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**Israeli psychologist presents new approach for caregivers**

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Israeli clinical psychologist Dr. Eleanor Pardess presented a new approach focused on cultivating compassionate care giving and the prevention of compassion fatigue at the American Psychological Association's (APA) 119th annual convention, held last month in Washington, D.C. This integrative model, developed with San Francisco-based clinical psychologist Dr. Ilene Serlin, was the result of research conducted in cooperation with SELAH (Israel Crisis Management Center), an Israeli support organization for victims of trauma within Israel's immigrant community.

The study's findings demonstrate the significant value to the care professional of volunteering outside of his or her everyday work environment, while utilizing professional skills and training. It also highlights possibilities of growth through coping with the stresses of caregivers and the importance of the caregiver's being part of a caring community.

As part of the research, Pardess and Serlin presented to the APA conference the M.O.V.I.N.G. model for promoting compassion satisfaction for caregivers (meaning, opportunities, validation, involvement, nature, group). The model was developed following a three-year research study on SELAH volunteers, social workers and other professionals who provide emergency as well as long-term support in the aftermath of terrorist attacks and other crisis situations, such as traffic or work accidents, sudden serious illness and domestic violence.

Founded in 1993, SELAH is Israel's only countrywide volunteer network providing assistance and support for new immigrants hit by sudden crisis, terror or tragedy. A safety net for newcomers without the support system of family and friends, SELAH, has helped more than 22,000 distressed immigrants through its emergency and long-term assistance programs.