



Date: December 5, 2023  
Ref: 0180-2023

**Prof. John A. Kanis**  
**Dr. Famida Jiwa**  
**Commission Chairs**  
**International Osteoporosis Foundation**

Dear Prof. Kanis and Dr. Jidwa,

Re: **IOF Commission to establish a position on scientists and IOF Societies operating in conflict zones.**

As members of the IOF, we received the survey you distributed on the aforementioned topic.

We were frankly shocked that such a topic was even up for discussion.

First, we query how it is possible to hold physicians responsible for the actions of their government. Military conflicts are initiated by governments and armies, and the role of physicians in such cases is to ensure that medical neutrality, provision of health care and ethical standards are upheld.

Second, and more fundamentally, the very concept of exploiting the field of academia to further political agendas, rather than engaging in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge is contrary to what academia is and often harmful to the very people it seeks to protect. The exchange of knowledge and information and academic collaboration is beneficial to all mankind, and particularly to underprivileged populations.

As an example from our region, Israeli physicians have always, and continue to, provide care to sick and wounded Palestinian patients who are allowed by Hamas to leave the West bank or Gaza Strip. We train Palestinian doctors in Israeli hospitals so that they can return and care for their populations. If a decision were made to impose an academic boycott against Israeli physicians because of Israel's campaign to eradicate the Hamas terrorist group after the horrific massacre of October 7, who do you think will suffer the most?

Academic boycotts are both unjustified and harmful. We, as physicians and scholars, should be engaging in open dialogue, not hatred and boycotts. Only this will ensure the peace, protection and good health of all innocent people, which is our common goal.

Sincerely,

Prof. Zion Hagay  
President Israel Medical Association

**Cc:**

Dr. Sherry Tal ,Director of the Department of Geriatric Internal Medicine, Kaplan Medical Center.  
Adv. Leah Wapner, CEO of Israel Medical Association.