

Dr. Hanna Katan

Senior Doctor, Lecturer & Advisor in the Fields
of Medicine & Jewish Law

In the forty years that the Katz Award has existed, tens of recipients have won the prize; Rabbis, great scholars and Jewish law decisors who all immerse themselves in the world of Torah. For the first time, this Award is being presented to a woman, a great woman.

There will be those who will shake their head and say that this choice is a reflection of the times- every nomination and award feels the need to include women in order to show gender equality, sometimes at any price, and even the judges of the Katz Award have been swept along with this trend...


However, in this case this is far from the truth. In recent years, due to the immense thirst of women for Torah, high schools, learning centers and colleges have been opening up all over the country and countless women have been learning, attaining wisdom and knowledge. This change is often viewed as progression and modernity that some scholars feel uncomfortable with. However, there are women who learn and succeed in learning and teaching in such a way that is viewed positively by scholars who see their progression as being a part of genuine Torah learning. One of the special women who is a part of this phenomenon is Dr. Hanna Katan.

After learning Jewish studies for a year in the Jerusalem College for Women, Dr. Hanna Katan began to learn medicine and graduated summa cum laude. She then chose to specialize in the field of gynecology and the various branches including obstetrics, sexology, sonography, fertility and more.

Dr. Katan is a valiant woman, the wife of Rabbi Yoel Katan, a well-known, esteemed Torah scholar, who is assisted by her in matters of Jewish law. The Katan couple are blessed with a large family.

In addition to her work as a senior doctor, Dr. Katan lectures in prestigious faculties and colleges of medicine, schools, communities, medical conferences and conferences for women. She acts as an advisor for different groups for issues relating to Jewish law and medicine. Dr. Katan is also a member of different public committees that deal with matters of medicine, ethics and Jewish law.

Dr. Katan writes and publishes many articles dealing with family and medical issues in journals and newspapers and even wrote two books dealing with these subjects. She has written a large number of articles about medicine and Jewish law, some together with her husband, that have been published in renowned religious publications that are utilized by Rabbis and Jewish law decisors. The articles are a great source of admiration in religious circles.

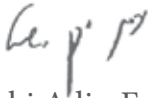


Dr. Katan works ceaselessly in order to increase awareness in the medical system for principles of Jewish law and the special needs of religious and ultra-religious women and their families (such as the desire for large families and fertility treatment according to Jewish law), as well as advancing the quality of medical care given to women in the religious and ultra-orthodox communities, minimizing the common distrust in the public health system and in short- building bridges between the medical system and the observant population. Dr. Katan advances these causes from every possible stage and forum and proves that modern medicine and Jewish law can exist harmoniously. Her mission is to advance “Jewish family planning” – a healthy, large family which is a source of happiness and satisfaction.

From the little that we have seen it is hard for us to understand how the daily schedule of Dr. Katan fits into just twenty-four hours...

Dr. Katan is held in high esteem in both medical and Rabbinic circles where great scholars and decisors are helped immensely by her experience and broad knowledge in order to reach decisions in Jewish law that involve medicine, as well as to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the world of medicine. There is no doubt that Dr. Katan is a unique woman who is exceptional in all that she does and contributes hugely to the public through her writings and actions in order to implement Jewish law in modern-day life.

In consideration of the above, the selection committee has decided to bestow upon Dr. Hanna Katan the Katz Award for 5775 (2016).



Rabbi Adin Even
Israel (Steinsaltz)



Professor Menahem
Ben-Sasson



Rabbi Yaakov Ariel

