



Office of Faculty Development

Pathology & Immunology



Dr. Eynav Klechevsky was born and raised in Israel. She grew up in Haifa, a beautiful city with a port, a beach and stiff mountains - San Francisco's twin city. She joined the Israeli defense force and served for 3 years as a lieutenant in an elite intelligence Unit. From early on she was attracted to medical sciences. So, when she completed her military service, she went on to study at the "Technion – Israel institute of Technology" where she majored in Molecular Biochemistry. Her first research experience was as an undergraduate student working in a lab that investigated how tumor cells evade the immune system. When she was on the crossroad in deciding whether to go to medical school to become a physician, or continue as a researcher, it was one of her professors who convinced her to pursue a research career and inspired her love to immunology. *"I will convince you that immunology is one of the most fascinating disciplines in Science"*, he said in one of his lectures. Indeed, he has. At the end of his class, she was hooked and decided to pursue her PhD. Promising herself that her research would involve direct studies of the human immune system, hoping it would be rewarding both from a scientific and a medical perspective.



As a graduate student, she was chosen by her PhD mentor, Dr. Yoram Reiter at the Technion to lead a collaborative project with Dr. Jacques Banchereau's team and spent time in Dallas, Texas at the "Baylor Institute for Immunology Research", one of the leading institutions in the world for human immunology. The goal was to use unique tools that she and her lab colleagues had developed to understand how dendritic cells, specialized cells of the immune system, present tumor antigens and instruct other cells of the immune system, like lymphocytes, to kill tumors and keep it at bay. In addition, she wanted to understand how dendritic cell-based vaccines function and can be potentially improved. What was supposed to be a short collaborative trip was extended over several years.

During her time at the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, Eynav graduated and completed a short postdoctoral training. She fell in love with dendritic cells and witnessed the power of these cells in changing the outcome of human diseases. This set the goals and the focus of her research program here at Wash U in the Division of Immunobiology of the Department of Pathology and Immunology. Most particularly, Eynav and her team combine basic and clinical research to understand the biology of different human dendritic cells and other myeloid cells as a key for manipulating immune responses in various disease conditions.

Saint Louis was also where she met her husband, Amir, the piano player of the band "Air Supply" during their only concert in Saint Louis in 37 years. Eynav and Amir were married in 2014. Together they raise their three boys who love both science and music!

Besides work, Eynav loves the outdoors, trips to Forest Park (or on the beach in Israel). She loves going to art museums, the Symphony and the Opera. She is a big foodie, enjoys good food, hosting and cooking for friends (It's like doing experiments!). Eynav (which means "the fruit of the vine" in Hebrew) also collects, researches and enjoys wine! She loves spending time with her boys and cherishes every moment with family.

