

The Core of Excellence - Research and International Partnership in Military Medicine.

The quality of military medicine during wartime is measured, first and foremost, by its ability to save lives on the battlefield. It is based on proven results, on the leadership and command of medical personnel in the field, on clinical precision, and on an effective continuum of care from the front lines to the hospital. However, these achievements are not the product of clinical skill alone. They rely on the integration of advanced technologies, on the readiness to perform adjustments and changes in real time, and on decision making based on knowledge, experience, and current data. True quality is also tested by the ability to maintain a continuous process of learning and research during combat - not as an add on activity, but as an integral part of professional leadership and organizational excellence.

The SHORESH Conference, held biennially and alternating between the United States and Israel, represents a unique professional encounter between the Israel Defense Forces Medical Corps and the United States DHA and Army, Air Force and Navy Medical Corps, placing military medicine in all its forms at its center. It serves as a forum for presenting knowledge, sharing experience, and deepening joint research between two military medical systems committed to the same mission. Holding this conference at this time, during an ongoing and challenging war, is not something to be taken for granted. Precisely during a period of operational burden and uncertainty, the professional obligation to continue researching, learning, and deepening international cooperation is reinforced all the more. Our mission to heal, to save lives, and to prepare for the future requires collective thinking and responsible leadership based on knowledge, data, and cumulative experience.

During the conference, research works conducted by the Israeli Medical Corps and our U.S. counterparts were presented, some of which are the result of ongoing collaboration between joint working groups of both corps. These works reflect extensive and in-depth research across diverse fields: operational medicine and battlefield casualty care, mental health, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear) defense, aerospace and naval medicine, infectious diseases, physiology under extreme conditions, and more. Alongside the focus on clinical and operational challenges, systemic processes were also discussed – including the enhancement of the continuum of care, reduction of evacuation times, implementation of digital tools, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in medical decision-making.

For the first time, the conference also featured the findings of the Medical Corps' Data Research Institute. Established in July 2024, the Institute serves as a cornerstone in leading academic mentorship and research within the corps. The Institute works toward the continuous development of medical databases, the consolidation of various information sources, and the generation of applied insights based on reliable and up to date data. The integration of the Institute's findings into the conference sessions reflects our commitment to evidence based decision making and the recognition that operational excellence requires research depth and a continuous learning process.

The uniqueness of the conference was reflected not only in its professional content but also in the quality of the dialogue between its participants. A sincere, open, and trust based encounter between colleagues from two military medical systems enables profound learning that transcends organizational boundaries. Diversity of perspectives, exposure to different methodologies, and the critical examination of existing processes are essential conditions for true progress. An organization seeking to lead cannot settle for operational achievements alone; it must ground its actions in a robust research infrastructure, systematic measurement, and willingness to evolve.

High quality data collection, analysis, and the implementation of conclusions into operational and clinical practice are critical components of a military medical organization's success. The ability to translate data into policy, clinical guidelines, and professional training reflects systemic maturity and impacts all areas of activity – from personnel training to strategic decision making. A research culture is not merely an academic goal; it is an expression of professional quality, accountability, and a commitment to excellence.

The SHORESH Conference demonstrated that true partnership is built on people, researchers from diverse fields who choose to sit together, think together, and set common goals. From this encounter, we move forward with a deep commitment: to continue researching, developing, teaching, and innovating - and to be prepared, in every arena and under any conditions, to fulfill the value at the heart of our mission: saving lives and preserving the long-term health of those who serve.

BG Dr. Zivan Aviad Beer
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