

In memoriam: Professor **Ronit Haimov-Kochman**

Born on October 22, 1965, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Professor Ronit Haimov-Kochman was the daughter of Rafael and Denise Haimov. She married Tuvia Kochman on September 15, 1986. They had three children: Yoav, Naama and Amit.

Ronit studied at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem (1986–1989), graduating as a medical doctor in 1989. After completing her military service as a captain in the Israeli Defense Forces (1991–1994), she became a resident at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, and then senior physician (1995–2000) at the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. She was appointed as fellow of the university Department of Cell and Tissue Biology in San Francisco in 2003–2004. From 2004, she was a member of the Hebrew University Medical School (as Administrator teaching program 2004). She supervised the Fertility Clinic at Hadassah Mount Scopus Hospital, Jerusalem.



She published 69 manuscripts in peer-reviewed international journals. Her achievements include research into the characterization of heparanase in human placenta and in the corpus luteum, as well as immunological studies on embryo tolerance and immunity to human viruses. She was a member of the Jerusalem Obstetrics and Gynecology Society (research coordinator 2005), Israel Menopause Society, Israeli Society of Fertility and Reproduction, and the Society of Gynecologic Investigation. She was a Vice-President of the European Society of Gynecology and an active member of the board. Her medical, social and societal interests reflected her personality. For example, she conducted studies to understand the religious, social and cultural background of patients, particularly religious Orthodox women, so as to provide appropriate fertility counseling and treatment. She also documented the impact of regulatory restrictions on agricultural organophosphate pesticide use in Israel. Beyond these professional achievements, I wish to add that Ronit was very special to me, and became a close friend. We first met in 2012, when Dr Nyssen and I gave a scientific presentation at the Hadassah Mount Scopus. We were deeply involved in the supervision of the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem (the Palestinian maternity hospital run by the Order of Malta). We suggested that the Hadassah maternity staff might supervise the Palestinian Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. Ronit immediately accepted this humanitarian mission with enthusiasm and came to Bethlehem on several occasions. It was the start of a true friendship. We met again many times, in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Brussels and Bethlehem, and in the various locations of the European Society of Gynecology congresses. With her kindness, combined with her dedication to her patients and her professional commitments, Ronit was a particularly impressive lady. I also met her husband, daughter and sons at their home. They were all charming and made a lovely, happy family that embraced the joy of life. Her daughter, a marine biologist, came with her mother to Brussels in September 2013.

On that occasion, during the official dinner of the ESG Congress in the Egyptian Museum of Brussels, Ronit took the initiative of modifying the speakers' seating plan, so that the Israeli and Palestinian gynecologists ended up sitting together at the same table, united in friendship by their shared interest in women's health care and humanitarian concerns, in true ESG spirit!

On behalf of the ESG, I send her husband, daughter and sons our sincere condolences, and wish to assure them that, beyond borders, and cultural differences, their wife and mother lives on in our hearts and will remain forever a great and unforgettable lady! *Rest in peace, Ronit*

Professor Jean-Michel Foidart