



Braun School of Public Health
and Community Medicine
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hadassah Medical Organization

In loving memory of **Professor Jeremy Kark** **1943-2018**



Celebrating Jeremy's life.

Jeremy was a gifted epidemiologist with wide international recognition, a rare scientist and mentor with exceptional integrity, a genius writer and editor and an admired supervisor and teacher until his last days and beyond. He was modest, gave credit to others, was original, creative, thorough and productive. The legacy of Jeremy Kark will remain for many years.

Professor Jeremy David Kark

9 Sep 1943, Pholela, South Africa—24 May 2018, Jerusalem, Israel

Jeremy David Kark was born in 1943 in Pholela, rural Zululand, South Africa, where his parents, Professor Sidney and Dr Emily Kark, established the first community oriented primary care (COPC) program. Jeremy spent his childhood years in Durban as an outstanding student and athlete, excelling in various sports including cricket, rugby, soccer, tennis and swimming. The Karks later immigrated to Israel, and established the Masters in Public Health (MPH) program in the Hebrew University. A decade later, they established the International MPH program, which has since trained around 1000 students from nearly 100 countries.

Jeremy graduated high school in Chapel Hill. He continued to be active in sports, serving as captain and representative of his teams and also enjoyed travelling, collecting stamps, reading and studying world literature, maths, physics and more. In 1960, Jeremy made Aliya to Israel and enrolled in the Medical School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He received his MD in 1968 and his MPH in 1974. He went on to receive his PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, USA.



The Karks in Durban before leaving South Africa to the US in 1958

Between the late 1960s and early 1980s, Jeremy had an extensive career in the Israel Defense Forces, where he served as Head of the Public Health (Army Health) Branch.

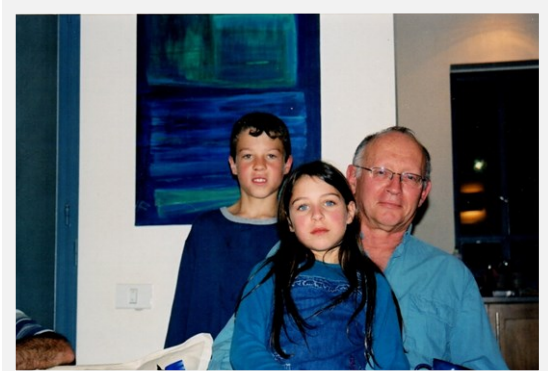
In 1980, he joined the Department of Social Medicine, The Hebrew University-Hadassah Public Health and Community Medicine, and served as its acting Head of Department between 1989-1990. In 1993, he was appointed as Full Professor of Epidemiology and between 1991-2008 as Head of The Epidemiology Unit of the Hadassah Medical Center. He also served as the Director of the International MPH program during part of this period.

Professor Jeremy Kark was an outstanding scientist and gifted expert in his field and beyond, a doctor with exceptional scientific commitment, enthusiasm and integrity, whose work substantially advanced the areas of epidemiology and public health globally. He was known for his scientific rigour, discipline and precision and for his scientific integrity. He won multiple competitive grants from many prestigious national and international funding organizations, and published over 250 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet and others.

With much enthusiasm, dedication and never-ending commitment, Jeremy trained and mentored dozens of masters and doctoral students throughout his career and taught thousands of medical students, MPH students and others. Amongst his many international and national appointments, he was a Visiting Professor at USDA Human Nutrition Research Center, Tufts University, Boston, and a Visiting Scientist and Adjunct Professor at the Center for Health Policy Research at Stanford University.

Jeremy dedicated time to multiple advisory bodies, such as those of the Ministry of Health, Advisory Committee on Study of Environmental Pollutants; the Ministry of Health Chief Scientist Research Grant Committee (2003 – 2010); Ministry of Health Chief Scientist, Chair Epidemiology and Public Health Research Grants Section (2002—2008); the National Council on Women’s Health, Committee on Cardiovascular Diseases, the National Heart Council, Ministry of Health, (1995-2001); the Steering Committee, Israel Center for Disease Control, Ministry of Health; the Chief Scientist’s Steering Committee, Ministry of Health (1987 – 2003); the National Health Information Advisory Council and the Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Health on infectious diseases and vaccines. He served as Chairman of the specialist examination board, Public Health, Scientific Board of the Israel Medical Association and on multiple Advisory committees in the IDF Medical Corps (1976-1989), including the Committee on Substance Abuse and many others.

Jeremy David Kark passed away in May 2018, leaving a loving wife, Ruth Kleiner-Kark, whom he met over 58 years ago, three loving children, Ronit, Salit and Guy, and seven wonderful grandchildren.



Jeremy playing with his beloved grandchildren



Fifth Annual Conference of the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians and Schools of Public Health
Transdisciplinary Professionalism in Public Health

Thursday, November 23, 2017

Dear Prof. Jeremy Kark,

Re: **Granting Life Achievement Award for Your Activity on Behalf of the Advancement of Public Health in Israel and the World Over**

The Scientific Committee of the 2018 Conference of the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians and Schools of Public Health in Israel has the honor of informing you that we have decided to grant you the Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Health.

This Appreciation Award is being given to you for your great, significant contribution to public health and epidemiology, for the advancement of scientific knowledge, and for the promotion of the health of populations in Israel and the world over. During your rich, variegated career as a professor of epidemiology and a public health physician in the Hebrew University and Hadassah School of Public Health and in various functions prior to that, including the position of head of army's Health Branch, you led exceptional research and public activity, including laying the foundation for long-term population studies such as the Jerusalem Lipid Research Clinic (LRC) study and a follow-up IDF health survey.

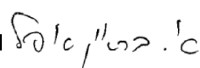
Through these endeavors you have become a leading, internationally renowned epidemiologist as expressed through hundreds of scientific publications in first-rate journals which contained original observations that influenced policy determination and further research, especially in the field of risk factors for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. In addition, over the years, you trained many generations of students and researchers in epidemiology and public health.

Worthy of particular note is the rigor you applied in every action to maintaining high professional and ethical standards for yourself, your colleagues, and your students as well as your precision and thoroughness in scientific research and your striving for clean, in-depth, critical and valid science.


The topic of this year's conference is "Transdisciplinary Professionalism in Public Health", and you, through your many years of endeavor as an epidemiologist and public health physician serve as an example and model for professionalism in public health

We wish you many more productive years in research and achievements!

In deep appreciation,

Prof. Orna Baron-Epel 

Chairperson of the Israel Association
of Public Health Physicians

Prof. Nadav Davidovitch 

Chairperson of the Scientific Committee
of the 2018 Conference

Ruth Kark's Eulogy for Jeremy Kark, 13 Sivan 5778, May 27, 2018

My beloved Jem, my husband and life's companion in the fullest sense of the word.

We had an amazing partnership. We first met on the tennis court, in our first year at Hebrew University at Givat Ram, when you tried to teach me – a sabra – how to hold a racquet and hit the ball. Since then, we have been together, for 58 years.

You awarded me the surname Kark – and to us, those are initials for the Hebrew "Karnei Re'em Karnav" (His horns are like the horns of a wild ox; Deut. 33:17).

Together we raised a wonderful family – 3 children – Ronit, Salit and Guy, and seven grandchildren. In addition, we raised dogs, cats, chickens, polecats, rabbits, birds, and more. It is hard for me to speak of you in the past, but I want to mention some of your outstanding characteristics that made such a deep impression on me over the years, and that I loved so much:

You were a wonderful, loving husband, my partner in life and in work, 24 hours 7 days a week. You were the ultimate father and grandfather. You loved to host our grandchildren every Friday and Saturday and make them pancakes with maple syrup, whipped cream and chocolate when they got up on Shabbat morning. You encouraged them to read and to take school seriously, but also to participate in sports, hikes, and youth movements.

You were a man of the Renaissance with vast knowledge in many fields such as history, geography, literature, economics, politics, medicine and more. You had rare intellectual capabilities. You also were able to do mathematical calculations in your head without a calculator or a computer, better than most people I know.

You were a role model of integrity and truth, both in daily life and in your professional work. You hated corruption and corrupt people wherever you met them. You were extremely modest – the epitome of "understatement" despite the fact that you had so much to be proud of.

You were a talented gardener and you created an amazing garden of native Jerusalem greenery (like Meir Shalev), including cyclamens, hyacinths, anemones, and many types of vines.

You were a talented photographer; evidence is abundant in the calendars and albums we made based upon your photographs.

To our great joy, you were also a true feminist who insisted on equal rights for women.

This list is endless. I could go on and on talking about your outstanding qualities, but I shall end



with only one more:

You were a real fighter. It began when you excelled at cricket, tennis, and swimming as a child in South Africa, in the swimming teams in America and at Hebrew U., and in Israel's national cricket team. You continued to fight when you chose to serve as physician of the 890th battalion in the paratroopers' corps, and continued when you served as a doctor in Sinai and in Jabel Ataka in Egypt during the Yom Kippur War. Later, you served as a young lieutenant colonel managing the IDF branch of public health, while attempting to establish a research infrastructure for future generations.

You were also a real fighter in your last war – over your life: The cursed Myeloma that you resisted with such strength and courage for three and a half years, and at the end, also the Gillian Barre syndrome. You never complained or protested: "Why did this happen to me?" You were willing to undergo any possible treatment, old or new, aided by your faithful physician Mushi Gat, and all the medical staff – doctors, nurses, and secretaries at Hadassah Ein Kerem and at Mount Scopus. A wonderful staff took care of you, as well as our doctors Ronnie Ban, Adi Leyba, Batya Avni, your devoted and wonderful brother Billy and his wife Shosh, your many friends and colleagues, particularly Ronit Sinreich who helped in every way. Words are insufficient to thank you.

You did not win this last war, and you wanted to stop the terrible suffering, but you remained clear-headed and sharp up to the very end. I quote what you told us just before you died, when you could barely speak and we were all around your hospital bed:

I say to the whole family – I had tremendous support from my family. You helped me all along, and I thank you very much for that. You inspired me and gave me strength all along. Don't be sad. I am not afraid or apprehensive of passing but rather at peace. I am sure you will succeed in overcoming the absence and the difficulties, and continue to live life fully and positively – each and every one of you.

Jeremy, you inspired all of us, and bequeathed us a heritage and a role model to be copied.

It will be very very hard for me to continue my life without you, my beloved.

Forever yours,
Ruti



Jeremy and Ruti with their grandchildren

Prof. Ora Paltiel | Director, Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine

In my name and that of the Braun School of Public Health I feel a great sense of privilege, mixed with deep sadness, to stand here and talk about Jeremy- a teacher, colleague and partner. I will not summarize here his many scientific activities and accomplishments, since eight days from now, they will be presented in detail at the annual conference of the Israel Public Health Physicians Association, in which Jeremy, tragically belatedly, will be awarded a Lifetime Achievement Prize. Instead, I will talk about what Jeremy symbolized for me and for many of us.

In our field there is a concept called the gold standard. This is the criterion of validity - does the item actually measure or test what it is supposed to test, is the study, the questionnaire or the instrument credible? For us, Jeremy was the gold standard. If Jeremy thought the work was good, it was good. If Jeremy thought the study was worthy, it was worthy. If Jeremy was satisfied or even complimentary, it is likely that the act, the product or the person was worthy.

Jeremy had infinite curiosity and was both a conservative and innovative scientist. But for him scientific truth was absolute. No cutting corners, no shortcuts, and no compromises were sanctioned on the road to discovering the truth. He once advised me to shelve an entire study that I had worked on for a year and a half because of a bias that had entered it during its execution. As a young researcher I was devastated, but somehow I managed to salvage the study and publish it with a detailed account of the possible bias- a written testimony to Jeremy's scientific conscience whispering in my ear, " ... the truth, nothing but the truth".

The Hebrew University has a slogan, "Difficult, but the best!". It seems to me that they were referring to Jeremy. He demanded much and at times was stubborn, but there is no doubt that he was the best. The most talented students flocked to him in order to receive the strictest mentoring, knowing that this difficult experience would serve them well, transforming them into careful, productive and high quality researchers like him. Thus, in the IDF, in our School, in all of Israel, and also in Cameroon, Albania, Russia, Turkey, Ghana, Nigeria, India etc many students (I know of three with the name "Ronit", but also many with other names!) became excellent epidemiologists who were nurtured by the "the most difficult, but the best". They have contributed, together with Jeremy, to the study of the social, spiritual, biological, environmental and even political determinants of human health.

Jeremy was not a man of faith but he was a man of trust. The trust that he gave to others was accompanied by loyalty, at times affection, and even with love. His special love was reserved for his family- for Ruth, the children, the grandchildren, his siblings and the dogs. Although Jeremy was the "son of"* , he did not remain in the shadow of anyone; rather he climbed on the shoulders of giants like his parents and enriched the world with knowledge, and left us with a legacy of insight, of modesty and with a feeling that we can always try a little bit harder. Jeremy, our gold standard, may your memory be blessed.

*both parents were famous and accomplished epidemiologists

Prof. Yehuda Neumark | International MPH Director, Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine lowers its flag today to half-mast as we announce the passing of our beloved and revered Professor Jeremy Kark.

Prof. Kark earned an MD and an MPH from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1969 and 1974, and a PhD from the University of North Carolina in 1977. As Professor of Epidemiology, his research interests were broad and focused primarily on the social, behavioral, and biological determinants of coronary heart disease and other chronic illnesses. Jeremy served as Head of the Epidemiology Unit of the Hadassah Hospital Chief of the IDF Public Health Branch, and Head of the Cardiovascular Unit at the Israeli Center for Disease Control. In 2005, he was named Adjunct Affiliate at Stanford University's Center for Health Policy and Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research. He was scientifically active until his final days. He mentored many MPH, MD and PhD students over the years, all of whom will attest to his fastidious demand for methodological accuracy and scientific rigor.

Jeremy was the devoted son of Sydney & Emily Kark who pioneered community medicine and Community Oriented Primary Care in rural South Africa and were among the founders of our School, and a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Our heartfelt condolences to the Kark family.

May his memory be blessed and serve as a continuing source of inspiration to us all.

Prof. Ted Tulchinsky | Braun School Faculty

I join with family, friends, colleagues, students, faculty, graduates and many others in sadness at loss of Jeremy. He was a truly outstanding public health scholar and researcher, and a good friend over my many years at the Braun SPH. He was a true "mensch" (very good person) in all respects. Very sad.



The Kark family

Dr. Gilad Twig | MD, PhD, Israel Defense Forces

Dear Jeremy,

I was privileged to work with you for the last four years – a very significant period during which we co-authored nearly 20 articles, and at the same time, I came to know you and your character traits.

A many-faceted personality with exceptional work ethics, unending striving for precision and uncompromising commitment to sophisticated but pure science. And above all, an unusually honest person both personally and professionally.

Jeremy, I enjoyed the road we took together very much! I enjoyed the discussions, the shared planning, the depth of your insights, your rich language, your criticism, and the debates we had.

Although I was always the loser in our professional debates, I always learned something very important from them.

In general, in all our shared projects, I enjoyed the process leading to the goal just as much as reaching it. Our course of action was demanding, challenging and profound.

Ruth, Ronit, Sal'it, and Guy – Following your husband and father and working with him changed me, as it must have done to many of his students. It made me a more thorough, critical and modest scientist. He made me a better person.

Jeremy, you were an amazing teacher – both professionally and personally. You left a meaningful and unforgettable stamp on my life. I promise to pass it on. I thank you for all that you taught me. I could not have wished for more.

Thank you.

Prof. Daniel Cohen | Tel Aviv University (Braun School MPH 1980)

Dear Jeremy,

I first met you 40 (!) years ago, when I was privileged to be one of your first students in the MPH program in Jerusalem. I am here today to thank you, with great grief, for the privilege of parting from you with these words.

My work under your guidance, 40 years ago, was my first venture into epidemiological research. It gave me a firm basis and love for this area of research, and basically helped me decide what to do in my life.

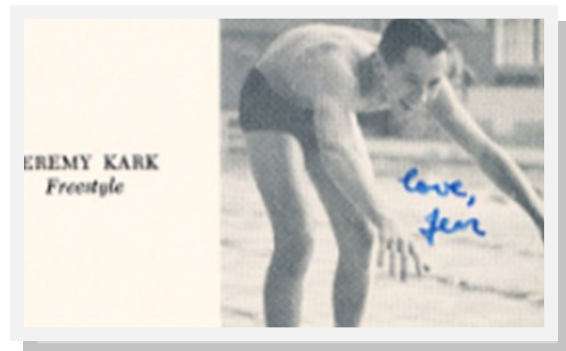
We had other opportunities over the years and in various circumstances to work together, and for me to hear you speak about research. Every time, I learned something new. I learned from your approach and sharp analytical talents and from your striving for precision and perfection. I learned from your vision in research and also from your modesty and integrity.

During military service and later on, you taught us how to establish solid and long term research projects, broadly based and well designed to generate as much information as possible for the benefit of other researchers and general scientific enrichment.

Sometimes, a long time went by before we met again, and we did not keep in close touch, but you were always a role model for me, in my research and in the knowledge and values I tried to bequeath to my students.

Over the years, it gave me great satisfaction to feel your friendship and esteem. Four years ago, you turned to me with an offer to collaborate on research on associations between infection and heart disease and cancer. This came to fruition and produced work that brought us much satisfaction. You worked so fast that my colleagues and I found it hard to keep up with you. I understood that you wanted to achieve as much as possible in your outstanding scientific work. It was almost incomprehensible how much you were able to accomplish with young researchers and various research groups, especially since we all knew how hard it was to achieve the level of perfection where you could finally say – Yes, now the material is ready for scientific communication.

You will remain alive in the hearts of those who knew you, learned from you, loved and admired you. You leave a gigantic life's work of scientific accomplishment as your legacy, one that elevated epidemiological research to the heights of excellence compared to all medical research, bringing pride to all in that field. Furthermore, and no less important, you bequeath to all of us a world of values worthy of imitation regarding research



Prof. Sharon Einav | MSc, MD, Professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine (Braun School MPH 2015)

When I was in fifth grade a particularly creative teacher chose to teach us about ancient Greece with the use of training aids. In that dark, pre-computer era, almost the only available training aids were books and poster reproductions of classical paintings. In a class of 30 children who had been randomly gathered together to study with a whimsical elementary schoolteacher, through the famous oil on canvas “Death of Socrates” by Jacques Louis David we learned about the essence of the relationship between a true teacher and his students. A true teacher, so we learned from the picture, is one whose students are devastated by his departure. Today I say farewell to my personal Socrates.

The Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine grants academic promotion to those who fulfill three criteria – clinical, research and teaching excellence. Among these three requirements, teaching is perceived by many as less important. Physicians often see their

teaching roles as an irksome chores, a criterion that must be fulfilled in order to move on to the next academic level. Student “heads” are counted during rounds and in classes so that their numbers may be multiplied by the number of hours they spend with each physician. The feedback forms completed by the students at the end of each department or rotation contribute little to create a sense of mission or calling. This dry method stands in stark and painful contrast to the teacher-student relationship reflected in the painting by Jacques Louis David. Had we been measured by the teaching criterion as implemented by Socrates, few physicians would merit academic promotion. But among those few Jeremy would have been first.

Chance led me to meet Jeremy. Or maybe it was my destiny to be accorded this great privilege. In the comments I received to the first grant proposal on cardiopulmonary resuscitation that I submitted to the National Institute of Health Policy research, one of the reviewers wrote that the proposal would benefit from the guiding hand of an Epidemiologist. “Epidemiologist?” I wondered, “What is an Epidemiologist?”. Until then, throughout medical school and most of my residency in anesthesia, I had never heard of this medical profession. I arranged a meeting with Prof. Alek Aviram at the National Institute to learn more about where such an expert may be found. At this meeting Aviram asked “Why are you inquiring with me? One of the lead epidemiologists in the world works at the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center. Contact him” I wrote the name Jeremy Kark and called.

My first meeting with Jeremy is forever engraved in my memory. In the department of Anesthesia it was customary at the time to grant physicians who were performing laboratory research a weekly research day. Due to conscientious objections I had refused to perform laboratory research throughout medical school and residency. Accordingly, I had also never been granted research benefits. To the meeting with Jeremy I arrived carrying the rejected grant proposal and the excel table of data regarding Hadassah resuscitations that I had painstakingly collected during two years, upon which the proposal had been written. Jeremy inquired about mentor. I responded there was none. And then he asked “So all of this research you did on your own?!” This was the first time anyone had acknowledged the work I had been doing as research. This simple sentence empowered me to insist upon and continue along the path I had chosen. I continued without a research day in the department of Anesthesia until, with Jeremy’s encouragement, I submitted candidacy to the Batsheva de Rothschild Fund for an annual 50% research time grant. Only when I received the grant my department chair came to realise that the work I was doing could be viewed as research and finally conceded to grant me the weekly research day.

According to Wikipedia the traditional role of the Rabbi in the Jewish community is “the person responsible for judgement and the intellectual elite”. Jeremy would not have liked the use of this word but in truth he was my teacher and my Rabbi. In research and outside of research. This description encompasses the added value that Jeremy provided to my medical career. He, more than anyone else, set the path that I have followed to where I

stand today as physician and researcher. Like a parent who, in doing, bequeaths values to his children, so Jeremy, by personal example, directed me to right and wrong. When one is fortunate enough to have a true teacher, an educator and mentor in the full sense of these words, this relationship becomes invaluable. The guidance provided by the teacher becomes inseparable from the personal values and perception of the world the student develops. Jeremy taught me not only how to perform research, but also how to perform research without prejudice. When I considered abandoning clinical work he taught me that researchers who do not see patients are incapable of asking the correct questions. I continued my clinical work and in retrospect can attest that this insight was very correct. Due to his perseverance and belief we were finally granted, more than once, the NIHPR funding I had dreamed of. And thanks to our research findings a change is gradually taking place in resuscitation throughout the State of Israel today.

Jeremy inspired me to complete a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology. Working with him challenged me to strive to be like him, to attain at least some of his knowledge. When he proposed that I study resuscitation of men and women I was sceptical that we would find any difference between the sexes. He insisted we would and indeed we did. We found major differences. During my degree studies he once recommended, in his typical dry manner of speech, that I should make an effort to not “complete the degree unscathed”. I took his words to heart and invested great effort to do as he had suggested. I tried and will continue to try to implement all I have learned. A true teacher, so I learned from Jeremy, is one whose compliments you yearn for and whose criticism may be harsh and unforgiving but is always just and constructive. A true teacher is the person you will do everything in your power to please. Not because of the teacher, but because of yourself. Because when you disappoint your teacher you disappoint yourself at least as much.

When Ronit informed me of Jeremy’s passing, like the students of Socrates I kneeled under the weight of my sorrow. Like many others, I imagine, I mourned the extent of our loss. Questions such as “What will I do now?” “How can I continue without the wisdom of his words, without his guidance?” “How will I know what to do without his experience?” came tumbling out. I will miss his humour and cynicism, our discussions on the true essence, quality and consequences of the profession we had both chosen. But a true teacher also teaches you how to stand on your own two feet, how to be independent. And I know that this is what Jeremy would have expected of me. No less. I will therefore continue to follow in his footsteps, carry on my efforts to meet his expectations, as even in his absence part of him remains with me.

It is difficult for me to express in words the depth of my debt to Jeremy. In many ways I am his creation. Today I say a painful farewell to a very special man. A wise, kind and generous man. His departure creates a great void for many of us.

Dear Ruthie and family, my heart is with you. You know you have been blessed with Jeremy. You should also know how grateful some of us are to have been touched by his blessing too.

Dr. Nhlakanipho Gumede | Chief Executive Officer/Medical Manager, Pholela Community Health Centre

Greetings from South Africa,

We have had the sad news of the passing of Professor Jeremy Kark. We are saddened by these news as South Africans. We have learned that the successful implementation of COPC in South Africa was engineered by his parents Emily and Sydney. The coner stone of this concept is based on epidemiology for which Prof was a generous.

On the 24th May 2018, we hosted a successful Indaba (discussions) looking at COPC and PHC re-engineering. This was a collaboration of University of KwaZulu-Natal and KwaZulu Natal department of health.

We are with the family, friends and colleagues as they learn about the death of an instrumental human being.

May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Chobufo Ditah | Cameroon, IMPH 2015

Dear Prof. Kark,

Several weeks have gone by since I learnt about the death of my most influential professor, mentor, father and friend. I go to bed every night hoping the narrative would be different by the time I wake up, but it hasn't changed. I have finally mustered the courage to accept the undeniable reality that he's no longer here, physically.

It hurts so much that no words can capture the extent of my pain. His last words were nothing but best wishes as I face the challenges ahead. Knowing he was around was all I needed to walk fearlessly into any arena because I had a solid support system in Him.

If I were to put together our mails, it would be countless pages. It appeared he dedicated all his time to me, yet I was but one of the many students he mentored. This tells me how committed he was, not only to me, but to everyone he mentored. Because of all he did for me, he holds a special place in my heart. I can only promise to advance the cause for which he stood-Scientific integrity and relentless efforts to advance research and innovation in the health field.

It's a task too heavy to think I'll be able to shoulder. However, I will never relent working harder in all I do to advance, albeit at a slower pace, cardiovascular research.



As his best friend for several years, I can't imagine your pain and I dare not think of what a burden this is on you. It's very vivid on my mind what an atmosphere you both cultivated and enjoyed at home during my visit. I do pray you find the strength and motivation to carry on, knowing every smile/laughter on your face is exactly what he wishes you. Even if you were to find no reason to smile, remember you can always smile for him.

May you never know any more sorrow. May he continue to Rest In Peace. I do promise to come to Israel sometime in the future and when I eventually do, I will pay him a personal visit at his resting site.

Dr. Abiodun Hassan | Nigeria, IMPH 2007

Though sad, yet I am delighted that I was fortunate to be one of the mentees of Prof Kark during his lifetime. I reminisce and cherish the moments i studied under Prof during the MPH course between 2005 and 2006 in Hadassah. Prof was a very experienced, patient, gifted, diligent and excellent leader and mentor. I could not easily forget the things he taught me and which have largely impacted my public health career. I undertook my research dissertation under him on cardiovascular epidemiology and this provided a rich opportunity to explore advance bio-statistics and epidemiology. I will greatly miss Prof Kark and i pray that God will grant him eternal rest in His bosom. I pray that God will comfort the family and the entire HUJI and Alumni.

Dr. Genc Burazeri | Albania, IMPH 2000

Dear Prof. Ruth Kark, Please accept our deepest condolences for your great loss! We will always be thinking of Jeremy and will send him love! Prof. Jeremy Kark was unique! Unusually clever, very honest and kind! Needless to say, Genc learned so many things from Jeremy and owes him a lot! God bless Jeremy! May his heart and soul find peace and comfort! Yours ever, Genc Burazeri & Iris Mone



Dr. Luis Rosa Sosa | Dominican Republic, IMPH 2007

Dearest Kark Family members. As part of one of the cohort of students who have received guidance of how the Public Health arena should work. I am deeply sorry about the loss of great member of the school I belong to. Prof. J Kark will remain part of us because of initiative, his belief in every scholar and dedicated work to make a change in this world. There is nothing in the world that can replace a loving one as a father, husband and professor. Only time will help to breath better through this loss but our heart and mind will keep his memory alive. The old mighty help us and give us strength during the difficult moments.

Sarah Goldenkranz Salomon | USA, IMPH 2008

I'm so sorry to learn about Dr. Kark's passing. I have very fond memories of our small discussion-group based advanced epi methods course during my time as an IMPH student. He really challenged us to think critically, and his teaching style really deepened my understanding of study design, which has been extremely helpful to me in my work. My condolences to his family, colleagues, and all others who are touched by his passing. He will be missed.



Dr. Joshua Rosenbloom | USA, IMPH 2007

I was so shocked and sorry to hear about Professor Kark's passing. Professor Kark was my thesis adviser for my MPH thesis in 2007. He got me interested in cardiovascular research and taught me the skills that have allowed me to continue working in epidemiological research until now. After I returned to the US we remained in contact for some time although unfortunately we had not been in touch recently. Professor Kark was an amazing teacher, a devoted mentor, and a wonderful person. יהי זכרו ברוך

Prof. Sathian Yovapue | Thailand, IMPH 1974

It is a great sadness and deep regret to hear of the demise of Professor Jeremy Kark. I was very lucky to meet him personally in February 2013 during the IMPH Alumni Workshop in Jerusalem. We were recalling our time when I was a student in Hadassah in which Professor Jeremy Kark had done his M.P.H. in Hebrew Course. I believe that his contributions to Epidemiology and Public Health as a whole will last forever. I express my condolence on behalf of my family to The Braun School and Professor Jeremy Kark's family. May he rest in peace.

Dr. Norbert Rakiro | Kenya, IMPH 2005

Dear Kark Family and the Hebrew University Fraternity, It is with deep sadness that I learnt of the passing of our dear Professor Jeremy Kark. I recall with great appreciation the warmth with which he welcomed us to the IMPH program in 2004, the personal engagement he had with us during lectures, the thoroughness of his teaching, and his demand that we give our very best to the rigors of academic training. Outside of class, Prof. Jeremy Kark was an approachable friend who I severally took counsel with when I needed to think through options for addressing challenges that had emerged back home when I was studying in Jerusalem. He opened his heart and home to us, and became like the uncle we needed when in a far land. There shall always be a grateful smile on my face when I remember Prof. Kark, for his positive mark on our lives cannot be erased ever.

Dr. Ervin Toci | Albania, IMPH 2007

Dr. Dorina Canaku | Albania, IMPH 2007

We want to express our sincere and deepest condolences to the loss of our dear Professor Jeremy Kark. He was an extraordinary teacher, an indisputable authority in the field of epidemiology and a central figure of the Braun School of Public Health. Many generations of students will always be grateful to Professor Jeremy Kark for his dedication and enthusiasm and professionalism. His loss has shocked us all. We are sure that the legacy of Professor Jeremy Kark will be a point of reference and inspiration for future generations of public health students all over the world. Let's celebrate this extraordinary legacy while honouring with respect and humility the contribution of Professor Jeremy Kark. May his soul rest in peace!

Prof. Fred Binka | Ghana, IMPH 1988

My heartfelt condolences to the family of Jeremy Kark and the HUJI community. Jeremy was a world leader in Epidemiology, great teacher and mentor. He was very astute about measurements contributed immensely to making the study of epidemiology very simple. His work on cardiovascular epidemiology will forever be acknowledged. I am a product of his mentorship, tutorship and a great friend. He taught me to pay attention to details and to review evidence to support my epidemiological conclusions. I visited him at his home in Jerusalem during my last visit to Israel about 3 years ago. We have lost a great Epidemiologist, teacher and friend. May His Soul Rest in Perfect Peace

Dr. Soumik Kalita | India, IMPH 2007

Prof. Jeremy Kark one of my favorite teachers and my mentor passed away in Jerusalem yesterday. I am still in a state of shock and disbelief. Prof Kark was a fit and energetic person who was always smiling and willing to help. I had the opportunity to work with him very closely as his student when he was my guide for my thesis. He was a stalwart in the field of cardiovascular epidemiology and other chronic diseases. I had joined him as a green horn with no idea of research and he helped me hone my skills in his characteristic way. He made me learn stuff the hard way which was frustrating at times. I remember I was walking alongside him (this was a good way to catch him) and explaining to him that I found a very good article on a particular topic that I was researching on. He quickly retorted and said that there were around 20 references in that article which he wanted me to read up and also around 20 more that cited that article to find out the evidence in that subject. In the next few weeks I ended up looking at more than a 100 references on the subject which finally made me think of my topic from a totally different angle. I would find Prof Kark's room deluged with piles of papers and he would be sitting in the corner oblivious of his surroundings. I sent my final draft when he was in Japan with very little internet access but he did manage to correct the same and return it back on time for my defense. During my defense one of the examiners remarked that my thesis was good but I should have taken out comments of my advisor, which was inadvertently there (I still cherish those). I met Prof Kark on one of my visits a few years back and he was very happy to see me. We discussed potential projects that we could do together and he wanted me work on publishing my thesis (which I could not because of my extremely busy schedule). I still remember the walk towards his car where I was racing to keep pace with him. He was kind enough to drop me to my hotel and I had another opportunity of 45 minutes to talk my mentor on the way. I never knew that it would be the last time I saw him. Prof Kark was born to illustrious parents who were the founders of the COPC in South Africa he truly followed the footsteps of his parents and established a mark as one of the best of cardiovascular epidemiologists of our times. He was a human being of a different kind, very straight forward, caring and extremely knowledgeable about varied subjects. One of his favorite pastimes was walking his dogs

Dr. Kanan Desai | India, IMPH 2016

I am deeply saddened to hear about the early demise of my greatest mentor. I still remember the first time I met him for my thesis mentorship. Since that day I have always cherished and will forever cherish his dedicated mentorship, unrelenting discipline and constant guidance. I learned from him about invincible enthusiasm for science and research. No matter what he would always promptly respond to my mails even till last month. The day before my defence, despite his health, he remained with me till late evening to help prepare for my defense. I will always be extremely grateful and honoured to have an opportunity to work with a legend like him.



Dr. Nayanjeet Chaudhury | India, IMPH 2006

While holding my tears forcefully, I salute in deep gratitude to Prof. Kark for showing me the path to my Alma Mater, the Hadassah Braun School at Hebrew University. During my residency in Comm. Med., I came across a great book by Prof. Abramson, another legend from the same school, whom I wanted to meet someday. I reached out to Prof. Kark (from the Univ faculty database) in 2003-04 when he informed me about the IMPH program. I eventually joined in 2005 as their student with full scholarship - a dream came true. Jeremy's ability to simplify complex issues in epidemiology for kindergarten kids like us made us his ardent fans for life. He is known to the rest of the world for his cutting edge research on CVD epidemiology, but for me he is an eye opener, a teacher par excellence! Your void can't be filled, dear professor, but your memories will continue to inspire us crave for lifelong learning. Rest in peace, beloved professor!

Ajay Phatak | India, IMPH 2007

It was sudden and shocking news of sad demise of Prof. Kark. I was quite lucky to be his student during 2007-2008. Prof. Kark was undoubtedly a great teacher but at the same time he was a true mentor and a humble person. He used to clear our doubts in 1 minute but at the same time provided valuable tips regarding the subject (what to read, what is crux and future directions) despite his tightest schedules. He was one of the strong pillars of Braun School and his contribution to public health and developing public health experts across world through the school is paramount. It is very unfortunate to know about the demise of our great Professors like Abramson, Leon Godis and now Jeremy Kark in consecutive years. I hope the alumni of Braun School will be able to follow the path shown by him and contribute to the public health. This would be the best homage to Prof. Kark.

Words are not enough to express my grief. May his Soul rest in peace and may god give us all strength to bear this profound grief. Amen.

Dr. Argaw Shire Aberra | Ethiopia, IMPH 2008

What a shocking news! He was a professor who has used the full potential of his gifted mind. He was so humble as well. I loved his classes very much...He was one of the reasons I loved epidemiology to this date. He will live by the countless students he taught across the world. My deepest condolences to his family and the family of Braun School of Public health and Community medicine & Hebrew University. Rest in Peace!

Dr. Belgin Aslan Unal | Turkey, IMPH 1998

I am extremely sorry to hear his loss. My deepest condolences to his family and to the Braun School of Public Health. I got so happy to have met him and learned from him during my MPH studies some 20 years ago. I felt also privileged to have him as my MPH thesis advisor. He was a very good teacher and inspiring mentor to me who shaped my career in public health epidemiology. I hope his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Enver Roshi | Albania, IMPH 1997

Our heart is broken since we heard that Prof Jeremy passed away. We are expressing our deepest condolences to his family, for our beloved Professor! Our mind and soul is there to support his family in this very difficult moment ensuring that they are not alone but they have us, many students form different countries over the world. Professor Jeremy Kark followed his parents' steps and he gifted us with an extraordinary legacy in epidemiology and public health! We will always remember him with love and compassion! May his soul rest in peace!

Dr. Salanieta Saketa | Fiji, IMPH 1995

I thank God that I had the opportunity to be taught and mentored by two great scholars and epidemiologists and that is Professor Abrahamson and Professor Kark. Although I am saddened by their passing away I am also glad that I have this opportunity to celebrate this wonderful life. I was persuaded by the Community-oriented Primary Care (COPC) concept that his parents started and thought it was great model for developing countries like mine. I vividly remember Professor Kark as one of the appraisers of my dissertation and I thank him for making this dreaded experience of defending your thesis a not so bad experience for me. I pray for shalom be upon his family and loved ones during this time of bereavement.



Dr. Josephine Ojiambo | Kenya, IMPH 1989 and

Dr. Matthew Koomson | Ghana, IMPH 1989

We have learnt of the passing of Prof Jeremy Kark with deep regret and sorrow. He was a model of perfection and his memory will be cherished over a lifetime. We send our heartfelt sympathy to the entire bereaved family. May His Soul Rest In Peace.

Jacqueline de Roos | Netherlands, IMPH 1996

I am deeply saddened by the announcement on the passing of Jeremy. When I did my thesis at the School of Public Health in 1995-1997, I worked with him. I loved to work with Jeremy because of his integrity and passion for his work. I enjoyed learning from him. He was precise, patient and could simply explain complex matters. Also remembering the invitation I got for a meal at the house of Mrs. and Jeremy Kark after being the physical therapist of Sidney Kark at the Hadassah hospital in 1996-1997. I have a lot of precious memories about that time. In 2008 I was visiting Jerusalem and visited the university. There I met Jeremy again. We had a long conversation about the political development within Europe and especially the Netherlands. He said he had hoped that his grand-children would live in peace, but that the time we are living in is not easy and he wasn't sure that this would happen. That was the first time for me that he expressed his worries about world issues. That affected me, because he was always so full of hope and positivity. This autumn I am planning to visit Jerusalem again and I was hoping to meet and speak with Jeremy again. I regret that I haven't taken the opportunity earlier. I am honored and blessed to have known Jeremy. He was truly a blessing and encourager in my life. Remembering his wonderful and gentle soul. My heartfelt condolences.

Innocent Munyampeta | Rwanda, IMPH 1990

He did a very good job along his life so that his passing is not terrible. He did not waste time and will remain a good exposure for generations of scientists endeavoring for a best world and struggling to attain to the Truth. Eminent Professor. I liked statistics and shall never forget the morning class where he came and filled the blackboard with calculations demonstrating the mathematical Principle of Kappa test. He should take his rewards.



Dr. Kingsley Odiete | Nigeria, IMPH 2008

Very sad news indeed but what a blessing to have known him as a teacher. I remember him as a very calm, thoughtful, methodical, kind hearted, patient and very brilliant teacher which was quite evident. My sincere condolences to the family and they can be reassured that his knowledge which he freely shared imparted on us, his former international students, is still been carried on as we impact on many others all across the world. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace



Think tank in the Jerusalem Forest

This photo was provided by Jeremy when asked to present himself at the MPH student meeting. Seated with his wonderful golden retrievers Sufi, Nana and Shaka Zulu (left to right)...