



## Plenary lecture II

# Emergency Departments and Hospital's Response Measures when Dealing with Large Scale Disasters Such as War

時間：2026年6月26日(五) 11:55~12:30

會議室：101 會議廳

座長：鄭銘泰醫師(臺大醫院)、顏鴻章醫師(台北榮總)

主講人：Dr. Debra Gershov West (Rambam Health Care Campus)

課程簡介

Drawing on national experience from two and a half years of ongoing military conflict, repeated mass casualty incidents, and sustained operational pressure, this session presents practical approaches to hospital and emergency department preparedness and response under fire. The focus is on real-world implementation, including how systems evolved over time, what proved effective, and what required adaptation.

Core elements include multidisciplinary staff engagement and meaningful operational buy-in beyond core emergency and trauma teams, achieved through clearly defined, role-specific training. Within the emergency department, adaptation to mass casualty conditions requires rapid reorganization and management of "staff, space, and stuff," together with command, communication, control, triage, and clinical decision-making. This session will outline predefined clinical pathways and introduce a novel hospital-based, resource-driven triage model developed in this setting, designed to support prioritization and decision-making under resource constraints.

At the hospital level, response measures include reduction in occupancy achieved through structured patient decanting, interfacility transfer, and expansion into protected or alternative care areas, while maintaining continuity of operations when infrastructure is threatened. The hospital functions simultaneously as a treatment facility and a protected environment, adding further operational complexity.

Prolonged conflict introduces additional challenges, including infection control risks, workforce strain, psychological burden, and the ongoing impact on patients, staff, and families.

These experiences provide a practical framework for how emergency systems can adapt, function, and maintain effectiveness under sustained threat, translating operational lessons into transferable principles for real-world preparedness.



## Debra Gershov West

Organization : Rambam Health Care Campus

Title : Regional Director of Emergency Medicine, Rambam Health Care Campus

Current positions :

- Founder & Director, Frontline Emergency Medicine (FEM)
- Founder & Executive Director, National Israeli Course in Emergency Medicine (NICEM)
- Professional Lead, Specialist Training Unit, Medical Corps
- Leadership Team, Military Track, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Lecturer, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Dr. Debra Gershov West is an Israeli emergency medicine specialist and physician leader in disaster preparedness, mass casualty response, and emergency medicine education. She is Founder and Director of Frontline Emergency Medicine, a national program that has trained more than 6,000 hospital, military, and community responders across Israel in tactical medicine, trauma care, and complex mass casualty management through immersive simulation.

She developed the MERAV triage system, a novel in-hospital, resource-based triage system designed to align patient needs during mass casualty incidents with available hospital resources. From 2017 to 2025, she served as founding Director of the Emergency Department at Samson Assuta Ashdod University Hospital, where she built a culture of continuous preparedness in a high-threat environment, served on the hospital's mass casualty preparedness committee, and led emergency department response during the October 7 mass casualty events.

A pioneer in emergency medicine training in Israel, she founded the National Israeli Course in Emergency Medicine, a cornerstone program in physician training nationwide. Her academic work includes publications on disaster preparedness and mass casualty management, with a focus on hospital resilience and team performance under extreme conditions.