The Research Center for Autoimmune Diseases is head by Prof. Shoenfeld. The center is devoted to research in the field of autoimmune diseases with the concept of "From the patient to the laboratory bench and back to the patient". Autoimmune diseases occur when the body tissues are attacked by the body’s own immune system. These diseases primarily affect young people (an average age of 30 years), especially women of childbearing age. The Research Center for Autoimmune Diseases provides outpatient clinic services and maintains a world-class research institute and laboratory. The clinic specializes in the management of SLE and the Anti-Phospholipid Antibody Syndrome. The research center works to find the risk factors associated with autoimmune diseases and to establish better therapies for those afflicted with these conditions.

The unique complex of a research laboratory working tightly with the Laboratory for Autoantibody Detection, the Clinical Department of Medicine, and the Lupus Clinic and Outpatient Clinic for Autoimmunity allows our physicians to spend time conducting research and giving the clinician an unobstructed route from the latest laboratory findings to the patient’s bedside.

The group comprises of prof. Yehuda Shoenfeld, MD – Principal Investigator and Prof Miri Blank, head of the research laboratory. Several PhD, MSc. Fellow students and clinical professionals are devoted to research excellence. The center contains a fully-equipped laboratory set up to conduct top level science and enables international collaboration in basic science and clinical studies with leading academic intuitions and industries.

**Research Interests**
The main research interest of the center is the analysis of the autoantibodies in patients with SLE and other autoimmune diseases and generating new experimental models in mice and therapeutic approaches to treat autoimmune diseases. The research center is a worldwide pioneer in the field of autoimmune diseases and its substantial experience with mice has resulted in being the first to report on mice with experimental models of autoimmune diseases such as the Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS).

Due to the relatedness of Autoimmunity and Cancer, the center has a special research interest in Cancer and Autoimmunity and in the following specific topics:

- Novel therapies for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) : super Intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG), peptide therapy, absorption of patients’ sera on columns, TNFα
- DNA vaccination, SAP peptides, IL-18.
• Etiology of SLE (serum amyloid P component (SAP), peptides, 16/6 Id).
• Novel diagnostics in SLE (histones, peptide mimetics of anti-dsDNA idiotypes, cellscan)
• Novel diagnosis in rheumatoid arthritis - anti-cyclic citrulynated peptide antibodies (anti-CCP)
• Atherosclerosis as an autoimmune disease
• Developing of animal models and clinical studies of SLE and atherosclerosis, Rheumatoid arthritis and Sjogren’s syndrome and atherosclerosis, Systemic sclerosis and atherosclerosis, APS and atherosclerosis, MMP2 / MMP9 and AS.
• Novel aspects of IVIG - therapeutic preparations of normal human IgG obtained healthy blood donors for the treatment of a wide range of primary and secondary immunodeficiency states, auto-immune diseases as well as systemic inflammatory diseases and cancer.
• Characterization of New epitopes recognized by autoantibodies, their biological activity and significance, such as in patients with antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) and in patients with SLE with anti-dsDNA antibodies and their use in tolerance induction.
Prof. Yehuda Shoenfeld

Prof. Shoenfeld received his MD from Hadassa Medical School, Hebrew University, Jerusalem and post graduate studies in internal medicine at Tel Aviv University Medical School. Prof. Shoenfeld did Clinical Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology, at the Department of Hematology, City of Hope, Duarte, California, Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts and in Cornell Medical Center, New York Hospital. Prof. Shoenfeld was Senior Physician at the department of Internal Medicine "D", Beilinson Medical Center, Petach Tikva, Israel and the Head of the Department of Medicine "D" and Outpatient Clinic for Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Soroka Medical Center, Beer-Sheva, Israel. Prof. Shoenfeld has been the instructor of tens of students and clinicians and is a professor at the faculty of medicine at Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel.

Prof. Shoenfeld has published more than 1000 papers in journals such as New Eng J Med, Lancet, Proc Nat Acad Scie, J Clin Invest, J Immunol, Blood, J Exp Med, Circulation, Cancer and others. He has authored and edited 10 books, some of which became cornerstones in science and clinical practice, such as "The Mosaic of Autoimmunity" and the textbook "Autoantibodies," both of which were published by Elsevier and sold by the thousands. He is on the editorial board of 28 journals in the field of Rheumatology, and Autoimmunity and is the founder and the editor of the IMAJ (Israel Medical Association Journal), the representative journal of science and medicine in the English language in Israel. He has written more than one hundred chapters in books in his area of expertise.

Selected publications:

BOOKS (of 43)


CHAPTERS IN BOOKS (of 130)


ARTICLES (of 1288 and more than > 13,000 citations)


