

We would like to thank the Academic Study Group / Friends of Israel Educational Foundation for sponsoring this UK-Israeli Mitochondrial Workshop (13th-14th of April 2016). In their feedback, the UK delegates have all praised the very high standards of the scientific programme and the warm local welcome that they have received during their stay. Ann and I are very much hopeful that the personal connections made during this workshop will strengthen existing or lead to new research collaborations.

The Young Researchers meeting allowed 8 promising your researchers from various Israeli academic institutions to present their work to the UK delegates and an audience of 15 additional participants. The presentations were of very high quality and the informal small group format allowed for a stimulating discussion that continued over lunch. The comments that we have received have been very positive and the Israeli MitoHub plans to adopt this innovative format for future meetings (<https://medicine.ekmd.huji.ac.il/En/academicUnits/imric/Pages/Mitochondria.aspx>).

The PI meeting was attended by a capacity audience of 70 delegates from across Israel, including the Hadassah Medical Center, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Weizmann Institute (Rehovot), Technion Israel Institute of Technology (Haifa), and Ben-Gurion University (Beer Sheva). The 2 morning sessions focused on basic disease mechanisms and the strategies for targeted drug delivery to the mitochondrial compartment. This set the scene for the 2 afternoon sessions on the expanding clinical manifestations of mitochondrial disease and the state-of-the-art with regards to personalised mitochondrial medicine.

Besides the scientific exchanges, the UK delegates had some unforgettable cultural experiences including viewing the striking Chagall windows at Hadassah Medical Center; a tour of the old city, which is the epicentre of the three major Abrahamic religions; and a day-trip to Masada and the Dead sea.

We are grateful for the support of the Israeli Mitohub, in particular Professor Ophry Pines; the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for providing complimentary use of the meeting venues; and two PhD students from the Saada lab (Devorah Soiferman and Liza Douiev) who did a lot of the running in the background to make sure that everything ran smoothly on the day.

Our sincere hope is that this mitochondrial workshop will serve as a catalyst that will lead to future UK-Israeli academic exchanges and collaborative grant applications.

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