



Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin

The interaction between medicine and halakha is one of the most fascinating ways in which halakha is implemented in modern day life. Halakha is challenged to deal with the tremendous changes that have occurred in both medical sciences and technological development in a way that is true to Torah values and at the same time keenly aware of modern-day life. Professionalism in medicine and halakha are required, as well as an ongoing, live connections with this generation's senior adjudicators of halakha. Dr. Halperin, the award winner, excels in these fields.

Dr. Mordechai Halperin has set down clear foundations in the field of medical ethics in halakha and has become a leading authority in the field. The Rabbi is among the founders of the Israeli Society for Medical Ethics and is a member of numerous ethics committees of different groups, such as the Israel Academy of Science and Humanities, the team overseeing the implementation of the Israel Cord Blood Act via the Ministry of Health, the National Committee of the Dying Patient Act, and more. For a number of years Dr. Halperin served as the Medical Ethics Consultant to the Ministry of Health and is, until today, the Director of the Preliminary Instruction Center for Dying Patients and Chairman of the Public Committee regarding egg donations. Rabbi Halperin is a sought-after lecturer in Israel and abroad due to his expansive knowledge of medical ethics and also leads seminars on the topic.

Dr. Mordechai Halperin is a true interdisciplinarian; well-rounded and versed in many subjects. Although his primary specialization, as a gynecologist, is in gynecology, he is highly knowledgeable in all areas of



medicine, as well as in many fields unrelated to medicine.

Rabbi Halperin started off in the Yeshivas of Ponevezh and Mir. On finishing his studies in the Yeshivas, he received rabbinical ordination and then attained a first degree in physics and mathematics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a second degree in law from the Ono Academic College. He then began to work as the head of a Yeshiva and at the same time completed medical studies in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and began to work in different medical centers around Israel. He finished his army service as Lieutenant Colonel. He graduated with honors from all his studies. Rabbi Halperin thrived in all his undertakings through his striving for perfection and excellence.

Rabbi Dr. Halperin is the director of the Falk Schlesinger Institute for Medical-Halakhic Research in Jerusalem, Israel. The main goal of the Institute is to imbue the modern, scientific, medical system with Torah values; to research and resolve medical issues according to Halakhic criterion. With the development of the medical ethics profession in recent years, the interest in the Jewish, Halakhic stance on current issues of medical ethics has grown. As long as the medical sciences are developing, halakhic, moral issues continue to arise. The Schlesinger Institute, under the guidance of Rabbi Dr. Halperin, searches for new, practical solutions to these problems. The staff at the Institute is made up of senior doctors and researchers, together with scholars and Rabbi Dr. Halperin represents both of these sides.

Rabbi Dr. Halperin is the chief editor of Assia (meaning doctor or medicine in Aramaic), the Hebrew quarterly review of medical ethics



and Jewish law published by the Schlesinger Institute. The articles published in the journal are later compiled into books. As of now, fifteen thick books have been published in the Assia series and from the fifth book onwards, they have been edited by Rabbi Dr. Halperin. The goal of the journal is as defined at its beginning, "to increase awareness of halakhic medical issues and the solutions and thought processes of Rabbis and doctors who dealt with these problems - the intention is to present current, new issues that have been discussed of late and that are written about in various, sources that are not connected to medicine and halakha".

The articles in the journal Assia deal with a huge variety of subjects such as human cloning, determining the time of death, organ transplants, informing a fatally ill patient of their situation, treating AIDS, psychiatry and halakha, organ trafficking, the withdrawal of medical treatment, euthanasia, forced medical treatment, surrogate mothers, and more. Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin, a great Torah scholar and senior doctor, is worthy of all honor and respect afforded to him - he sanctifies the Heaven in all that he does by bringing the Jewish law to the most esteemed forums of modern medicine and thereby proving to the world that Jewish law and modern medicine exist harmoniously. He shows how Jewish law has a strong stance in even the most novel questions in the modern world and also how the ethics and morals of the Torah of Israel are capable of guiding all human beings in the most moral way. We found Rabbi Dr. Halperin to be most active in the promotion of Jewish law in modern-day life.



In consideration of the above, the selection committee has decided to bestow upon Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin the Katz Prize for 5777 (2017).


Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson


Rabbi Haim Sabato


Rabbi Adin Even-Israel (Steinsaltz)