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**למידה, מחקר, התערבויות ומעורבות עם קהילות מודרות; גישה משלבת וחדשה
לקידום בריאות**

This presentation will focus on “Community Engagement & the Social Responsibility of Medicine” course’ a first step in a comprehensive innovative service learning and community engagement initiative in Israel. The course was conceptualized and is led by students and mentors at the Tel Aviv University School of Medicine.

The program was created due to awareness, commitment and the intention to better understand and respond to society’s burning needs, from within academic setting.

The ethnical, religious and socio-economic diversity in Israel contributes to inequality and health disparities. In addition, Israel is involved in an ongoing violent regional conflict with multiple effects on the area. Conflicts in neighboring countries for example have resulted in an influx of refugees from Africa in recent years. Thus, a wide range of issues and needs call for engagement of all entities, as well from the academic centers.

Currently the local academic environment, specifically in Medicine, falls short in fulfilling its responsibility to be an active player in democracy and response to civic needs. A team of students initiated an alternative: integrating civic responsibility and engagement into the formal curriculum.

With the new program, students engage with various vulnerable populations while learning important skills and developing proficiencies that are relevant to future practice in a real-life environment.