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December 26, 2022

OPEN LETTER ABOUT ANTISEMITISM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO *President Meric Gertler visits Israel*

University of Toronto President Meric Gertler wrote in a Globe and Mail opinion piece published on December 21, that “The university I lead is committed to doing more, for we know that the struggle against antisemitism is far from over.” To that end DARA is pleased to learn that President Gertler and others from the university visited Israel in mid November this year.

On November 14 Dr. Gertler hosted and spoke at a President's Reception & Presentation held at the InterContinental David Tel Aviv. He was accompanied by Dr. Heather Colquhoun, Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Colquhoun spoke on “Achieving the Goal of Optimal Healthcare: Lessons from Implementation Science”. Dr. Gertler also visited Jerusalem and Haifa.

DARA is delighted that while in Israel, President Gertler spoke of developing opportunities for relationships and collaborations between the University of Toronto and Israeli universities.

In the face of academic boycotts against Israel, Dr. Gertler's visit is a show of resistance against those on the University of Toronto campus who seek to dismantle the only Jewish state. It is also an expression of solidarity with Jews on campus who have endured years of antisemitic vitriol which are part of the attacks on Israel.

We hope that the University of Toronto will now adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition on antisemitism which has been endorsed by 6 provincial governments and the federal government. We still await Dr. Gertler's repudiation of the 45-faculty letter filled with antisemitic tropes which was sent to the Dean of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine earlier this year. Both would be a good first step to confronting antisemitism directly at the University of Toronto.

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Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism