



PRESENTER PROFILES

RABBI DR. ELIE ABADIE



Rabbi Elie Abadie, M.D. was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and grew up in Mexico City, coming to the United States to attend Yeshiva University. He earned his B.A. in Health Sciences in 1983, B.S.C. in 1984 in Bible Studies, Hebrew Teacher's diploma in 1985, and a Master's degree in Jewish Philosophy in 1986 from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Abadie received his ordination in 1986 from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He attended SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where he graduated in 1990 with an M.D. degree. He did his residency in Internal Medicine, and later his fellowship in Gastroenterology at Maimonides Medical Center finishing in 1995. Rabbi Abadie is the founding Rabbi and Spiritual Leader of the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in New York City, the Head of School of the Sephardic Academy of Manhattan and the Spiritual Leader of the Moise Safra Community Center in Manhattan. He is also the Director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies, at Yeshiva University and is a scholar and college teacher of Sephardic Judaism, history, philosophy, and comparative traditional law. He received the Orden Del Merito Civil, the highest civil decoration by His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain. Rabbi Abadie maintains a practice in Gastroenterology.

RABBI DR. J. DAVID BLEICH



Rabbi J. David Bleich is an authority on Jewish law and ethics and bioethics. He holds the Herbert and Florence Tenzer Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics, is a Rosh Yeshiva at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and heads RIETS' postgraduate institute for the study of Talmudic jurisprudence and family law. Rabbi Bleich has also been teaching at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law since 1981, with specialties in Jewish law and bioethics. His recent courses include Introduction to Jewish Law, Advanced Jewish Law and Jewish Law and Contemporary Legal Issues. Rabbi Bleich, spiritual leader of the Yorkville Synagogue in Manhattan, is the author of "Jewish Bioethics, With Perfect Faith: Foundations of Jewish Belief, Contemporary Halakhic Problems" (four volumes), and "Time of Death in Jewish Law and Judaism and Healing." He has written extensively on the applications of Jewish law to contemporary social issues and on the interface of Jewish law and the American legal system. He is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, a postdoctoral fellow at the Hastings Center, fellow of the Academy of Jewish Philosophy and a member of the Governor's Commission on Life and the Law. Rabbi Bleich received a BA from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, an MA from Columbia University and a PhD from New York University. He was ordained at Yeshiva Torah V'Daat in New York, and was conferred with Yadin Yadin from Rabbis Moshe Feinstein and Mendel Zaks.

DR. NORMAN BLUMENTHAL



Dr. Norman Blumenthal is education director of the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. A licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in Lawrence, NY, Dr. Blumenthal is Zachter Family Chair in Trauma and Crisis Counseling and Director of OHEL Miriam Center for Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Response. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of trauma, loss and bereavement. Dr. Blumenthal is founder and chairman of the board of education of CAHAL, a partnership of 10 local yeshivot and Hebrew day schools providing special education classes for learning disabled children; coordinator of group psychotherapy training for interns and residents at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System; and consultant to TOVA, a mentoring program for disenfranchised teens. Dr. Blumenthal received his MA and PhD from Adelphi University.

NANCY DUBLER



Nancy Dubler LL.B. is Consultant for Bioethics at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She is Professor Emerita at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and former director of the Division of Bioethics at Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received her B.A. from Barnard College and her LL.B. from the Harvard Law School. She lectures extensively and is the author of numerous articles and books on termination of care, home care and long-term care, geriatrics, adolescent medicine, prison and jail health care, Clinical Ethics Consultation, Bioethics Mediation and AIDS, including her most recent book - *Bioethics Mediation: A Guide to Shaping Shared Solutions*, co-author, Carol Liebman, Vanderbilt University Press, 2011. She consults often with federal agencies, national working groups and bioethics centers.

ZAHAVA FARBMAN, LMSW



Zahava Farbman, LMSW, is a veteran traumatologist, having worked in this field for close to two decades. Formerly she held the position as a director of Camp Simcha, Chai Lifelines overnight camp for children with cancer and other medical challenges. Zahava's current position, which she has held for much of her career, is the Associate Director of Project Chai, the Crisis Intervention, Trauma and Bereavement Department of Chai Lifeline, where she focuses on helping families and communities prepare for and respond to the full range of crises, traumas and tragedies. Zahava has authored and presented papers across the nation in her areas of expertise. She is widely recognized as the "go to" professional in responding to crisis in the Jewish community. In addition Zahava is the responder for mental health emergencies for Hatzolah of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway in NY. She is also the crisis and bereavement consultant for Achiezer Community Resource Center and ATIME. Zahava lives in Woodmere NY with her husband and children.

NESANEL FELLER, ESQ



Nathaniel (Nesanel) D. Feller maintains his own law practice in Lawrence, New York and is Of-Counsel to Jankoff and Gabe, P.C. in New York City. He practices primarily in estate planning and administration, residential real estate and not-for-profit corporation law. Nesanel has lectured extensively on behalf of the New York State Bar Association on legal topics relating to estate planning and administration and is frequently consulted in connection with ensuring halachic compliance with one's secular estate planning objectives. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Trust and Estates Law Section. He earned his J.D. in 1991 from Cardozo Law School and is admitted to the bar in New York State.

RABBI DR. DOVID FOX



Rabbi Dr. Dovid Fox is a forensic and clinical psychologist practicing in Beverly Hills for thirty six years. He is a graduate school professor and has held faculty appointments at USC, CSPP and Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He has published in professional and scientific journals and has written one book and many chapters and articles. As a forensic consultant, he provides professional services to government and private agencies, and as an expert witness. His clinical work focuses on diagnosis, treatment, trauma, and religious and cultural issues. He has chaired national and international mental health conferences, and conducts professional workshops on Supervision, Law and Ethics, and on Crisis and Trauma Intervention. He is widely recognized as an expert on trauma and conducts trainings for first-responders for crisis and trauma intervention in Jewish communities across the globe. Rabbi Fox studied under Rav Simcha Wasserman and Rav Moshe Feinstein and is a graduate of their respective yeshivas. He holds five *smichos* including a *ksav dayanus* from the *Rosh Av Beis Din* of the *Rabbanut Yerushalayim* where he has had *shimush* and has served as a *dayan* over the last ten years. In his rabbinic role, he serves as rabbi of the Hashkama Minyan in Hancock Park-Los Angeles, while also giving numerous weekly *shiurim* in *halacha* and Talmud for the Kollel of Los Angeles. He is a frequent Scholar-in-Residence across the country, in England and abroad, in both rabbinic and in scientific roles, and is the Director of Project Chai, the Trauma, Crisis and Bereavement department of Chai Lifeline International. He has been a columnist, is author of the *Thought on the Parsha* blog, he contributes to rabbinic scholarship as a consultant and *dayan*, and is the author of *teshuvos* to *poskim* around the world in understanding mental health matters relevant to *halacha*, and on all four *chalakim* of *Shulchan Aruch*. He has also developed the Conversion Readiness Assessment, a tool used by *Batei Din* across the globe in screening candidates for Orthodox conversion, and authored a biography of Rav Wasserman.

RABBI YAAKOV GLASSER



Rabbi Yaakov Glasser is the David Mitzner Dean of Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future, and the Rabbi of Young Israel of Passaic-Clifton. In addition to his broad Torah knowledge, he brings an incredible energy and enthusiasm to his work, as is attested by the hundreds who attend his explanatory Kinot on Tisha B'av and his Shabbos Hagadol and Shabbos Shuva lectures. He possesses extensive experience in youth work and informal Jewish education, having served as founding director of the Orthodox Union's Jewish Student Union in New Jersey – a network of public school clubs for Jewish teens. Rabbi Glasser has Yoreh Yoreh Smicha from Yeshiva University, as well as an M.S. in Jewish Education

from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. He is also a member of Yeshiva University's Kollel LeHoraah. He and his wife, Ruth, have four children.

RABBI DR. AARON GLATT



Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt is the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Anshei Chesed (South Shore) in Hewlett, NY and Assistant to the Rabbi at the Young Israel of Woodmere. An international lecturer on medical and halachic issues, Rabbi Dr. Glatt has authored several books, including *Visiting the Sick: The Laws of Bikur Cholim*. He received *semicha* from HaRav Avraham Tzvi Wosner, *shlita*, at Machon LeTorah Vehora'ah.

Rabbi Dr. Glatt is currently Chairman of Medicine at South Nassau Communities Hospital. Previously, he was Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Mercy Medical Center, Rockville Center, NY and a full Professor of Clinical Medicine (and former Associate Dean) at New York Medical College. Before Dr. Glatt accepted his current position, he was President/Chief Executive Officer of New Island Hospital in Bethpage, NY, where he had been Chief Medical Officer from 2005-2006. From 2003-2005 he was Medical Director of Mercy Ambulatory Care Center and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, Bronx, NY. Prior to that, he served as director of Graduate Medical Education, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Chairman of Infection Control at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers for over a decade.

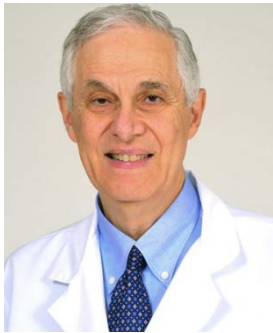
The author of 200 scientific journal articles and presentations at national meetings and an internationally known medical lecturer, Dr. Glatt was a guest editor of the Infectious Diseases Clinic of North America and infectious diseases editor of Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary. In addition, he has served on the editorial boards of major publications, is a reviewer for many prestigious journals, and has served on many government, hospital, medical school and local public health committees. Rabbi Dr. Glatt innovated a course at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine entitled *Faith and Medicine: An Oxymoron?* Dr. Glatt is board certified in both internal medicine and infectious diseases.

RABBI ELIMELECH GOLDBERG



Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg is the Founder & National Director of Kids Kicking Cancer, as well as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Rabbi Goldberg, who holds a First Degree Black Belt in the Korean art of Choi Kwon Do, first provided a therapeutic martial arts program at Camp Simcha, where he served as the Director from 1990 to 2002. Having lost his first child to leukemia at the age of 2 years, Rabbi Goldberg brings a wealth of personal experience and sensitivity to dealing with children and families facing life-threatening illness. His commitment to ease the pain of very sick children and his dream of bringing healing through the empowering focus of the martial arts resulted in the creation of the Kids Kicking Cancer organization in June, 1999. Rabbi Goldberg, was a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader's Award (2004) and the McCarty Cancer Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year Award (2004). Rabbi Goldberg received his BA from Yeshiva University, summa cum laude. Ordination and graduate training were also at Yeshiva University.

DR. MICHAEL HARRIS



Dr. Michael Harris is the Director of the Tomorrows Children's Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders, Chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the Hackensack University Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. Additionally, Dr. Harris is a member of the National Cancer Institute's Special Review Committee, where he is responsible for the review of Community Clinical Oncology Programs, and Associate Editor for Pediatric Oncology for the scientific journal Cancer Investigation. He is also a Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Advanced Viral Research Corp. Dr. Harris previously served as Chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at The Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

RABBI NAPHTALI LAVENDA



Rabbi Naphtali Lavenda is currently Director of Online Rabbinic Programming at Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future. He has been working in Jewish non-profit for over 10 years, first at the Orthodox Union and currently at YU, coordinating programs and resources for rabbis, including several online continuing education courses for rabbis. Naphtali graduated from Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, received rabbinic ordination from its Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and completed studies at the Bar Ilan International MBA program. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Naphtali spent a number of years in New York until he made Aliyah in 2009. Naphtali currently lives in Yad Binyamin with his wife and four children.

DR. HINDI MERMELSTEIN



Hindi Mermelstein, M.D. is a board certified psychiatrist from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with many years of clinical experience. Dr. Mermelstein holds additional boards in both geriatrics (psychiatry) and psychosomatic medicine and has been recognized as a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine. Her clinical practice is focused on complex patients, many of whom suffer from serious medical illnesses and struggle with significant symptoms such as neurological and cognitive dysfunction that affects the individual, their family and oft times the community in

which they live. In addition, Dr. Mermelstein has extensive experience in administrative and legal issues for physicians and other health care providers both outpatient and hospital settings with experience consulting to and collaborating with non medical agencies families, care managers and caregivers. Dr Mermelstein has published, presented to medical professional and lay groups as she continues to teach, train and supervise medical students, resident physicians and non-physical groups.

RABBI YAAKOV NEUBURGER



Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger is a rosh yeshiva at the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Neuburger is also the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, N.J.

Rabbi Neuburger is an authority on issues related to marital relationships and the purity of the Jewish home. He offers his services to help young men train for married life and prepare to build a proper Jewish home built on Jewish law and spirit. From 1986 to 1990, Rabbi Neuburger was spiritual leader of the Jewish community at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Jack D. Weiler Hospital. Rabbi Neuburger received semikha from

the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1979. He is a graduate of Yeshiva College, and earned an MA in psychology from Columbia University.

DR. BETH POPP



Dr. Beth Popp is the Institutional Director for Palliative Care Program Development at Maimonides Medical Center, the Brooklyn Campus of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she has worked since 2002. She is board certified in Medical Oncology and Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM), and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Popp is a clinician educator, holding the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Departments of Medicine (Oncology) and Family and Social Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She has been involved in integration

of palliative care content into the curriculum for medical students, residents and fellows. She is the chairperson of the Palliative Care Education and Training Council for the New York State Department of Health. Dr. Popp serves as the Associate Program Director for the Hematology/Oncology fellowship training program and on the faculty of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Maimonides. Dr. Popp is involved in organizational efforts to develop Hospice and Palliative Medicine as a specialty, and public policy efforts to improve access to and quality of palliative and end-of-life care. She serves on the board of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS), the State Health Policy Working Group of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) and the Executive Committee of the New York State MOLST implementation team. She has been involved in efforts to improve access to hospice and palliative care and ensure religiously and culturally sensitive provision of care to a diverse patient population. Within the Orthodox Jewish Community, she has been involved in efforts with Yeshiva University/RIETS, Agudath Israel of America, Chayim Aruchim Center for Culturally Sensitive End of Life care, the National Council of Young Israel, the Orthodox Union and Igud Harabanim of America. She has participated in the UJA-Federation Hospice and Healing Alliance and serves on the Advisory board of The Center for Jewish End of Life Care.

RABBI DR. EDWARD REICHMAN



Rabbi Edward Reichman, M.D. is an associate professor of emergency medicine and associate professor of philosophy and history of medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, where he teaches Jewish medical ethics. Rabbi Reichman received semikha from RIETS and writes and lectures widely in the field of Jewish medical ethics. He is the recipient of a Kornfeld Foundation Fellowship and the Rubinstein Prize in Medical Ethics, and was a member of both the board of the Halakhic Organ Donor Society and the advisory board of the Institute for Genetics and Public Policy. His research is devoted to the interface of medical history and Jewish law.

RABBI RACHMIEL ROTHBERGER



For the past six years, Rabbi Rachmiel Rothberger has been the Jewish Community Liaison and Jewish Chaplain for Calvary Hospital, which specializes in hospice and palliative care. There, he delivers pastoral care to patients, assists families regarding anticipatory grief and Jewish funeral practices, and provides education for medical students and in-services for Calvary staff about the special needs of Jewish patients at the end of life, amongst other responsibilities. Previously, he was the Rabbinic Intern at the Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale, NY and the Interim Rabbi at the Daughters of Miriam Center for the Aged in Clifton, NJ. Rabbi Rothberger also taught Limudei Kodosh for almost ten years in several different Jewish day schools throughout the NY Tristate area. Rabbi Rothberger is a graduate of Yeshiva University, where he also received his semicha as well as a Masters in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School. He also received his board certification from the Association of Professional Chaplains.

RABBI DR. JACOB J. SCHACTER



Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter is University Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought and Senior Scholar at the Center for the Jewish Future, at Yeshiva University. From 2000 to 2005 he served as dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Boston. He was the first rabbi of the Young Israel of Sharon, Mass., from 1977 to 1981, creating a vibrant and committed community. From 1981 to 2000, he served as rabbi of The Jewish Center in Manhattan, moving the congregation from 180 to more than 600 members over the course of his tenure, and also served as rabbi of the Maimonides Minyan in Brookline, MA from 2000 to 2005. Rabbi Schacter is co-author of the award winning “A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community: Mordecai M. Kaplan, Orthodoxy and American Judaism” published by Columbia University Press in 1996; author of “The Lord is Righteous in All His Ways: Reflections on the Tish‘ah be-Av Kinot by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik” (2006); and close to 50 articles and reviews. He is founding editor of The Torah u-Madda Journal, a prestigious academic publication which has gained international acclaim. Rabbi Schacter holds a number of prominent Jewish communal positions. He served as founding present of the Council of Orthodox Jewish Organizations of the Upper West Side from 1994 to 2000, is a member of the board of governors of the Orthodox Union and is on the editorial boards of Tradition, Jewish Action, BDD (Bechal Derachecha Da’ehu) and Jewish Educational Leadership.

RABBI DR. DAVID SHABTAI



Rabbi David Shabtai, MD is the Sephardic Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue in Florida. He is a former fellow of the Wexner Kollel Elyon at RIETS where he also received his rabbinic ordination. Rabbi Shabtai received his medical doctorate from NYU School of Medicine. He has taught Jewish Medical Ethics at Yeshiva University and RIETS and lectures on various topics in Jewish law. Rabbi Shabtai is particularly interested in the interface between science, medicine, and Jewish law. He has authored numerous articles on a wide range of topics published in *The Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society*, *Hakirah*, *Assia*, *Journal of Jewish Medical Ethics*, and *Beit Yitzhak*, and is also a contributor and editor of *Verapo Yerape*. Rabbi Shabtai also wrote “*Defining the Moment: Understanding Brain Death in Halakha*.”

DR. ROBERT SIDLOW



Dr. Robert Sidlow is a board-certified general internist and palliative medicine physician and an associate professor of Clinical Medicine. He is currently the Head of the Division of Survivorship and Supportive Care and Associate Chair of Patient Care Operations at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. Previously, he served in a variety of hospital administrative and leadership roles, including those of Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Vice Chairman of Medicine, and Chief of Palliative Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center and the North Bronx Healthcare Network.

RABBI DR. RICHARD WEISS



Rabbi Richard Weiss, M.D., received his rabbinic ordination from RIETS. He earned his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is a licensed physician in the state of New York, having completed an internship in internal medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. He is currently the rabbi of the Young Israel of Hillcrest in Queens and an adjunct assistant professor of biology at Yeshiva University’s Stern College for Women. He has served as a member of the Geirus Commission of the RCA. In addition, Rabbi Weiss has a special interest in bioethics and, in particular, issues related to end-of-life care and infertility. He has lectured frequently on these topics, and has served on a number of bioethics committees. He is a contributing author to “Overcoming Infertility: A Guide for Jewish Couples,” as well as the author of “Pain Management at the End of Life and the Principle of Double Effect: A Jewish Perspective,” to be published in the journal *Cancer Investigation*. Rabbi Weiss has also served as a staff physician for the Metropolitan Hospice/Jewish Hospice of Greater New York.

RABBI MORDECHAI WILLIG



Rabbi Mordechai Willig is a Rosh Yeshiva and Rosh Kollel at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he is the Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halachah. Rabbi Willig has served as spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Riverdale in the Bronx since 1974. He is the author of *Am Mordechai* (on Brachot, Shabbat and most recently on Yom Tov), and has authored many articles in Torah scholarship journals. Rabbi Willig is also the deputy av beis din of the Beth Din of America. Rabbi Willig received a BA in mathematics from Yeshiva College in 1968, an MS in Jewish history in 1971 from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and was ordained that same year at RIETS.

RABBI ELCHONON ZOHN



Rabbi Elchonon Zohn is one of the foremost experts on the work of the Chevra Kadisha, and Jewish funeral and burial practices. Rabbi Zohn is the President and the founder of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha (NASCK), and is a member of the Tripartite Commission on Jewish Funeral Standards of the Rabbinical Council of America, the Rabbinical Adviser to New York's Hebrew Free Burial Association, a member of the New York State Citizens Advisory Council on Cemetery Vandalism, and a member of the Vaad HaRabbanim of Queens, New York.