



הכנס השנתי של  
האגודה הישראלית  
לפרזיטולוגיה, פרוטוזואולוגיה  
ומחלות טרופיות



The Annual Meeting  
of the Israel Society for  
Parasitology, Protozoology  
and Tropical Diseases

10.5.2026 | אקספו ת"א ביתן 10

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

08:00-09:00 **Registration & Breakfast**

**Session 1:** **Plenary lectures** (The lectures will be in English)  
Chairs: **Michal Shapira** | **Gad Baneth**

Plenary Hall A4

09:00-09:45 **The role of non-coding RNA in trypanosomatids parasites**  
**Shula Michaeli** | Israel Prize Laureate in Life Sciences, 2026

09:45-10:30 ***Leishmania* transmission by sand flies: anti-saliva antibodies as exposure markers**  
**Petr Volf** (Czech Republic)

10:30-10:45 **General Assembly. Elections**

10:45-11:30 **Break**

11:30-13:00 **Parallel Sessions**

**Session 2:** **Travel Medicine**  
Chairs: **Zohar Mor** | **Talya Finn**

Plenary Hall A4

11:30-11:50 **Chikungunya - Global epidemiology and vaccine update**  
**Eyal Leshem**

11:50-12:10 **The emerging pipeline of traveler's diarrhea vaccines**  
**Daniel Cohen**

12:10-12:25 **Interval requirements between live attenuated vaccines: What is the evidence?**  
**Carmel Kasher** | **Eli Schwartz** | **Bibiana Chazan**

12:25-12:40 **Cross-neutralizing effects of flavivirus vaccines on West Nile Virus**  
**Tomer Enosh** | **Victoria Indenbaum** | **Suha Alkaderi** | **Eli Schwartz** | **Yaniv Lustig**

12:40-13:00 **Preparedness of the Israeli Ministry of Health for potential local transmission of *Aedes*-borne arboviruses**  
**Vicki Indenbaum** | **Oscar David Kirstein** | **Yaniv Lustig** | **Adi Maimon** | **Eyal Nadir** | **Rivka Rich** | **Oren Shetach Katabi**

- 11:30-11:45 **Functional characterization of a *var* lncRNA-interacting SAP-domain protein in malaria parasite immune evasion**  
**Tal Elam** | **Ron Dzikowski**
- 11:45-12:00 **Regulation of isoprenoids biosynthesis in the apicoplast of *Plasmodium falciparum***  
**Shirly Katz Galay** | **Tal Blumenthal-Shnaps** | **Anat Florentin**
- 12:00-12:15 **Profiling malaria parasite-secreted metabolites: A platform for investigating chemical communication**  
**Gili Mizrahi** | **Sonia Oren** | **Anna Rivkin** | **Abel Cruz Camacho** | **Alexander Brandis** | **Tevie Mehlman** | **Sergey Malitsky** | **Maxim Itkin** | **Darren Creek** | **Ghizal Siddiqui** | **Moshe Goldsmith** | **Neta Regev-Rudzki**
- 12:15-12:30 **The LeishIF4E2–SLBP2 complex regulates histone expression in *Leishmania***  
**Rajaram Purushotham** | **Durgeshwar Pullaiahgari** | **Nofar Baron** | **Michal Shapira**
- 12:30-12:45 **Beyond translation initiation: Dual regulatory interactions with phosphorylated and non-phosphorylated LeishIF4E1**  
**Durgeshwar Pullaiahgari** | **Nofar Baron** | **Purushotham Rajaram** | **Dikla Kamus-Elimeleh** | **Liron Levin** | **Shiran Dror** | **Michal Shapira**
- 12:45-13:00 **Gut biofilm composition shapes *Entamoeba histolytica* physiology and metabolic interactions**  
**Smruti Mahapatra** | **Meirav Gefen** | **Karen Methling** | **Kristian Wende** | **Michael Lalk** | **Serge Ankri**

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-16:45 **Parallel Sessions**

- 14:00-14:30 **Key Note: From pigs to the human brain: Taeniasis and the control of neurocysticercosis** (Our African Experience)  
**Merav Shamir**
- 14:30-14:45 **Neurocysticercosis in Israeli travelers**  
**Lior Prozan** | **Yael Paran**
- 14:45-15:00 **Cerebral schistosomiasis presenting as space-occupying lesion mimicking high-grade glioma in a returned traveler**  
**Tal Levinson** | **Yael Paran**
- 15:00-15:15 **Treatment for *Dientamoeba fragilis*: A systematic review and meta-analysis**  
**Nadav Baharav** | **Michael Itzkovich** | **Eli Schwartz** | **Dafna Yahav**

- 15:15-15:30 **Importation of Holy Water from Ethiopia: Does it come alone?**  
**Miri Golos** | Iris Nasie | Noa Feldman | Assaf Rokney
- 15:30-15:45 **Sindbis virus in Israel: Exploring pathogenicity and potential public health challenges**  
Tomer Israely | Yfat Yahlom-Ronen | Hadas Boni | Vicki Indenbaum |  
**Lilach Cherry-Mimran** | Enosh Tomer | Olli Vapalahti | Sharon Melamed |  
Nir Paran | Eli Schwartz | Neta S. Zuckerman | Yaniv Lustig
- 15:45-16:45 **Case reports**  
Chair: **Assaf Biber**
- 15:45-15:55 **YEL-AND following yellow fever vaccine: A case report**  
**Shira Ashkenazi** | Yael Paran
- 15:55-16:05 **From dermatropic focus to visceral disease: Evidence of autochthonous visceral leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania donovani* in an HIV-positive patient in Israel**  
Nesrin Ghanem-Zoubi | Eynat Kedem | Moran Szwarcwort-Cohen |  
Omar Asadi | Amir Tafesh | **Liora Studentsky** | Maya Davidovich-Cohen |  
Oscar David Kirstein
- 16:05-16:15 **First detection of human Mpox (Monkeypox) clade 1b in Israel**  
Regev Cohen | Michal Goldthorpe | Roaa Shatrubi | Vardit Mosheyoff |  
Ohad Lin | Roberto Azar | Yael Galnoor Tene | Shelly Lipman-Arens |  
Yaniv Lustig | **Oran Erster**
- 16:15-16:25 **First case of hantavirus hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in Israel: A case report**  
**Carmel Kasher** | Sari Peretz | Yaniv Lustig | Victoria Indenbaum |  
Lee Goldstein | Bibiana Chazan
- 16:25-16:35 **Adult botulism of unknown source with post-toxin anti-gq1b antibodies: Implications for molecular mimicry**  
**Regev Cohen** | Adi Hersalis Eldar | Yaron River | Ofir Schuster |  
Zina Baider | Shelly Lipman-Arens | Yael Galnoor Tene, Linor Ishay |  
Lamis Mahamid | Olga Feld Simon | Nina Avshovitch | Alvira Zbiger |  
Eran Diamant | Amram Torgeman | Elad Milrot | Ofir Israeli |  
Shlomo Shmaya | Itzhak Braverman | Shlomo Blum
- 16:35-16:45 **Characteristics of an intensive measles outbreak in the Jerusalem District in 2025**  
**Zohar Mor** | Hana Shoob | Irina Sokolov | Nitza Abramson

- 14:00-14:15 **The other side of sand flies: Emerging phleboviruses in an overlooked transmission system**  
**Oscar David Kirstein** | Victoria Indenbaum | Nazli Ayhan | Gioia Bongiorno | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Gad Baneth | Yaniv Lustig | Debora Diaz | Shirly Elbaz | Liora Studentsky | Ira Ben-Avi | Shira Kalmus | Simcha Shilo | Tareek Abu-Shalbak | Maya Davidovich-Cohen
- 14:15-14:30 **Evidence for the circulation of sandfly-borne phleboviruses in Israel**  
**Victoria Indenbaum** | Ravit Koren | Osnat Halpern | Shiri Katz-Likvornik | Bassal Ravit Bassal | Lital Keinan-Boker | Oscar David Kirstein | Yaniv Lustig
- 14:30-14:45 **Ticks of the Middle East countries: Taxonomy, biology, epidemiology, medical and veterinary significance**  
**Kosta Y. Mumcuoglu**
- 14:45-15:00 **Genetic characterization of *Haemaphysalis (Rhipistoma) adleri* ticks (Ixodoidea: Ixodidae)**  
**Harold Salant**
- 15:00-15:15 **Spontaneous antigenic variation drives clonal selection in the human tick-borne relapsing fever spirochete *Borrelia persica***  
**Dor Schwartz** | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Peleg Schneider | Reinhard K. Straubinger | Gad Baneth
- 15:15-15:30 **Eco-epidemiology of *Bartonella* in wild canids from Israel**  
Sharon Horesh | **Jonathan Gonçalves-Oliveira** | Anastasia Antonovskaia | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Roi Lapid | Tomer Nissimiyam | M'hammed Sarih | Maria Bourquia | Shimon Harrus
- 15:30-15:45 **Infection rates of *Bartonella* species in cats and dogs from Israel**  
**Anastasia Antonovskaia** | Jonathan Gonçalves-Oliveira | Harold Salant | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Michael Shapiro | M'hammed Sarih | Maria Bourquia | Shimon Harrus
- 15:45-16:00 ***Rickettsia massiliae* and *Bartonella* species in hard ticks collected from stray cats in the Jerusalem District**  
**Jonathan Gonçalves-Oliveira** | Harold Salant | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Anastasia Antonovskaia | Kosta Y. Mumcuoglu | Gad Baneth | Shimon Harrus
- 16:00-16:15 ***Trypanosoma evansi* infection in livestock in Israel - The current situation**  
**Gad Baneth** | Jaideep Kumar | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Ziad Abdeen | Sharon Tirosh | Zohar Alva | Svetlana Bardenstein | Nir Rudoler | Elad Eliyahu | Harold Salant | Amir Steinman
- 16:15-16:30 **Feline leishmaniosis in Israel: Regional prevalence and the efficacy of conjunctival swab PCR for molecular diagnosis**  
**Lucia Pinkus** | Yaarit Nachum-Biala | Gabriela Kleinerman | Gad Baneth
- 16:30-16:45 **Life cycles of cystic echinococcosis in the Jordan Basin and the Golan Heights**  
**Eran Dvir** | Sharon Tirosh-Levy | Daniel Yasur-Landau

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