In Memoriam: Bracha Ramot (1927–2006)

Bracha Ramot, previous editor of *Acta Haematologica* (1989–1995), passed away after a brief illness on May 29, 2006. Bracha, as all her friends and associates called her, had an illustrious career and was a major force in Israeli medicine in general and in hematology in particular. Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, she spent the World War II days in exile in Siberia, escaped miraculously and reached Israel just before the War of Independence. After serving on the frontline as a physician's assistant, she was admitted to the newly founded Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem and graduated cum laude in 1952. In 1954 she went to the USA and trained in Chicago and New York where she worked with the pioneers of American hematology and established lifelong friendships.

After her return to Israel, she was nominated as head of the Institute of Hematology at Tel-Hashomer hospital and worked there until her retirement in 1991. Thereafter, she was appointed medical director of a large HMO and became involved in community medicine and public health. In 2001 she was awarded the most prestigious award of the State of Israel: the Israel Prize for achievements in medicine. Professor Ramot was an exceptional physician: knowledgeable, dedicated and decisive. Her patients adored her and her reputation as a humane and motherly physician was common knowledge. She was a brilliant medical scientist and made many contributions in the fields of red cell enzyme deficiencies, small bowel lymphoma (Mediterranean lymphoma), as well as the influence of environmental and familial factors on hema-

tological malignancies and other topics. Professor Ramot was among the founders of the Sackler School of Medicine of Tel-Aviv University and served there in many capacities. She trained and influenced many hematologists in Israel and was regarded as the spiritual mother of this discipline.

She will be deeply missed by her family, patients, friends and colleagues.

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