



## ***American Healthcare Professionals and Friends for Medicine in Israel***

2001 Beacon Street, Suite 210, Boston, MA 02135

---

In the Israel Defense Forces Shlomo Elias did research and translation for the military's intelligence arm.

In hematology Dr. Shlomo Elias, the most recent recipient of the Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award, researches and tries to translate the molecular world of blood, particularly malignancies that affect it.

"In the intelligence service, I thought that maybe I was using some of the appropriate skills needed for medical research, because it was a similar kind of research, in a way, that I did there," said Elias.

The Kass Award goes to a promising young Israeli physician conducting research at a medical institution or university. It was established in memory of Dr. Edward H. Kass, M.D., a Distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a past President of APF (1986-1990).

Elias, a Hadassah Medical Center hematologist, in his cutting-edge research tries to figure out how cancer proteins evade the body's defenses, the immune system.

His work involves cells of the immune system which are called NK cells – natural killer cells – and he studies how cancer eludes them. "The tumor develops a way to be smarter than the immune system, it's like it has a shield," says Elias. He published his work in 2014 in the prestigious journal *Blood*, of the American Society of Hematology.

The 38-year-old completed medical school at Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School; his internship at The Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed (in the Northern District of Israel) and residencies in internal medicine and hematology at Hadassah. He also has a doctorate in neurobiology as part of the MD/PhD program at Hebrew University.

Elias, a Tel Aviv native, is married to physician Shirley, 38 and has two daughters: Shaked, 6 ½ years old and Klil, 3 years old.

He thought about medical school even back in high school, when he enjoyed science courses.

After the army, he knew he wanted a dual focus. "From the start I knew I wanted to combine research with clinical work."

Elias also took a year during his internal medicine residency to participate in a unique program at Hadassah called "physician researcher." At that time he switched to the field of immunology, and specifically to the connection between cancers and the immune system.

Despite the doctorate, his initial interest in neurology gave way to internal medicine and hematology. "I felt internal medicine was much more appealing than neurology. And hematology is a very challenging field from both the clinical and research aspects."

“Hematology is also a field where new research is very quickly translated into clinical practice.”

Elias has published nearly 20 journal articles, case reports and book chapters and reviews. He has also presented his work abroad.

His Kass project is called “Manipulation of NK Cell Ligands by Oncogenic Fusion Proteins” in which he plans to continue the work in his 2014 published research.