

Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

Orli Wube **ENP Ethiopian-Israeli Healthcare Scholar,** **6th Year Medical Student at Hebrew University in Jerusalem** **Ethiopian National Project**

Orli Wube, 25, is the eldest daughter of three siblings, a first-generation Israeli born to immigrant parents from Ethiopia. Her mother and father grew up in Jewish villages in Ethiopia, in families who understood the importance of education: both her parents were fortunate to have had 12 years of schooling. As high school graduates, they were successful in obtaining “scholarships” which enabled their departure from Ethiopia. Her father made Aliyah in 1987 and her mother in 1990, where they met in Israel during their studies at the Beersheva College of Technology. As a young immigrant couple, they first lived in a caravan in Tzrifin, and then moved to Lod to live with Orli’s grandparents. The young family later made their home in Jerusalem where Orli spent most of her life.

From a young age Orli’s parents took care to instill in their children the recognition that education is the key to opening countless doors. They invested much in their children’s education, worked long hours and did their best to ensure they would lack for nothing.

As a young girl, Orli first dreamed of performing on a big stage. She acted for years in a school of the arts. “Somewhere deep down I always dreamed of being a doctor and saving human lives, but that did not seem to be something achievable. The model of the ‘successful doctor’ in my world did not include a dark-skinned woman.”



By the time she reached high school Orli understood the arts would not offer her a sustainable profession, so at the age of 16 she began to pursue her other love: physics and chemistry. She was captivated by the world of science. And so when she met ENP Ethiopian-Israeli Healthcare Scholars who talked about their path to medicine, she realized it was something that she could, and wanted to, achieve. “I realized very quickly that during my life I will probably have to shatter quite a few stigmas and glass ceilings around me.”

And that precisely is what Orli is doing. After intensive preparatory work, Orli was accepted to and entered the medical reserve track. During her six years of medical school, she has served as coordinator of a volunteer project that connects various departments in the hospital with student volunteers in the Faculty of Medicine; completed her bachelor's degree with honors; and was accepted to a student exchange at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia which regrettably, due to COVID-19, did not take place.

Upon completing her seven years of study and internship, Orli will carry out her military service as an officer and doctor for an additional five years. She has her sights set high: she aims to be a nephrologist: a doctor who specializes in kidneys. Most importantly, she recognizes the importance of serving as a role model, even to her younger brother, who also is an ENP Ethiopian-Israeli Healthcare Scholar. “I was fortunate to have my parents who instilled that drive in us: ENP programs help all children realize, with hard work, they can achieve whatever it is they set their sights on.”