

MILESTONES

OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY-HADASSAH SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE FOUNDED BY THE ALPHA OMEGA FRATERNITY

AN HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

by

Noah Stern*, Rami Barnet** and Adam Stabholz***

THE VISION

1907

To combat discrimination in the dental schools of Baltimore and Philadelphia, Jewish students organize to form their own society. One year later they unite to form the Alpha Omega Fraternity, to which Jewish students from other dental schools join. Several decades later Alpha Omega is instrumental in establishing a dental school at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



1931

In pre-state Israel, 3 local dental organizations in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa unite to form the national Eretz Israel Dental Association. Dr. Shmuel Lewin-Epstein is elected Chairman. The new Association's main goal is the establishment of a dental school in Eretz Israel.



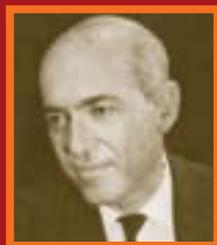
1936

The FDI holds a conference in Vienna. Prof. Bernard Gottlieb of the University of Vienna and a prominent dentist in Europe, together with the Jewish attendees, form an international organization for the establishment of a dental school in Eretz Israel.

* Assistant Dean for Medical Affairs, Professor in Prosthodontics ** Associate Dean *** Dean, Professor in Endodontics

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MEDICINE

HEADS OF CLINICAL
& PRE CLINICAL
DEPARTMENTS
AT THE SCHOOL OF
DENTAL MEDICINE



Prof. Ino Sciaky
1956-1977



Prof. Yair Sharav
1977-2001



Prof. Rafael Benliel
2001-

THE ESTABLISHMENT

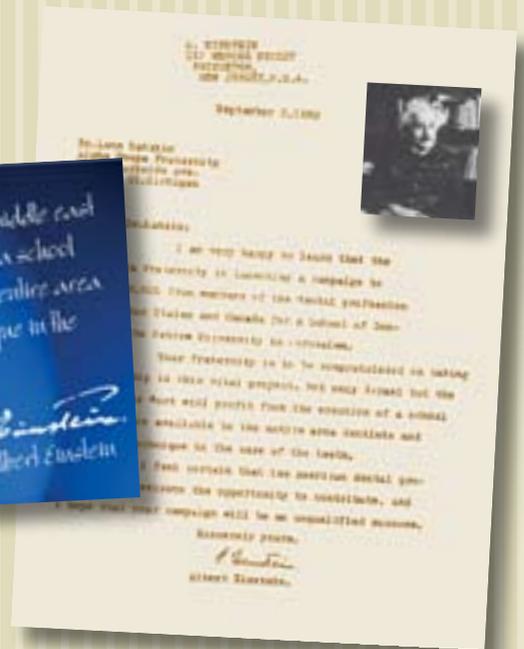
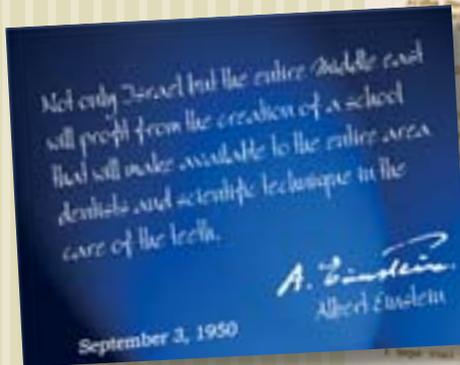


1946

The Jewish People try to recover after the Shoah. The Eretz Israel Dental Association gathers in Tel Aviv and plans the establishment of a dental school in Jerusalem. Committee members are: Shmuel Lewin-Epstein, Chairman, Dr. Ino Sciaky, Dr. Yitzchak Michman, Dr. Jacob Lewin-Epstein, Dr. Moshe Glassman, Dr. Yakov Yardeni, Dr. Avraham Sussman, Dr. Moshe Mishori and Dr. Zvi Abramovsky.

1950

Albert Einstein receives Alpha Omega's achievement award. He believes that a dental school in Israel will be significant for the whole Middle East. 47 years later "The D. Walter Cohen Middle East Center for Dental Education" is established at our School.



1953

Israel's first dental school, The School of Dental Medicine, is founded by a joint initiative of the Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical Organization and the Alpha Omega Fraternity. It is housed in an old children's dental clinic in the Straus Health Building on Straus Street in Jerusalem's city center. The clinic is renovated to become the main 12-unit teaching clinic. The school remains, until this day, the nation's foremost center for dental education, training tomorrow's professionals, initiating advanced research and providing expert clinical care.

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY



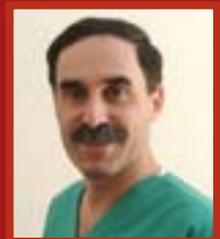
Prof. Jacob Lewin-Epstein
1956-1985



Prof. Badri Azaz
1986-1994



Prof. Arie Shteyer
1994-2003



Prof. Rephael Zeltser
2003-

THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE I 1953-1963



Junior students, Class of 1962



The faculty – 1960s



New clinic, Straus Building



The dental assistants – 1960s

The atmosphere at the Straus center is very special. Staff is small, the hours are long, payroll agreements ignored. The staff have a common purpose: to do the utmost for the development of the school. The Straus building becomes too small for the developing school, and plans are made for a new building on the campus of Hadassah Ein Kerem.



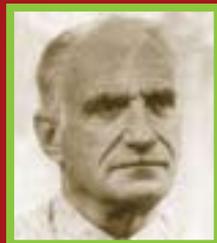
1959

The first eleven graduates, take the PHYSICIANS OATH, at a festive and impressive ceremony.

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL REHABILITATION



Prof. Julius Michman
1956-1974



Prof. Anzalem Langer
1978-1986



Prof. Noah Stern
Head of Prosthodontics
1988-2000



Prof. Zvia Hirshfeld
Head of Restorative Dent.
1988-2001



Prof. Ervin Weiss
2000-



Breaking ground for the Levin Building

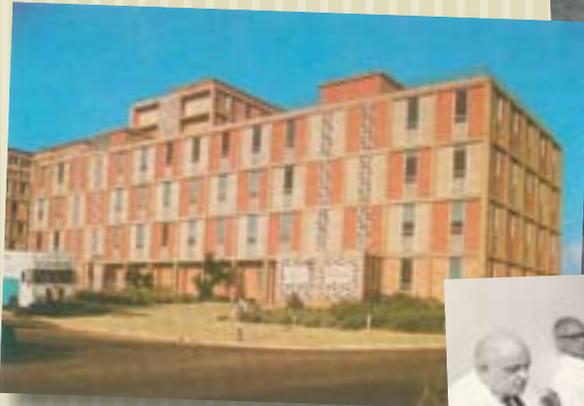


PHASE II 1964-1992

1964

Starting in 1958, Alpha Omega raises funds together with the philanthropist Maurice Levin for a new building and in 1964 the new Ida and Maurice Levin Building is inaugurated at the Hadassah Medical Center's Ein Kerem campus.

Inauguration ceremony, the Levin Building



The faculty leadership of the 1960s and 1970s

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DENTISTRY



Prof. Kurt Rosenzweig
1960-1970



Dr. Jossi Anayes
1975-1983



Prof. Jonathan Mann
1990-



1965

This year sees the expansion of the departments of Oral Medicine, Prosthodontics and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, and the establishment of new departments for Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontology (which includes Endodontics) and Community Dentistry.

1965-1985

Dr. D. Walter Cohen, Dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, chairs the "Faculty and Fellowship Exchange Committee", whose mission is the post-doctoral training of dentists from Jerusalem at various centers in the U.S. and Europe. The University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine is one such center, with a major commitment to this effort under the leadership of Prof. Irwin Ship and Prof. D. Walter Cohen. Funds are raised for the training of more than 30 teachers from all fields of clinical and preclinical dentistry over a period of 20 years. Many of these teachers go on to chair their departments in Jerusalem and several become Deans of the School.



1978

Specialization is a tremendous catalyst for the professional development of dentistry in Israel, creating the gold standard for dental practice. An agreement signed by the Dental School and Hadassah in 1974 forms the basis of The Dentistry Specialization Law which passes in the Knesset in 1978. This law has a great impact on the School's educational system and helps promote the development of graduate and postgraduate studies.



The Dental Hygienist Law passes in the Knesset; the first course for dental hygienists opens at the Dental School in Jerusalem.

DEPARTMENT OF PEDODONTICS



Prof. Kurt Rosenzweig
1960-1970



Prof. Eliezer Idelman
1979-2002



Prof. Yossi Shapira
2002-



Russian immigrant dentists at Hadassah



First class of Ethiopian dental assistants

1980s

In the early years of this decade, it is decided to grant dental school students the degree of B. Med. Sc. after 3 years of studies. Also at this time, new immigrants (mostly from the former Soviet Union) are provided with refresher courses in dental medicine to upgrade their proficiency. The Unit of Hospital Oral Medicine and the Unit of Maxillofacial Rehabilitation open. A new independent Department of Endodontics opens. Another exciting event is the opening of the first dental assistants course for Ethiopian students in the Department of Community Dentistry.



1991

In the spring of 1990, discussions held with representatives of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology and Prosthodontics result in the establishment of an Implant Center. The Center grows, especially after 1997, when Dr. G Niznick donates funds to establish an independent implant clinic.

1992

Licensing requirements are standardized for dentists. All dentists and graduates of dental schools from abroad and Israel must pass an exam by the Israel Health Ministry prior to receiving a license to practice dentistry.



DEPARTMENT OF PERIODONTICS



Prof. Shlomo Shapira
1960-1975



Prof. Aubrey Soskolne
1980-2006



Prof. Lior Shapira
2006-

PHASE III - SINCE 1992

In the beginning of the 1990s, with the enormous growth in the School's activities, there is an urgent need for more space and an upgrading of the old infrastructure. The AO International Dental Fraternity spearheads the "Bridge-the-Gap" Campaign and works together with the Hebrew University and Hadassah. The optimistic atmosphere prevailing due to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians leads to the idea of continuing the fundraising under the name "Bridge to Peace".



1994

Dean Adam Stabholz is introduced to the late Mrs. Bella Wexner and her daughter Susan. Their generosity facilitates the establishment of the Dr. Izador I. Cabakoff Center for Advanced and Continuing Education in Dentistry. The successful culmination of the fundraising campaign towards the beginning of the third millennium transforms our school into an ultramodern one, positioning it among the leading schools of the Western world.



Inauguration ceremony for the Wexner Building



Caroline and Ira Saligman

1997

In July, the Bella and Harry Wexner Building is inaugurated. This new building is attached to the recently renovated old dental building, and now includes modern facilities appropriate for the 21st century.



The Saligman Clinic

DEPARTMENT OF ORTHODONTICS



Prof. Edith Kaye
1965-1984



Prof. Shulamit Steigman
1984-1997



Prof. Yerucham Zilberman
1997-2003



Prof. Ilana Brin
2003-



The D. Walter Cohen Middle East Center for Dental Education is established. Since 1997 it has worked towards creating joint ventures with dentists from Israel and its neighbors. Despite the objective obstacles involved in running such programs in the Middle East, the Center is extremely active. Dentists from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Turkey, Cyprus, Morocco and Egypt take part in various programs that include 2 to 4-week continuing education courses, joint research projects, one-day seminars, and annual lectures as well as PhD and postgraduate specialization tracks.

1999

The Institute of Dental Sciences is established. It comprises the departments of Oral Biology, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, and the Bone Laboratory. All these departments are uniquely positioned to design and implement interdisciplinary research projects, training programs and teaching curricula of the highest standards.



2002

The "Smiles in Spite of Terror" program provides free dental treatment to victims of terror during the years 2002-2005, regardless of the type of injury. Volunteers from abroad participate in the program, in addition to the regular staff members who provide conservative treatment for about 350 patients.



2003

In the fall of this year, the School celebrates its 50th anniversary. A scientific conference marks the occasion, with impressive posters on exhibit in the courtyard. An alumni conference also takes place and a special commemorative book called "The First Fifty Years" telling the history and development of the School is distributed.

DEPT. HOSPITAL ORAL MED.



Prof. Adi Garfunkel
1980-2003

DEPT. OF MAXILLOFACIAL REHABILITATION



Prof. Moti Sela
1986-

Hosts of the Second Middle East Symposium



2006

The fast growing relationship between the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine and the Al-Quds University Dental School leads to another historic event in our region. The First Middle East Symposium in Dental Medicine takes place in east Jerusalem with about 200 participants. One year later, The Second Middle East Symposium takes place in Turkey with 250 participants, including 40 colleagues from Turkey.

December 2007

Unveiling of the new Etz Ha'shalom, Tree of Peace, to be placed at the entrance of our dental school. This tree symbolizes the pioneering partnership between our School and the Al-Quds University Dental School in the area of dental medicine and education.

Inauguration ceremonies for the two new upper floors of the Wexner Building, will include dedications for the following:

- The new Ronald Goldstein Center for Esthetic Dentistry and Clinical Research.
- The new Simulator Laboratory for Preclinical Studies, to help train our dental students in improving their manual dexterity.
- The Alpha Omega Centennial Exhibition, in appreciation of Alpha Omega's continuing support of our dental school.
- The Alpha Omega Centennial Wall, containing in perpetuity the names of all the Alpha Omegas and their spouses who have generously donated funds to support education and research at our dental school in Jerusalem.
- The Legacy Heritage Fund Auditorium, a new state-of-the-art lecture hall with 250 seats and the second largest auditorium on campus at Ein Kerem.



The dental and medical schools are not only in close proximity to each other but also share facilities during the pre-clinical years. The new bridge named "Bridge to Peace" will connect our auditorium's foyer with the neighboring medical school.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

Eleanor Roosevelt



DEPT. OF ENDODONTICS

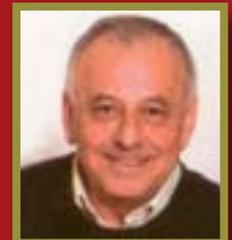


Prof. Adam Stabholz
1986-

INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES



Prof. Daniel Deutsch
1999-2004



Prof. Jona Sela
2004-