



NAME OF LABORATORY: The Research Center for Digestive Tract & Liver Diseases

PI: Dr. Ehud Zigmond MD, PhD

Research Director at the Division of Digestive Diseases: Prof. Zamir Halpern MD

Research Center Manager: Dr. Chen Varol PhD

Research Objectives: We investigate the role of the innate immune system, and in particular of mononuclear phagocytes in the development and progression of autoimmune liver diseases. We study the function of these cells in their physiological context under steady state and pathological conditions of cholangitis, hepatitis and liver fibrosis. We aim to explore mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of these illnesses and assess these findings in patients in a bench to bedside manner.

Main Research topics:

- Dendritic cells and macrophage role in primary biliary cholangitis development and progression.
- Mononuclear phagocytes in hepatic Inflammation and fibrosis in primary sclerosing cholangitis.

Staff: Dr. Debby Reuveni PhD- Lab manager, Siwar Assi- MSc student

Active Grants:

- Israel Binational foundation (BSF) + Neufeld prize
- Shared TAMSC-WIS grant in biomedical research, in collaboration with Dr. Chen Varol and Prof. Irit Sagi (WIS).
- Israel Science Foundation (**ISF-Morasha**)

Collaborations:

Collaborations inside TASMIC:

- Dr. Chen Varol, The Research Center for Digestive Tract & Liver Diseases
- 2. Dr. Eran Nizri, Laboratory of Surgical Oncology, General Surgery A

External collaboration:

- Prof. Eric Gershwin, UC Davis, USA
- Dr. Eran Elinav, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
- Prof. Steffen Jung, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
- Prof. Irit Sagi, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
- Prof. Amir Aharoni, Ben-Gurion University, Israel

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