



## **NAME OF LABORATORY:** The Bernard Pridan Laboratory for Molecular Biology of Infectious Diseases

**PI:** Prof. Michael Giladi MD

**Director of Department:** Dr. Ronen Ben-Ami MD (Infectious Diseases Unit)

**Research Objectives:** The research performed in our laboratory focuses on zoonotic infections of bacterial origin, primarily infections caused by bacteria of the genus *Bartonella*, by means of molecular biology techniques (conventional PCR, real-time PCR, cloning, etc.) as well as classic microbiology methods for bacterial culture and identification. We also develop new diagnostic assays to identify infections due to these pathogens in clinical samples (PCR, ELISA).

### **Main Research topics:**

Cat-scratch disease (CSD): clinical, epidemiological and diagnostic aspects:

- Development of a new molecular diagnostics test for detection of *B. henselae*, the etiological agent of CSD, and other clinically-relevant *Bartonella* spp. in human clinical samples.
- Development of a new molecular diagnostics test for detection of *Bartonella* spp. and other bacterial agents that cause culture-negative endocarditis in cardiac specimens as well as blood samples.
- Molecular epidemiology of *Bartonella* spp. in different animal hosts, such as stray-cats, cattle, and camels.
- *Bartonella* spp. infections in cats: possible implications to human transmission.

Stray-cats as a potential reservoir for urban Q-fever, which is caused by the intracellular bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*.

**Staff:** Prof. Michael Giladi MD (PI); Dr. Michal Rasis PhD (Researcher)

### **Active Grants:**

- **NOFAR** - Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor

### **Collaborations:**

- Our laboratory has several collaborations with colleagues from other research laboratories in Israel and abroad, including veterinary laboratories, which engage in different aspects of *Bartonella* research.
- Professional collaboration with the national reference laboratory for *C. burnetii* infections.
- Collaboration with an Israeli molecular diagnostics company (Dyn diagnostics Ltd.) in development of new diagnostic kits.

### **Contact us:**

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