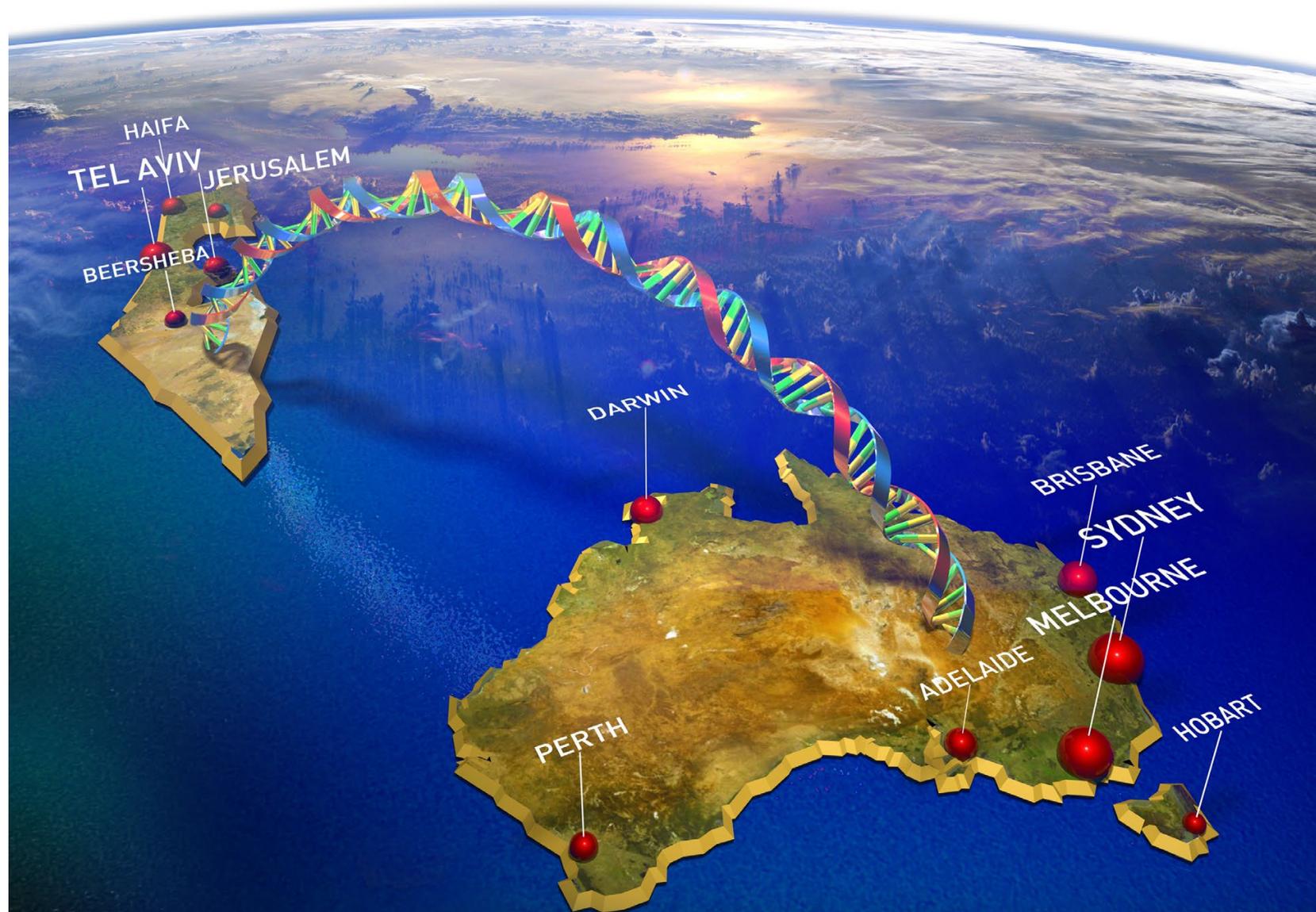


**AUSiMED**  
australia israel medical research

# **Insight**

**Autumn 2014**



*An update on AUSiMED's  
collaborative medical research activities  
between Australia and Israel*

## Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the first **AUSiMED Insight**.  
Enjoy the briefing on  
our activities from an  
extremely successful year.



**2013 recap... 2013 opened with tremendous excitement when AUSiMED was endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a health promotion charity. This enabled AUSiMED to start raising funds on a fully tax deductible basis and to use these monies to directly fund both the Israel and Australian sides of approved, collaborative medical research projects. Since then, the team has been busy assessing and allocating grants, fundraising and promoting AUSiMED to the Community.**

### AUSiMED Funds Two Travel Scholarships to Israel

AUSiMED's first grants have been given to two highly esteemed recipients - Carole Renouf, CEO of the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF), and Professor Vicki Anderson, Head of Psychology at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and senior researcher at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Melbourne University.

With the help of AUSiMED, these two prominent women travelled to Israel to meet experts in their fields and visited some important tourist sites in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Carole's visit has inspired a number of exciting collaborations in breast cancer research between some of Australia's and Israel's leading scientists. These projects will be submitted to the NBCF for review as part of its funding process,



Carole Renouf



Prof Vicki Anderson

with co-funding from AUSiMED.

Vicki was so impressed with the Israeli experts she met, that a Symposium is being arranged in Melbourne for 13 and 14 May 2014 to

bring experts from Israel on managing chronic diseases in children and the diagnosis and treatment of rare genetic disorders (see later article).

The results from these visits reinforce the benefits of collaboration between Australia and Israel.

AUSiMED encourages other Australian and Israeli scientists to apply for these travel scholarships by contacting AUSiMED (see contact details on back page).

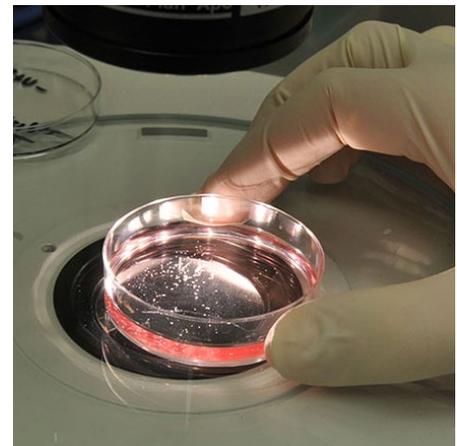
### The Lowy Foundation funds a Clinical Fellowship in Emergency Paediatric Medicine

The Lowy Foundation in Sydney, an extremely generous supporter of medical research, has funded a one year Clinical Fellowship in Emergency Paediatric Medicine at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, for a paediatrician from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Paediatric Emergency Medicine is an area of high priority for specialist training in Israel. The training is over five years with the final year to be spent outside Israel in a recognised institution.

The Lowy Foundation in funding this Fellowship, responded to an urgent

appeal from Hadassah Australia and AUSiMED to provide much needed training in emergency medicine for Hadassah Hospital where there is a shortage of specialist emergency doctors.



This Fellowship when completed, will be hugely beneficial to the Jerusalem community as Hadassah sees more children in its Emergency Department than any other hospital in Jerusalem.

This Fellowship is also an example of the benefit AUSiMED offers to donors that choose to make a distribution from their public or private ancillary fund (PAF), as was the case with the Lowy Foundation.

As the PAF is obliged by law to distribute to an Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) AUSiMED's endorsement as an item 1 DGR means that all PAF donors to AUSiMED meet their legal requirements.

AUSiMED plans to facilitate additional Clinical Fellowships as well as PhD and Post Doctoral Research Fellowships for both Israeli and Australian medical scientists.

We will be calling for applications toward the end of 2014 by notifying all the major research institutions in Australia and Israel. Applications forms will be posted on our website.

## AUSiMED's Top Research Projects

AUSiMED has chosen to fund research projects in the area of clinical or "translational" research. These are projects that focus on treating or preventing disease rather than looking at the basic science of the human body. We are currently seeking funding for the following projects:

### ▶ Treating Brain Tumours

A new blood test to help manage treatment of brain tumours

### ▶ Cancers of the Bowel, Head and Neck, Breast and Lung

Testing existing drugs in combination for synergistic improved outcomes

### ▶ Protecting against Heart Attacks

Using newly discovered compounds to develop a drug to treat and prevent heart attack

### ▶ Treatment for Prostate Cancer

Using a new drug combinations and a new method of ensuring that the drug is delivered to the location of the cancer

### ▶ Heart Issues in newborns

Supporting a three year PhD investigation into the best way to manage heart issues in newborns

*We are also developing a breast cancer research project which will be reported in the next Newsletter*

## AUSiMED Can Assist You Create a Research Project

If you or your family have an interest in an area of medical research that prevents or treats disease and you would like to consider funding collaborative research between Australian and Israeli scientists, AUSiMED can facilitate the establishment of that research. (See contact details on back page).

## Tackling some of the Fundraising Challenges

AUSiMED is a "start-up". One of the challenges we face is covering our modest operating costs while we build up our income stream from donations. To get the organisation over the funding "hump" of the first two years of operations, we have

been generously supported by donors who have understood the importance of AUSiMED and the need to ensure it has the capacity to build its fundraising infrastructure over the initial two years. We are very grateful for the generous support from the members of our "Funding Syndicate" who include (in alphabetical order) the Finkel Foundation, Gandel Philanthropy, Paul and Emily Keen, Joshua and Karen Liberman, the Pratt Foundation and Richard and Jacqui Scheinberg.

We are also seeking additional funds from Victorian Government grants and other well-known agencies, for example the National Breast Cancer Foundation (as mentioned earlier), which enables us to increase the funding we can provide for our research projects.

We continue to approach Foundations, Private Ancillary Funds (PAF's), corporations and individuals that have previously supported medical research in our specific project areas to provide support for our projects.

If you know of anyone that AUSiMED could approach or if you would like to support any of our projects please contact AUSiMED (see contact details on back page).

## AUSiMED Fundraising



**ART AUCTION** - In early 2013, we ran a charity Art Auction at the Menzies Gallery in South Yarra. The impressive works by leading artists were sold at low reserve prices with AUSiMED charging a buyers commission that was provided as a tax deductible donation. Due to the success of this event, another art auction is planned for February 2015.

**SUPPER SERIES** - Throughout the year we ran a series of fundraising supper events held at the private homes of AUSiMED-supporting families. Each host invited their friends to hear about AUSiMED's activities, with a guest speaker in attendance.

Guest Speakers at the SUPPER SERIES included:

- ▶ Professor Nadia Rosenthal, a world expert on stem cells from Monash University
- ▶ Professor Andrew Kaye, a leading neurosurgeon and researcher from Melbourne Hospital and Melbourne University
- ▶ Professor Tony Burgess, an expert on bowel cancer treatments, from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- ▶ Professor Kathryn North, Director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne; and
- ▶ Professor Frank Oberklaid, a world expert in early childhood development from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne

*If you are interested in hosting an AUSiMED fundraising event, please contact us (see contact details on back page).*

## Mesoblast CEO Silviu Itescu Speaks at AUSiMED Event



In November 2013, AUSiMED ran its first business networking event generously sponsored by Investec. Sixty guests from a range of professions met at the Investec Boardroom to network new relationships, learn about AUSiMED, and listen to Silviu Itescu, CEO of leading biotech company Mesoblast Ltd, speak about Mesoblast's progress from start-up, through to becoming a successful publicly listed company.

*Further networking events are planned during 2014.*



## AUSiMED Promotes Health Education

**We are currently planning three major educational activities for the first half of 2014.**

We will be hosting a webinar (combined phone conference and slide show using the internet) at the end of April, 2014 which will include a discussion of the likelihood of an infection outbreak that can't be treated, as well as discussing the results of a completed AUSiMED project looking at how Australia and Israel would manage such an outbreak if it occurred.

We are very excited about arranging a paediatric research symposium scheduled for 13 and 14 May 2014, on treating chronic disease in children and rare genetic disorders. We are currently fundraising to bring eight leading Israeli paediatricians to Melbourne to speak at this Symposium to be hosted by the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

We are also planning a public briefing tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 14 May using these Israeli speakers to talk about how genetic based medicine will change the way we are treated in the future.

## AUSiMED Assists other Organisations

AUSiMED was recently contacted by Hadassah Australia to assist supporters that wished to donate from their private ancillary funds, to a particular Hadassah project called the "Goshen Project".

The "Goshen Project" is an Australia/ Israel project which is examining how to best identify and treat medical development issues in young children.

These donors needed assistance as they could only provide their donations to

organisations that have been endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as an item 1 deductible gift recipient. As AUSiMED has this endorsement and as the Goshen Project met our research requirements, we were able to provide a fully compliant tax-effective mechanism for donors wishing to support this Hadassah Australia project. AUSiMED then distributed the funds and managed the project.

This mechanism is available to all organisations in Australia involved in medical research collaborations between Australia and Israel that meet AUSiMED's research requirements.



## The AUSiMED Team

AUSiMED CEO, Roz Kaldor-Aroni (centre), with part-time Administration Manager Anna Lissauer (left) and part-time Accounts Manager, Jolynn Lee (right).

**All of us are keen to assist you if you contact our office.**

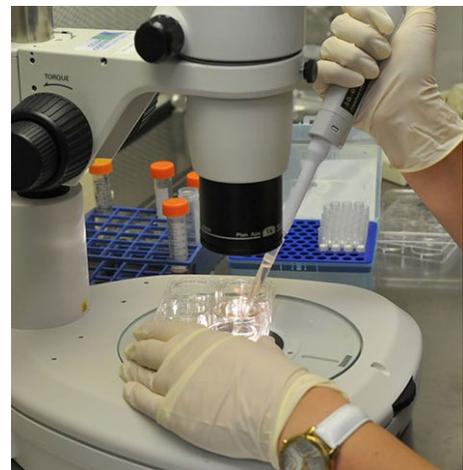
## AUSiMED Seeking Volunteers

We are keen to keep our database records up to date and are seeking assistance from anyone with relevant computer experience.

## AUSiMED Match-Maker: Introducing experts to each other

We are keen to facilitate exchanges between medical practitioners in Australia and Israel. In addition to promoting this service through the Australian Jewish Medical Federation we are looking to spread the word among the medical fraternity nationally.

Please let doctors and medical researchers know that AUSiMED is available to assist them find colleagues in Israel in their particular field of interest.



## COMING UP ...

- ▶ **Late April:** Webinar on the threat of a "killer" virus
- ▶ **Wednesday 14 May:**
  - ▶ Business Networking event at 6.00pm; and
  - ▶ Public Forum on Personalised Genetic Medicine at 8:00pm
- ▶ **Thursday 15 May:** Mother-Daughter Brunch at 9.30am.

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE ...

Review of the latest discoveries from Australia and Israel in the treatment of skin cancers.

## DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

Future issues of *Insight* and event details will be sent electronically, so please let us know your correct email address.

**AUSiMED**  
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AUSiMED Ltd  
ABN 77 159 305 236

PO Box 2400 Caulfield Vic 3162

Tel: (03) 9272-5699

Email: [info@ausimed.org](mailto:info@ausimed.org)

[www.ausimed.org](http://www.ausimed.org)