



The Talia Trust for Children
קרן טליה למען ילדים (ע"ר)

Welcome to the January 2011 Newsletter from the Talia Trust for Children.

As you probably know, the Talia Trust was set up with two objectives. We often write about the Trust's work with children who have specific learning difficulties, but some of you have been asking which projects are in progress to encourage positive attitudes towards children and youth suffering from the skin condition called **psoriasis**. In this month's newsletter we are going to update you.

Whereas adults prone to psoriasis know how to cover up when they have a seasonal outbreak, it is much harder for youngsters. In the summer, it really is difficult, when shorts and t-shirts or tank tops and short skirts are worn all day long, especially in a hot climate. Even in winter, there are sports lessons and changing rooms where comments can be hurtled like poison darts. The children may be able to hide the facts of unpleasant treatment that they have to undergo, but white dandruff-like scales on clothes are much harder to conceal.

Embarrassment about going to the beach or pool is a real social problem for these kids and can lead to psychological scarring which is as long-lasting as any physical skin marks.

In 2007, the Talia Trust made a short film about the Psoriasis Summer treatment camp for children, held annually at the Dead Sea and organized by the Israeli Psoriasis Association. It was then distributed to 400 skin doctors in Israel and overseas with the intention that it be used as an informational tool, as well as to encourage doctors to send their young patients to the treatment camp. The children recorded in the film spoke at length about their own poor self-image –something that was troubling to hear.

So we are now delighted to announce that the first piece of **research** is underway under the aegis of the Talia Trust at **Haifa University's** School of Social Welfare & Health Sciences. Its purpose is to examine general practitioners' perceptions about and attitudes to the treatment of young patients who suffer from **psoriasis** and **psoriatic arthritis**.





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We hope that this will be the start of wider research which will result in a greater awareness among the general public of the additional stress to which these young people are subjected, remembering that stress is frequently a major factor in psoriasis attacks amongst people susceptible to them.

We are grateful for the money raised by the Talia Trust UK, which has made this research possible. As the research progresses, we hope to update you.

Watch our website (www.taliatrust.org) during February to view the film about treatment at the Dead Sea.

Finally, we are delighted to invite you to the 2011 Talia Trust UK Supper Quiz. It will take place on Sunday 6 March at Stanmore Synagogue, London, with tickets priced at £18 including an Israeli-style supper. For more information or to reserve tickets or tables, please email Damian on dschogger@gmail.com or visit the event page on Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=185074574845570>.

Best wishes and thank you for all your support

Marilyn Hyman (Haifa, Israel) & Damian Schogger (London, England)