Israel Cancer Research Fund

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Your source for breakthroughs in Israeli cancer research

SRP-Scientific Review Panel

ICRF Scientific Review Panel (SRP) Selects the Best and Brightest

Every spring in New York City, some of the world's leading cancer experts gather for a single purpose: to decide which breakthrough ideas from Israel have the power to save lives.

"This meeting is the heart and soul of our grant-making process," says Deirdre Heiss, Director of Grants Management and Special Projects at ICRF.

Cancer experts from a diverse range of fields volunteer their time to carefully evaluate, rank, and prioritize applications from outstanding Israeli cancer researchers to allow ICRF to determine how they will distribute funding in the year ahead.

"It's a competitive process that ensures we review the most promising ideas from all the institutions from across Israel," says Heiss. "By funding Israel's most promising cancer scientists, ICRF is driving discoveries that can lead to earlier detection, better treatments, and more lives saved." Next year's grantees will be announced this summer.

Learn more

Marcy Abramsky & Leanne Matlow, WOA 2026 Co-Chairs

Women of Action in Action

Driven by purpose and powered by leadership, Women of Action is where inspiration turns into life-saving impact.This year marks the 24th annual ICRF Toronto Women of Action

(WOA) event, a celebration honouring four deserving female leaders who have impacted the areas of business, science, and philanthropy. This year's honourees are Nyla Ahmad, Leslie Richmond, Dr. Sheila Singh, and Robin Turack. Leanne Matlow is a 2019 honouree and co-chair for this year's lunch, taking place at a new midtown Toronto location on May 3.

"Once a year ICRF honours four women in four categories—inspiration, business, community service, and science. WOA proves to be one of the nicest events in the city honouring incredibly deserving women who are making a difference in the world."

"The answer to cancer is research," says WOA co-chair Marcy Abramsky. "It is the theme of our event and ICRF's mission. Cancer affects everyone, and this year, Israeli researchers need us now more than ever."

The duo is putting the "pedal to the metal" and aiming to raise $1 million, with all proceeds directly supporting leading cancer researchers in Israel.

Tickets are now available. To attend, sponsor, or donate to the raffle:

Buy Tickets or Sponsor

Panel of TanenbaumCHAT Alumni and Parents

Photo credit: TanenbaumCHAT

Celebrating International Women's Day

In honour of Women's History Month and International Women's Day, ICRF Toronto CEO Elysa Greisman was invited to TanenbaumCHAT to participate in a panel on Jewish Female Leadership. She was thrilled to speak to her alma mater on her personal journey, and the advantages and challenges that still come with being a woman in the workplace today. The conversation was thoughtful, honest, and inspiring.

“Returning to TanenbaumCHAT and speaking with the next generation of young women was incredibly meaningful to me. I shared not only the opportunities I’ve been fortunate to have, but also the challenges that still exist. Through my work at ICRF, I see every day how leadership and determination can drive real impact—and my hope is that these students leave knowing their voices matter and that they have the power to create change.”

Read more

Howard Anson z”l

The Anson Family: Scientific Grant Sponsors Give the Gift of Hope

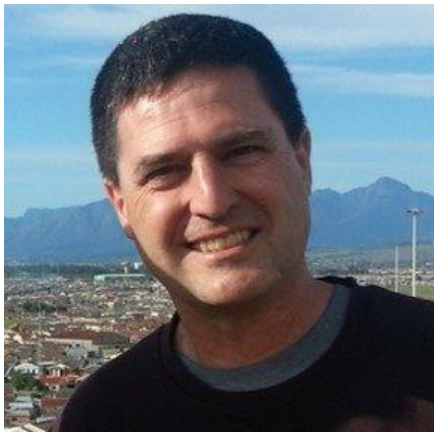
Howard Anson was just 66 when he was diagnosed with a terminal form of brain cancer called Glioblastoma (GBM). The beloved husband, father, and grandfather from Edmonton, AB had none of the typical symptoms, so the family was shocked when Howard was diagnosed suddenly, and died seven months later in 2018. The following year, the Ansons became a scientific grant sponsor. They are currently funding the promising work of an ICRF-funded researcher, Professor Tali Ilovitsh, from Tel Aviv University. Her research aims to establish crucial tools for brain cancer therapy.

“What she’s doing will make it easier to get a diagnosis earlier, have more targeted treatment, and give people hope,” says Debbie. Being grant sponsors makes the Ansons feel more positive about the future. “We miss Howard so much. But our involvement with ICRF makes us feel like Howard’s death will not be in vain. Our hope now is that other people will have more hope.”

Save the date! Professor Ilovitsh is coming to Toronto on June 2 for an exclusive Brain Health workshop. Be part of this important conversation—tickets coming soon!

Want more information on sponsoring an ICRF Cancer researcher in Israel? Contact Elysa Greisman, CEO: email **egreisman@icrf.ca** or call **416-453-5753.**

Read the full Anson article



Dr. Gilad Bachrach – Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Colon Cancer Awareness Month

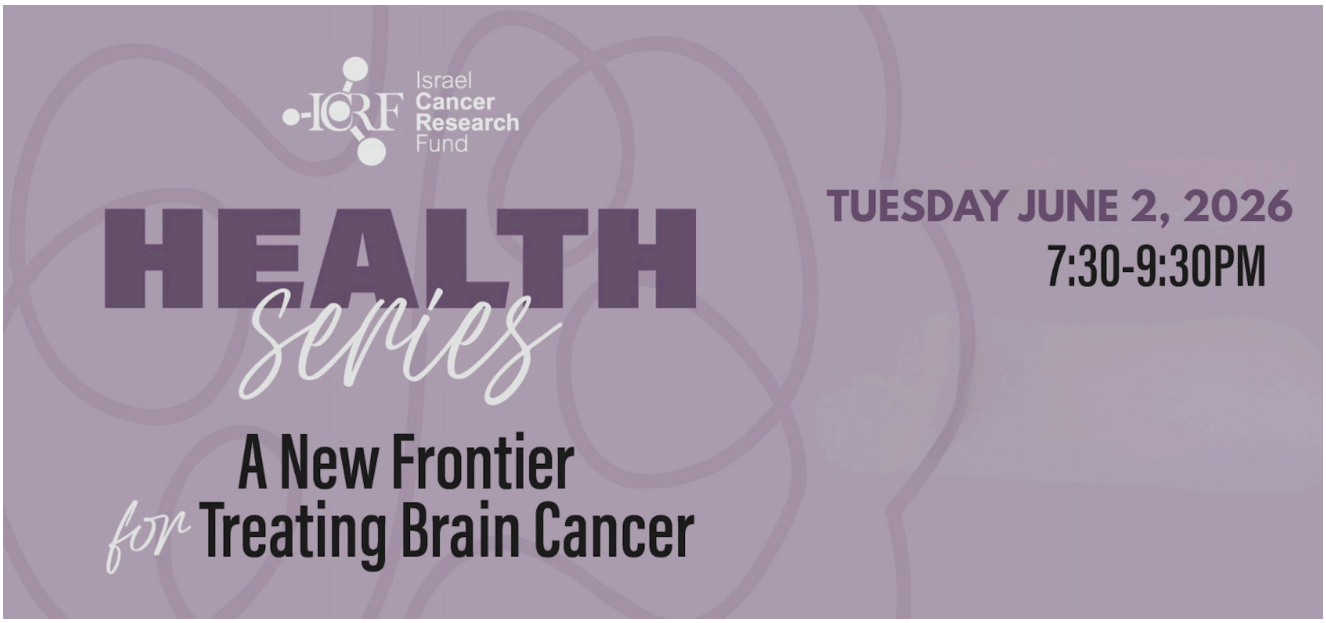
March is recognized as Colon Cancer Awareness Month. One of the leading experts in the field is ICRF-funded researcher Professor Gilad Bachrach, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Bacharach focuses on BacteriOncology, a rapidly advancing area of research involving the study of bacterial involvement in cancer.

He has found links between periodontal disease and certain kinds of cancers, including colorectal, esophageal, and pancreatic cancers. His team aims to inhibit this bacteria to develop a novel approach to treating and eradicating these kinds of tumours.

Learn more

SAVE THE DATE:

Buy Tickets



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