The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex
Towards Better Health and Healthcare for All

The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences was founded 15 years ago at the University of Haifa with the vision of creating a world-class facility to address Israel's acute and pressing social and healthcare challenges.

Today, as one of the University's fastest-growing entities with over 4,000 students, the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences boasts a strong record of excellence and rigor in research, teaching and services. Its schools of Social Work, Public Health and Creative Art Therapies, in addition to departments of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Gerontology, Community Mental Health, Communication Disorders, Human Services and the Cheryl Spencer Department of Nursing are drawing on the best possible resources and expertise in training Israel's new generation of healthcare providers, practitioners, and policy makers.

A Beacon for Israel's Northern Region

The University of Haifa is the only academic institution in Israel's northern region that trains healthcare providers. Many of these practitioners choose to settle and establish careers in Israel's peripheral areas, which are typically underserved in many social, health-related and community areas. Many of the Faculty's programs are unique in Israel and distinctive in their multi-disciplinary approach, such as the Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies; the Department of Community Mental Health, the only department of its kind in Israel; and the Laboratory for Innovation and Rehabilitation Technology, which is developing pioneering clinical applications, such as virtual reality rehabilitation and tele-rehabilitation.

“Our Faculty offers a unique educational model for strengthening and expanding the national social and health safety net,” notes Professor Shai Linn, Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.

A New Home for the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences

"With its unparalleled pace and extraordinary breadth of education, scholarship and public engagement, the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences has outgrown its current facilities, and the dream of building a home for all its departments and facilities under one roof has become a necessity. The new Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex will enable it to continue to grow and expand its potential, and will give this outstanding Faculty the recognition of excellence it so richly deserves," adds Professor Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, President of the University of Haifa.
University's Master Architectural Plan

The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex
The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex

- 21,000 square meters (including open areas and parking)
- Easy access
- Central campus location
- Multi-disciplinary
- Environmental sustainability
The Community Building

The Community Building

A Commitment to Community
The University of Haifa is renowned for the strong connection that its students foster with the multi-ethnic community in northern Israel. The Community Building will be the nexus of the Faculty’s clinical services and laboratory facilities that serve the community at large. The Community Building will house the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center, a unique facility that offers a wide range of services by professional staff, including communication clinicians, occupational therapists, clinical and educational psychologists, psychotherapists and group therapists, social workers, art and movement therapists, and experts in health and nutrition. The Center provides treatment to individuals, couples, families and groups. It also offers community services and workshops related to child development and at-risk populations. Services at the Center are offered in Hebrew, English, Russian, and Arabic. Graduate students from the Faculty intern at the Clinical Center.

Reaching Out

Hearing and Healing
“Immediately after the birth we were notified that they were completely deaf”, reported Isaa Amin, the father of two-year-old twins, Kareem and Muhammad. “We heard about the unique work being done for hearing impaired children at the University of Haifa’s Audiology and Neurophysiological Institute for Hearing Diagnosis and Rehabilitation. I believed that with this help my boys would have a chance. The Institute’s recommendation for cochlear implant surgery was successful, and has significantly improved the quality of life for my sons.”
The School of Public Health Building

Where The Public is the Patient
The School of Public Health in Israel is deeply committed to the advancement of health promotion, enhancement of quality of life, and mitigation of health disparities in order to ensure better health for all sectors of the population. The School is training the next generation of Israel’s public health professionals in the areas of community health, health promotion, health services management, environmental health, and epidemiology and nutrition behavior. The School works directly with health-care providers in northern Israel to help create clinical models that can be rolled out to promote public health.

Today’s Research for Tomorrow’s Challenges
Research projects at the School are examining the behavioral, social, environmental, biological, genetic, organizational, political, and economic factors that affect the health of individuals and society. Ongoing research studies are directed towards gaining a deeper understanding of pressing issues that plague society, such as perennial health threats of cancer, heart disease, malnutrition, and rising rates of obesity. Analyzing their broader implications allows us to look beyond individuals to improve health for all populations.

Quality of Life

Overcoming the Trauma of Terror
The Departments of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy are developing extensive expertise using virtual reality simulations to cautiously confront sufferers of trauma. “I used to be quite easy-going until that day in Jerusalem,” explains Liran, aged 23. “A bomb on a bus exploded close by and I blacked out. When I came to, it was as if somebody had dropped a shadow of fear over me. I started to feel afraid all the time, even about the smallest things. The bomb changed my life. I kept dreaming that I’d be able to look back fearlessly and put my past behind me. A virtual reality simulation of an exploding bus has begun to help me to do that. Now that I have unblocked my memory, I can finally remember.”
The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex
Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies Building

At the Vanguard of Creative Art Therapies

The Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies is a pioneering academic program in the field of expressive therapies in Israel. The University of Haifa is the only accredited academic institution in Israel to offer a graduate degree in this vital and growing field, and offers four innovative tracks of specialization: visual art therapy, movement therapy, drama and psychodrama therapy, and music therapy.

Under the direction of Professor Rachel Lev-Wiesel the Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies is one of the newest and most popular degrees at the University, with over 300 graduate students to date. The School aspires to become an international center of excellence, providing students with the highest level of instruction and clinical training. The School is also dedicated to expanding academic research in the field of creative art therapies and to developing new, innovative methodological models and intervention techniques.

A recent study from the Graduate School led to the development of a new technique to assist creative art therapists to diagnose individuals with eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia, with a simple and non-intrusive self-figure drawing assessment. “Women suffering from eating disorders usually tend to hide their condition, even from their professional therapists. They often find it difficult to talk about their problem, so a non-verbal and non-intrusive tool such as a simple request for a self-figure drawing can become an important tool in creative art therapy,” explains Professor Lev-Wiesel.

Self-image drawings by women suffering from (L to R) anorexia, bulimia, and of normal weight

Letting the Body Talk

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Self-image drawings by women suffering from (L to R) anorexia, bulimia, and of normal weight
The Faculty's state-of-the-art laboratories in the Department of Gerontology are engaged in research that is dramatically improving quality of life for individuals with physical and mental disabilities, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, and ADHD. 

“I'm grateful for every day I can live a normal life,” said Tamar, 77. “I may be close to 80 but you won’t catch me giving up. A while back, after I was diagnosed with an early stage of Alzheimer’s disease, I began doing occupational therapy exercises using a virtual reality device. I feel this is helping me to make my mind work more actively and be more agile. I am able to keep in touch with health specialists and they can see how I'm doing at home. A monitoring device is connected to my phone, which is simple for me to use. I'm sure that this will lead to a fuller and more rewarding life.”

The School offers outstanding opportunities for study, professional growth, collaboration, and community development. Its mission is twofold: to improve quality of life for Israel's populations: and to provide aspiring professionals with an innovative academic path that focuses on a strong vocational theme. More than 1,000 students are currently pursuing degrees in BA, MA and PhD programs in the School of Social Work.

Israel's unique history has created unprecedented health-related challenges. In the last two decades alone, this small country has absorbed over a million immigrants with special healthcare needs. It has witnessed escalating rates of poverty and unemployment, and endured a war-torn environment that has taken a heavy physical and mental toll on its population.

The School of Social Work is addressing Israel's enormous and complex social and healthcare challenges. The School is deeply involved in outreach-related projects and many of its teaching practices and research have set the golden standard of practice in social welfare and health sciences globally.

The School of Social Work Building

Towards a Caring and Inclusive Israel

Fighting Poverty, Practicing Hope

Easing the Pain of Alzheimer's Disease

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The Scenic Plaza

The Scenic Plaza commands breathtaking views of the Mount Carmel range and the Mediterranean coastline.
The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences

School of Public Health
Prof. Manfred Green
Former Director of the Israel Center for Disease Control in the Ministry of Health

School of Social Work
Prof. Faisal Azaiza
Widely published scholar on education, citizenship and social justice

Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies
Prof. Rachel Lev-Wiesel
Internationally published expert in the field of creative art therapy

Departments
- The Cheryl Spencer Department of Nursing
- Gerontology
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Community Mental Health
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Human Services
- Continuing Education Unit
- Interdisciplinary Clinical Center

The Faculty at a Glance
- More than 12 Schools and Departments
- BA, MA, M5W, MHA, MAN, and PhD Degree programs
- Over 1,000 degrees awarded in 2010
- 100 tenured faculty members
- 200 affiliated lecturers
We invite you to partner with the University of Haifa in this inspiring project.

Naming opportunities are available for the following facilities within the complex:

- Naming the Community Building $5.5 million
- Naming the School of Public Health Building $5.5 million
- Naming the Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies Building $5.5 million
- Naming the School of Social Work Building $5.5 million
- Naming the Scenic Plaza $2 million
- Naming the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Complex (21,000 square meters) $24 million

The University of Haifa will provide matching funds for all philanthropic gifts.

Donor Recognition

The University of Haifa prominently honors the generosity of its donors with graduated levels of recognition.
“At first, dreams seem impossible, then improbable, and eventually inevitable.”

Christopher Reeve
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