



The Association of Schools of Public Health
in the European Region

ASPHER MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire should be returned to:

ASPHER Secretariat, Avenue de Tervueren 153, 1150 Brussels, Belgium

E-Mail: office@aspher.org and lore.leighton@aspher.org

1. Institution Name which applies for membership:

Division of Health Sciences, Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University

2. Address: 8 Henrietta Szold St

3. Town: Safed

4. Postcode: 1311502

5. Country: Israel

6. Phone: +972-72-2644947

7. Fax:

8. Website address: <https://medicine.biu.ac.il/>

9. Name of Dean or Director: Prof. Orly Avni

10. Address: 8 Henrietta Szold St

11. Town: Safed

12. Postcode: 1311502

13. Country: Israel

14. Phone: +972-2644937

15. Fax:

16. E-mail: Dean.Medicine@biu.ac.il

17. Name of ASPHER contact person:

Dr. Yair Daon and Dr. Sivan Spitzer

18. Address: 8 Henrietta Szold St

19. Town: Safed

20. Postcode: 1311502

21. Country: Israel

22. Phone: Dr. Daon +972-53-8383380; Dr. Spitzer +972-52-8287111

23. Fax:

24. E-mail: yair.daon@gmail.com; sivan.spitzer-shohat@biu.ac.il



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25. Number of Equivalent Full Time Staff (Full time + Part time + Temporary

staff): Within the Health Sciences Division -17 full time staff are employed of which 9 are Principal Investigators and 8 are support staff that include lab managers, statistician, and administrative staff.

26. Number of Undergraduate Students (Average for the two last Academic years):

The students in the Division of Health Sciences are graduate students.

27. Number of Postgraduate Students (Average for the two last Academic years):

Within the Health Sciences Division, the average number of students over the past two years is as follows: 6 MSc students, 23 PhD Students, 2 Post doctoral students and 2 MD-PhD students.

28. Start date of the Academic Year: 30.10.2024

29. Date of the Exam period in your Institution: 4.2.2025 – 12.3.2025; 4.7.2025 – 5.8.2025

30. Mission statement:

The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine is dedicated to educating and training outstanding physicians and researchers who will lead their fields while conducting impactful research that advances human health. With a strong commitment to multiculturalism and the integration of diverse populations, we strive to instill a deep sense of responsibility for promoting public health—both within Israel’s healthcare system and particularly in the Galilee region. Our mission is to foster scientific and medical leadership as a means to expand knowledge and enhance human well-being.

We are committed to excellence in medical education, evidence-based practice, and groundbreaking research. Our graduates—physicians and researchers alike—will embody professionalism, compassion, integrity, and a lifelong dedication to learning and innovation. Faculty members will serve as inspiring educators, devoted mentors, and contributors to the scientific and medical communities while upholding the highest ethical standards.

Our Core Values:

1. Excellence & Professionalism – We cultivate a learning environment that fosters academic and clinical excellence, encouraging continuous growth and the pursuit of innovative medical education and research.
2. Humanism in Medicine – We prioritize compassionate patient care, respecting human dignity and autonomy, and addressing the social, cultural, and emotional contexts of healthcare.
3. Social & Environmental Responsibility and Leadership – Our graduates are trained to advocate for health equity, particularly for underserved communities, and to integrate public health and



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environmental considerations into their medical practice.

4. Advancement of the Galilee – As part of our commitment to regional development, we strive to improve healthcare services in the Galilee, promote public health research, and encourage our graduates to build their careers in the region.
5. Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion – We actively promote gender equity and multicultural representation in academia, research, and leadership, ensuring an inclusive and fair academic environment for all.

Through these values, the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine aims to shape the future of healthcare and scientific discovery while making a lasting impact on communities locally and globally.

31. Source(s) of Funding: Public funding through the council for higher education for Bar-Ilan University, Grants, Philanthropy.

32. Ordinary Budget in Euros: The overall budget of the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine is 22M EUR per year.

33. Statute of your institution (University/Non-university structure, Public/Private):
Public University.

34. Programmes provided by your institution (name and duration for each, attach file/provide weblink with the curricula): MD, MSc in the medical sciences – Health Sciences Track, PhD in the medical sciences – Health Sciences Track, MD-PhD. For more information see: https://medicine.biu.ac.il/en/grad_degrees_MSc_health_sciences

35. Does your institution participate in the ECTS project? (Yes/No): No.

36. Areas of interest/expertise of your institution: Environmental Epidemiology, Computational Epidemiology, Epidemiology and Public Health, Bioethics and Medical Ethics, Women's health, Social Psychology, Human Psychopathology and mood, Medical Sociology and Gender medicine, Neurophysiology of conception, beliefs and expectations, Health Equity and Implementation Science.

37. Projects run by your institution (title, funding body and timeframe for each, attach file/provide weblink for detailed info):

Example of active projects of the Division of Health Sciences include:

- The Russell Berrie Galilee Diabetes SPHERE 2021-2031: <https://diabetes-sphere.org.il/>
<https://www.biu.ac.il/en/science-and-research/research/galilee-sphere> - A 75M USD



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transdisciplinary population health initiative to reduce cardio-metabolic health inequities. **PI Spitzer**

- CAREPATH 2025-2030 – An EU-IHI consortium 22M EUR project to improve medication persistence for cardio-metabolic diseases. **PI Spitzer**.
- 2025-2026 The Israel National Institute For Health Policy Research. Climate change and gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM)- Greenness as an adaptation strategy. 149,952NIS. **PI Agay-Shay**
- 2024-2025 Data Science AI Institute-DSAI, Collaboration with Google. New Metrics of Exposure to Greenness: Applying Deep Learning to Street-Level Images for Health and Environment Studies. 58,000 NIS. **PI Agay-Shay**
- RIVER EU: consortium on vaccination in underserved communities - river-eu.org 2021-2026, 3M EUR, funded by horizon Europe **PI Edelstein**
- Reducing inequalities in the galilee- funded by Harvey Goodstein Charitable Foundation, 1.6M USD, 2021-2026 **PI Edelstein**
- Longitudinal approach to long-covid 2023-2025, 130,000 EUR Israel Science Foundation, **PI Edelstein**
- The Reproduction Journeys of Intersex People: Socio-Phenomenological Study on the Meanings, Experiences, and Conflicts of Different Reproductive Processes. 2023-2027; 1,020,000NIS Israel Science Foundation. **PI Meoded-Danon**
- Sociocultural differences and conflicts surrounding the UTx process. 2023-2025 Women in Transplantation 184,000 NIS. **PI Meoded-Danon**
- Objectification and women's mental health during the transition to motherhood. 2023 – 2027. The Israeli Science Foundation (ISF) 114,000 NIS. **PI Kahalon**
- Uncovering neural and physiological invariants of mood 2023-2027, The Israeli Science Foundation (ISF). **PI Keren**