



October 2023

Subject: **Clinical trials in Israel during the Iron Swords War**

On October 7th our nation suffered a brutal attack by a terrorist organization in which more than 1,400 people lost their lives and hundreds of innocent people including young children, women, and elderly were taken hostage. Since then, Israel is going through challenging times but is determined to be strong and overcome these adversities.

The Israeli healthcare system has been required to address many fronts, such as the immediate response to treat the physically and emotionally wounded as well as continuation of routine care of the population. Throughout these difficult days, our healthcare system has proven yet again its resilience and its devotion to ensuring the health of the Israeli population.

One critical aspect of routine care is clinical trials. Clinical trials provide patients with access to innovative and life-saving novel products and supply physicians with new ways to relieve their patients' suffering. Conducting clinical trials in Israel is of high significance, even during emergencies. Hence Israel was one of the only countries to support the continuation of routine clinical trials throughout the Covid-19 global pandemic, utilizing decentralized clinical trials and e-Consent, which are approved and can be used in Israel according to the regulations.

I would like to assure you that the Ministry of Health and the Israeli healthcare organizations are actively working to support the continuation of clinical trials during these times, ensuring the maintenance of ongoing clinical trials and initiation of new trials, all operating according to regulations and within a stable environment. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the field of clinical trials in Israel, and if needed, will be ready to allocate resources to support their initiation and continuation.

Your ongoing support and collaboration are important not only to our nation, but also to global resilience. It is during times like these that we need to come together, as government, healthcare organizations, and industry leaders, to ensure that the Israeli population will continue to have access to the innovative medical technology which clinical trials can offer, and that investments in R&D and clinical trials can continue to thrive within Israel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osnat Luxenburg
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