



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
**MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**  
in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MSIH Students Get First Hand Insights from Global Health Expert** **January 30, 2008 — (New York, NY) –**

Dr. Rick Hodes, an American physician recently highlighted on the “CNN Heroes” program, spoke this week to students at the Medical School for International Health (MSIH). The acclaimed but humble physician highlighted his 23-year medical career of working with refugee and developing populations in Africa.

The MSIH is a collaboration of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Columbia University Medical Center. The collaborative school offers a M.D. degree to students interested in careers in global health and provides innovative learning tools such as modules, medical training in developing countries, and access to experts working in the emerging field of global health.

Dr. Hodes is one of these experts. Between 1985 and 1988, he served as the Fulbright lecturer in internal medicine at Addis-Ababa University in Ethiopia. In 1990, he became the director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) medical programs in Ethiopia, overseeing the medical care of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel. Fourth-year students work directly with Hodes in Ethiopia through their medical elective at Addis-Ababa University Medical Center. Students learn how to diagnose, treat and prevent common conditions and illnesses with limited resources, a common challenge for doctors in developing countries.

Currently, Hodes runs clinics that provide medical treatment to the 17,000 Ethiopians who want to immigrate into Israel. He supervises JDC program that provides support for undernourished populations. He is also an adviser to the Israeli Ministry of Health. He graduated from Middlebury College and completed medical school at the University of Rochester. He completed his residency at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore.

Hodes was selected as a finalist for CNN’s Heroes All-Star Tribute in December, which recognized him for his two decades of service. In addition to his work in Ethiopia, Hodes has also worked with refugees in Albania, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zaire. While in Zaire, he managed the health of more than 50,000 refugees from Rwanda and an area hospital. Currently, Dr. Hodes spends time volunteering with Mother Teresa’s Missionary of Charities in Ethiopia, working directly with AIDS sufferers and started the oncology program there.

The Medical School for International Health is a collaborative initiative between Ben-Gurion University and Columbia University to advance global health medical education. It is the only four-year American style medical school in the world that incorporates international health in all four years of medical study and culminates with a required international health clerkship. The MSIH integrates international health training through a year long course for first-year students, modulus on topics such as *Nutrition in the Developing World*, *Infectious and Tropical Diseases*, and *Global Health and Environment*, and a required clerkship in an international clinical setting.