrasound). Manages outpatient clinics, emergency wards, operating theaters, and a delivery ward. Performs an average of 12,500 deliveries annually – the highest in Israel – and more than 5000 surgical procedures.

**Anesthesiology**  
Includes two departments, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, with subunits covering special fields and a staff of 60 physicians. Recently established outpatient clinics: pre-anesthesia assessment and pain management. Unique among Israeli anesthesiology departments in activating an independent research unit, whose main research efforts include head trauma, drug potentiation, electrical cortical activity during anesthesia and sedation, sepsis in ICU, implicit memory during anesthesia. Recognized by the World Federation of the Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA) as a major international teaching center for specialists.

**In the Faculty of Health Sciences, People Make a Difference**

In the mid-1970s, a severe breakdown in medical services occurred in the Negev development town of Yeruham. As angry demonstrations by residents focused a national spotlight on the town, Rafi Boehm, then a young resident physician in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Division of Internal Medicine, made a personal resolution: All the Faculty’s rhetoric about “community orientation” was a deception unless he and his colleagues acted to meet the challenge of health care for the Yeruham community.

Since then, Dr. Boehm has devoted his entire professional life to promoting community health in Yeruham. The prodigious list of his accomplishments begins with his establishing and staffing the community clinic that provides the community with round-the-clock medical service.

But Dr. Boehm did not stop there. He organized a legion of hospital specialists from the Faculty to serve as consultants and teachers to primary-care physicians in the community. His enthusiasm and drive continues to bring many young graduates and students of the Goldinan Medical School to his clinic as volunteers and assistants. He has consistently developed residency openings for immigrant physicians. As a result of Boehm’s work, health care in Yeruham rivals that of anywhere in Israel.

Nor did Dr. Boehm define “health” in a narrow way. Personally involved in many areas of welfare and education, he has helped to develop play centers for underprivileged children, first-aid courses for adolescents, recreation centers for handicapped children, and services for the elderly, and he is actively involved in the war on alcohol and drugs (both severe problems in Yeruham).

While maintaining his role as a senior clinician in the Faculty’s Division of Internal Medicine, Rafi Boehm continues to serve as a primary care physician in Yeruham, unconditionally devoted to the welfare of his patients and to the ideology of community service that underlies all the Faculty’s work.
Located at Soroka Medical Center, the Clinical Institutes perform diagnostic services and advanced research.

Institute of Nuclear Medicine
Performs some 8,000 diagnostic examinations annually, including regular skeletal, thyroid, cardiac, renal, brain, hematological, and SPECT exams. Also performs basic diagnostic studies and treatments for oncology patients. Research projects are carried out in collaboration with other academic and biomedical centers, including the use of radio-labeled leukocytes to detect foci of infection and inflammation, use of radio-labeled antibodies for tumor detection, membrane receptors in leukemia, and radiobiology in immigrants exposed to radiation at Chernobyl.

Institute of Genetics
Provides state-of-the-art genetic services to the Negev population, especially the Bedouin community, that has a high incidence of genetic disorders resulting from a world-record rate of consanguineous marriages. Genetic services include cytogenetic and molecular diagnosis, pre- and post-natal genetic counseling, and medical follow-up of patients with genetic disorders. Participates in community-based programs in the Bedouin population to promote the use of prenatal genetic testing and premartial detection of carriers of diseased genes. Research goals aim at acquiring molecular tools for pre-natal diagnosis of hereditary diseases and identifying disease-related genes.

Institute of Pathology
Provides diagnostic pathology services, including day-care surgeries and outpatient clinics in the Negev. Its ten senior pathologists are Board certified in diagnostic anatomic pathology and each has formal training in a subspecialty of diagnostic pathology. Most senior staff are active in collaborative research projects with other hospital divisions and are heavily invested in teaching and supervising clinical rotations.

Institute of Radiology
Performs annually more than 200,000 diagnostic examinations, including 24,000 CTs and 10,000 ultrasounds, as well as a large number of invasive treatments, including angioplasty, vascular stenting, embolization, and chemotherapy treatment. The Institute has the most up-to-date MRI in the country.

Institute of Cardiology
Consists of nine units: cardiac intensive care, intermediate cardiac care, catheterization, electrophysiology, echocardiography, stress test laboratory, pediatric cardiology, nuclear cardiology, and an outpatient clinic. Active in diagnosis and treatment, as well as prevention and research. Participates in basic science research and multidisciplinary clinical research projects at the local, national, and international levels, including a department-initiated Negev regional epidemiological and treatment project recording cholesterol levels in the community (the 4-C Project).
The Faculty has established the following Research Centers in order to expand the scope of its research, increase the emphasis in certain academic and research areas, and streamline interdisciplinary cooperation.

**Moshe Prywes Center for Medical Education**
Conducts training and research in medical education; collaborates and assists members of the Faculty in educational research and implementation of new and innovative pedagogical methods; sponsors public symposia and educational workshops for Faculty members and physicians in the field.

**S. Daniel Abraham International Center for Health and Nutrition**
Conducts research into biomedical aspects of nutrition; performs dietary studies in Negev populations, including Israeli-Jewish, Israeli-Arab, Bedouin, the elderly in hospitals and in the community; designs and teaches the new nutritional epidemiology specialization within the Master in Public Health (MPH) program of the Department of Epidemiology.

**Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Aging**
Promotes research in the different disciplines of gerontology and geriatrics; encourages promising young scientists from Israel and abroad to engage in aging research; organizes workshops and training programs for relevant faculty members, physicians, and caregivers; conducts and participates in innovative programs for evidence-based promotion of health, focusing on the elderly in the Negev area.

**Center for Medical Ethics**
Composed of two sub-centers. The Lord Immanuel Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics conducts research in medical halacha and the medical and health implications of Jewish philosophy; the Center for Asian and International Bioethics conducts cross-cultural research into the spiritual basis of ethics in Judaism and other Asian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shintoism. Offers courses in health-related philosophy and clinical ethics in Faculty programs.

**Center for Women’s Health Studies and Promotion**
In collaboration with the Department of Social Work Promotes health and health awareness among the women of the Negev through community health services, training programs, curriculum development, multidisciplinary women’s health research, and innovative, multicultural community programs, emphasizing healthful behavior, disease prevention, and early detection as well as basic research of women’s medical issues. It is the only academic center of its kind in Israel.

**Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience**
Applies the latest behavioral, molecular, neuroanatomical, and physiological approaches to fundamental questions in neuroscience; supports training of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Promotes interdisciplinary collaborations at BGU with other institutions in Israel and abroad.

**Leslie & Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Center for Diabetes Research and Education**
Provides medical care and health education on diabetes to 600,000 residents of the Negev. Operates a network of community diabetes clinics, runs outreach, and supports programs for patients and families. The Center is active in clinical trials of new drugs and coordinates multidisciplinary diabetes research with clinicians and biochemists on national and international levels.

**University Center for Cancer Research**
Combines basic sciences, clinical research, epidemiology, and patient-care programs to help train professionals in cancer research and treatment. Research and clinical work broadens knowledge of the molecular and cellular mechanisms governing normal cell growth. Develops new strategies for preventing metastatic cancer spread. Translates the latest research discoveries into new approaches for diagnosis and treatment.

**Center for Medical Decision Making**
Teaches formal decision-making techniques to health professionals, undertakes research in MDM, and encourages the use of evidence-based medical techniques to support actual clinical decision-making. Designed and teaches the Medical School’s fifth-year course in clinical judgement, the first such required course for medical students anywhere in the world.

**Health Policy Center**
Promotes research related to health conditions and services and the development of health policy in Negev communities, with emphasis on identifying the health needs of the Negev population and evaluating the suitability of national health policy to meet those needs; operates the academic Forum for Health Policy, which offers weekly presentations on health policy and related health research subjects for Faculty researchers and area health services personnel.

**Sial Research Center for Family Medicine and Primary Care**
Nurtures quality scientific research in family and primary care on the local, national, and international levels; contributes to the improvement of health in the community by providing relevant data on the health problems and needs of the population; expands services and activities to specialists and residents in Family Medicine.

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Nurtures quality scientific research in family and primary care on the local, national, and international levels; contributes to the improvement of health in the community by providing relevant data on the health problems and needs of the population; expands services and activities to specialists and residents in Family Medicine.
Representing more than 2,500 students, **ASRN – The Medical Students Association of the Negev**, which embodies the true meaning of "The spirit of Beer-Sheva", is active in a large number of community projects, including:

**Ma’amatz**
A high-school intervention and educational program on sexual violence created by ASRN, supported by the Jewish Agency and private donors, approved by the Israel Ministry of Education, and supervised by health care and social service professionals.

**Teddy Bear Hospital**
A program aimed at alleviating "white coat syndrome", the fear of medical personnel, in children 4 to 6 years-of-age, conducted in conjunction with local kindergartens. The project is being expanded to include the promotion of dental and personal hygiene.

**Dr. Clown**
A seven-months training program in the art of clowning aimed at alleviating the pain, grief, fears and stress of a hospitalized child and his family. The program serves to bring laughter and create a fun atmosphere.

**Nitzanai Refuah**
An "affirmative action" initiative that offers special pre-academic courses and tutoring to high-school students from the Negev development towns and Bedouin Community seeking careers in the health professions.

The Association also operates a tutoring program for students who have fallen behind in their studies due to illness, reserve duty, or other reasons, oversees an exchange program for foreign students studying in Beer-Sheva, and mounts social and community events throughout the year.

**Messengers from the Past:**
The Physician as Artisan, Scientist, and Man of Ethics

The Museum of the History of Medicine is a permanent and unique installation occupying four wings of the Faculty of Health Sciences building at Ben-Gurion University. Based on the Rosenberg Collection, the exhibition uses medical and surgical instruments, health-related tools, original engravings and illustrations, photographs, books, magic potions, amulets, and even antique church windows to dramatize the development of medicine from ancient times to the modern era.

Together, the Museum’s exhibits describe the physician’s development from magician to artisan up until the Renaissance; explicate the growth of the physician as a scientist from the Renaissance until today; illuminate medical care in biblical and talmudic times, in classic Greece and Rome, in medieval Europe, and in the Muslim world; map the development of medical techniques (including the revolution in controlling contagious diseases, in surgery, and in mental health); explore the development of medical education and medical ethics; and, finally, depict the evolution of medical care over the last two centuries in the Land of Israel.

The Rosenberg Collection, which contains some 5,000 items, was established in 1980 by Professor Lior Rosenberg, head of the Plastic Surgery Department at Soroka Medical Center.
So, What's the Difference?

The Faculty of Health Sciences began in 1974 as an experiment inspired by the vision of Professor Moshe Prywes, its founding dean. It aimed at nothing less than revolutionizing primary-care medicine in Israel through community involvement and the integral linkage of medical education to medical care.

That vision has developed into the solid reality of today's Faculty—a remarkable, interlocking network of research, teaching, and healthcare institutions that has redefined compassionate health care. Working together, students and faculty have demonstrated that patient care, teaching, and research are inseparable components of modern medicine.

Since the establishment of the Faculty, hundreds of highly qualified physicians and health care professionals have settled in the Negev, devoting their lives to improving health services for the Negev population and changing the lives of millions of Israelis.

This accomplishment of which we are very proud demonstrates why our "uniqueness" has made such a huge difference.