



A Word from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with our latest edition of IMA Around the Globe. As always you will be able to read about the various events, both domestic and international that have taken place in the last few months, such as the IMA World Fellowship Scholarships, the EFMA

Conference in Poland, the SEEMF Congress in Macedonia and the WMA Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the World Fellowship Committee, I would like to congratulate Prof. Zion Hagay on his election as Chair

of the WMA Standing Committee on Socio-Medico Affairs, which was announced at the WMA Meeting in Nairobi.

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, traditionally the beginning of the Jewish holidays that offer a time of reflection and renewal, the Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship Committee would like to wish you a New Year filled with health and happiness, and sweet moments for you and your family. L'Shana Tova.

Professor Hana Leiba

Chair

IMA – World Fellowship



ההסתדרות
הרפואית בישראל
Israeli Medical
Association

THE ISRAELI MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION WISHES YOU,
YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR
COMMUNITY

L'SHANA TOVA



IMA Domestic News and Activities

‘Healing the Rupture in the Nation’ - March & Rally



Professor Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association addressing the rally.

Following a two-hour “warning strike” in the healthcare system on July 19th, the Israeli Medical Association organized a march and rally on Sunday July 23rd, to protest the Knesset vote on judicial reform that was scheduled for the following day.

Thousands of Israeli doctors and members of the healthcare community wearing red vests with ‘doctor’ written on their backs and waving IMA flags, marched from the Jerusalem Chords Bridge at the capital’s entrance to rally against the proposed reforms. The march culminated at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem where the ‘healing the rupture in the nation’ rally was held, attended by around 2,500 doctors protesting that ‘There is no healthcare without democracy!’ and ‘Justice, equality, and mutual responsibility’.

Doctors who were unable to attend the rally in Jerusalem due to professional commitments protested at gatherings at their respective hospitals in coordination with administrators.

Professor Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Association, declared that should the ‘reasonableness’ bill pass, the IMA

would appeal immediately to the Supreme Court. Hagay went on to say that the Israeli Medical Association is the only labor organization to act against the government’s plans to remove the ‘reasonableness’ test.



Adv. Leah Wapner, CEO of the Israeli Medical Association addressing the rally.



Doctors wearing red ‘doctor’ vests



Doctors protesting with the sign ‘Healing the rupture in the nation’

Saxony Doctor's Visit, June 2023

The IMA has long enjoyed a close and fruitful relationship with the German Medical Association. To that end, the IMA was delighted to host two visitors from Saxony in June of this year: Mr. Erik Bodendieck, President of the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony and founding member of the Saxon branch of the German doctor's association "Hartmannbund" and Dr. Michael Schulte Westenberg, Secretary General of the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony.

The doctors began their tour with a visit to the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** (<https://www.peres-center.org/en/>). The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation is one of Israel's leading non-profit NGOs, which develops and implements unique and cutting-edge programs in innovation, sport, health, business, and the environment. The programs offered serve hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries from all walks of life and are implemented with a network of local, regional, and international partners.



Peres Center for Peace and Innovation, the doctor's experiencing the VR Capsule

This was followed by a visit to **Start-Up Nation Central** (<https://startupnationcentral.org/>). Start-Up Nation Central is a non-profit organization that connects Israeli innovation to the world. Inspired by the book Start-Up Nation and immersed in the Israeli technology ecosystem, Start-Up Nation Central provides a platform that nurtures business growth and generates partnerships to help strengthen Israel's economy and society, focusing on Health Tech,



Enjoying the view from the rooftop of the Start-Up Nation Central

Climate Tech, and Agrifood Tech. After enjoying a light lunch, the doctors then visited the head offices of the Israeli Medical Association in Ramat Gan, where they enjoyed presentations given by young physicians who were participating in the **IMA's Basic Science in Medical Innovation** course.

Mr. Bodendieck and Dr. Michael Schulte Westenberg then met with Dr. Natalie Bloch of the **Israeli Innovation Authority** (<https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/>). The Israel Innovation Authority is an independent publicly funded agency that was created to provide a variety of practical tools and funding platforms aimed at effectively addressing the dynamic and changing needs of the local and international innovation ecosystems.

Leah Wapner, CEO of the Israeli Medical Association then joined the doctors for an informative discussion on 'medicine in the changing world'.

The evening concluded with a dinner in central Tel Aviv with key members of the Israeli Medical Association's leadership.

The following day, the doctors met with Prof. Solomon Stemmer and a number of graduates, where they were given an introduction and tour of the Beilinson Hospital/Rabin Medical Center - (<https://hospitals.clalit.co.il/rabin/en/Pages/default.aspx>), with the focus on innovation.



Rabin Medical Center/Beilinson, the doctor's experiencing 3d printing capabilities.

The doctors then went on to visit the **Davidoff Cancer Center**, (https://hospitals.clalit.co.il/rabin/en/departments/cancer_davidoff_center/Pages/about_the_davidoff_center.aspx). The Davidoff Center for the Treatment and Research of Cancer at Beilinson Hospital, Rabin Medical Center (RMC), combines Oncology, Hemato-oncology, and Supportive Care for cancer patients and is world-renowned for its prevention, treatment, and research of malignant diseases.

The doctors then enjoyed a light, traditional Israeli lunch in Jerusalem followed by a tour of the historical and religious sites and later in the evening were joined by Prof. Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association and Leah Wapner, CEO of the Israeli Medical Association for dinner at Jerusalem's Rooftop restaurant while enjoying the magnificent views of the ancient city.

The Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship Scholarships, 2023.

This year, 14 scholarships were awarded to outstanding Israeli physicians who are going to or have already begun fellowship programs around the world. The US\$4,000 (16,000 NIS) scholarships were funded by the Israeli Medical Association, the Organization of Clalit Physicians, the Organization of State Employee Physicians, Sheba Medical Center, and Sheba Medical Center Physicians' Committee.

The scholarship program provides physicians with a unique opportunity to experience foreign medical systems, institutions, and practices and to serve as ambassadors of Israel and the Israeli medical field.

The World Fellowship Grants Committee, consisting of Prof. Hana Leiba, Chair of the Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship, Dr. Arie Bitterman, Dr. Alex Levin and Dr. Boris Itzkovitz, convened to evaluate 77 exceptionally qualified candidates.

The World Fellowship Grants Committee meeting was held in the presence of Adv. Sara Broker of the Israeli Medical Association who monitored the process. Scholarships were granted to 14 doctors who have been accepted to fellowship positions in the US, Canada, UK, and Australia.

As in previous years, the scholarships were awarded to the recipients in memory of a deceased physician, thereby maintaining this meaningful tradition.



Features

Focus on Wolfson University Medical Center.



Wolfson University Medical Center (WMC) is a public multi-disciplinary medical center in the Tel Aviv district of Holon that serves a population of approximately half a million inhabitants in central Israel and offers advanced services in most specialties. It ranks as the ninth largest hospital in Israel.

The medical center was founded with the assistance of the Wolfson Foundation and is named after Lady Edith Specterman Wolfson, the wife of English philanthropist Sir Isaac Wolfson.

Wolfson is located on a 10-acre campus and comprises three interconnected buildings and an expansive parking area. Wolfson has become a major multi-disciplinary medical center with departments with an international reputation for excellence, including the Ophthalmology Department, the innovative Gastroenterology Department, Pediatric Neurology Department, and the nationally known Obstetrics and Gynecology Division.

This 685-bed independent community hospital treats hundreds of thousands of patients per year in its 60 departments and 14 out-patient clinics and institutes.

In 2021, WMC opened the Sylvan Adam's Children's Hospital, which houses all the pediatric units - hospitalization, day hospital facilities, and clinics. Wolfson is especially proud of the 4,500 births in the hospital each year.

WMC employs over 3,000 workers (doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, and administrative and maintenance personnel). The staff is further enhanced by the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, who offer a wide range of support services in departments throughout the hospital.

Medical Achievements

STARTUP AIMING TO KEEP KIDNEY PATIENTS OFF DIALYSIS
- Electro-hydraulic acoustic therapy could treat late-stage chronic kidney disease and delay its progression by up to a year.



Curespec's Nephrospec device. Photo courtesy of Curespec

Curespec, based in Yehud-Monosson in Israel, claims its unique device, Nephrospec, can postpone the dialysis treatment of stage three and four CKD patients by up to 12 months.

The treatment promotes new blood-vessel formation and restores damaged tissue function after six painless treatment sessions over a three-week period.

"There is currently no cure for CKD, only medication that can slow its progress," Curespec CEO Rotem Kaynan tells ISRAEL21c. Kaynan, a biomedical engineer, says the startup is hoping that one day Nephrospec could keep CKD patients off dialysis indefinitely.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

To view full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/startup-aiming-to-keep-kidney-patients-off-dialysis/>

AI CANCER STARTUP COLLABORATES WITH TOP ISRAELI HOSPITAL - Cloud platform enables whole genome sequencing from data derived from blood tests that can detect recurring cancer early on.



C2i Genomics uses blood tests to conduct whole genome sequencing to enable early detection of recurring cancer. Photo courtesy of C2i Genomics

Cancer detection startup C2i Genomics is teaming up with Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, also known as Ichilov Hospital, to enable early detection of recurring cancer using a cloud-based AI solution.

C2i Genomics' whole genome minimal residual disease (MRD) testing improves cancer detection and monitoring by uploading blood test data to the cloud where it is

analyzed using genomic and clinical databases and artificial intelligence. This can provide more personalized oncology treatments.

Ichilov, which can conduct DNA sequencing in-house, will incorporate C2i Genomics' technology into clinical examinations.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

To view full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/ai-cancer-startup-collaborates-with-top-israeli-hospital/>

THE TOP 21 MOST AMAZING ISRAELI MEDICAL ADVANCES

- Israel is a powerhouse in medical innovation. We give you a dozen standouts from a field with many exciting, game-changing candidates.



Whether they're futuristic, such as Given Imaging's PillCam capsule endoscopy or Itamar Medical's fingertip monitors for sleep disorders and cardiac issues — or cleverly simple, such as First Care Products' Emergency Bandage — blue-and-white inventions are changing the face of healthcare in hospitals, doctors' offices, homes and even battlefields worldwide.

"It's almost a cliché to say Israel is an excellent place for medical innovation," says Eran Perry, managing director at Israel Health Care Ventures (IHCV), one of the largest venture capital funds in the country.

"But if you look at [global] statistics, it's evident — from

total expenditure on civilian R&D, where we are ranked first; to human infrastructure and entrepreneurship, where we rank in the top five. You can see the results in patents. We are first in the world for medical device patents per capita, and second in Europe for bio-pharma."

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

To view full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/the-top-12-most-amazing-israeli-medical-advances/>

Israel, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, is helping to build the first medical center of its kind in West Africa.

This Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Atomic Energy Commission and Israel's Mission to the IAEA, officially joined the Rays of Hope initiative six months ago. The initiative seeks to put emphasis on the development of infrastructure for radiotherapy treatment in countries where the infrastructure does not exist at all or exists at an insufficient level.

The Israeli aid to the project, together with the contribution of other countries, will be used to establish a new unit for the treatment of cancer patients in a hospital that is being established these days in the city of Abomey-Calavi in Benin, West Africa. This is the first time in the history where the building of a center for radiotherapy and nuclear medicine has been established in the country.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen: "Israel contributes to the promotion of the quality of life and health of citizens who until today had no access to such life-saving treatment". This is another expression of the expansion of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' activities, especially as reflected in the current project in an important continent like Africa. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with other partners, works in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency through its envoys around the world to contribute from Israeli experience and knowledge in this field.

Article courtesy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 2023

To view the full article in Hebrew: <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/banin310723>



For the first time: 200 doctors from Eastern Europe will be integrated into the health system in Israel.

In recent months, 200 Jewish doctors from Eastern European countries have completed the "Doctors' Journey" program of the Masa organization, and in the coming months they will complete the process of being accepted in Israel as new immigrants and will integrate as

full-fledged doctors in the Israeli health system. This year, the number of participants in the program has doubled, and for the first time will reach 200 doctors. The doctors are from countries such as Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and are expected to be integrated into hospitals in the periphery and the medical system in the IDF.

The Doctors' Journey program, was founded by the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel and was established 15 years ago against the background of the shortage of doctors in the Israeli health system. As part of the program, every year dozens of Jewish doctors from Eastern European countries are admitted to this unique course that is designed to help their absorption, and includes Hebrew studies and a course designed to prepare them for the licensing exams to practice medicine.

Article courtesy of Maariv, April 2023



To view the full article in Hebrew: <https://www.maariv.co.il/news/health/Article-1002727>

International Conferences/ Webinars

World Medical Association Council Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya April 2023

The Israeli Medical Association was represented at the 223rd Council session of the World Medical Association (WMA) by our president, Prof Zion Hagay; CEO, Adv. Leah Wapner and International Relations Officer, Michelle Glekin. The meeting was held from the 20th to the 22nd of April in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the meeting, Prof Hagay was elected to be Chair of the WMA standing Committee on Socio-Medico Affairs. In his nomination speech, Prof Hagay stated that “Social issues and differences in equality are close to my own heart, as well as how to address the different cultural aspects across country, across continent, and across generation.”

In addition, to Prof Hagay's election, Dr. Jack Resneck from the American Medical Association was elected as Chair of the Committee of Finance and Planning; Dr. Steinunn Thordardottir from the Icelandic Medical Association was elected as Chair of the Medical Ethics Committee; Dr. Jung Yul Park from the

Korean Medical Association was elected as Chair of Council; Dr. Tohru Kakuta from the Japan Medical Association was re-elected Vice Chair of Council and Mr. Rudolf Henke from the German Medical Association was elected Treasurer of the World Medical Association. We wish all newly elected official congratulations and success in their new positions. We truly look forward to working more closely with them.

Three emergency resolutions were adopted by the Council:

- WMA Council Resolution for an immediate and effective ceasefire in Sudan and the protection of health care
- WMA Council Resolution on Anti-LGBTQ Legislation in Uganda
- WMA Council Resolution on Proposed Legislation in UK on the Treatment of Migrants disregarding the injunction interim measures Rule 39 of ECHR

There were also three new workgroups established at the meeting on the Environment, Epidemics and Pandemics, and Human Sexuality. We look forward to hearing the results of these new workgroups at the next meeting.

The Israeli Medical Association is an active participant in the WMA workgroups on Advocacy and Communications, Review Committee, Declaration of Helsinki (DoH) and Health Emergencies. The IMA is also the chair of the workgroup on Medical Technology.

After a few days of long discussions, the participants were able to enjoy the social events put on by the WMA and the Kenyan Medical Association. This began with a welcome reception at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, where the participants were able to see Nairobi city and enjoy some wonderful traditional treats. After the meeting, the participants were treated to a safari drive at the Nairobi National Park. This is Kenya's first game reserve and the only protected area in the world that sits so close to a nation's capital. The participants were able to spot black rhinos,





Professor Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association and Ms. Clarisse Delorme.

lions, giraffe, and zebra, as well as some 400 bird species. The tour of the beautiful wildlife culminated with a dinner at the Kenya Wildlife Services clubhouse inside the National Park where guests enjoyed a delicious meal together with bonfires and Kenyan traditional dances under the moonlight.

European Forum of Medical Associations 37th Annual Meeting

A large delegation of the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) attended the 37th annual meeting of the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA) in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting, which was hosted by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists on the 21st -24th of June 2023, was held in solidarity with Ukraine. The Annual Forum was open to all European medical professional organizations working at national level.

Israeli Medical Association CEO, Leah Wapner, opened the meeting in her position as Secretary General of EFMA.

Also in attendance were Israeli Medical Association and WMA Past President, Prof Leonid Eidelman, Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner, Past Chair of the IMA World Fellowship and Dr. Alex Levin, IMA Board Member.

The main topics of the meeting focused on the theme of solidarity with Ukraine and included sessions on Medicine in Times of Conflict; Healthcare Workforce Migration; Healthcare for Refugees and Rehabilitation. In addition to the representatives from the National Medical Associations across the European Region, a large delegation of doctors from Ukraine were welcomed to the meeting.

In the opening of the session, Leah noted that EFMA continues to work with the World Medical Association



Israeli Medical Association CEO & Secretary General of EFMA Leah Wapner and President of the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists.

(WMA) and Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) in the project to support colleagues in Ukraine. A taskforce was set up in March 2022 to coordinate their joint response to the war in Ukraine. Many medical associations stepped up, with offers for assistance both financially and logistically. The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists agreed to be part of the taskforce and have been invaluable in assisting with the logistics of releasing shipments from customs in Poland and transferring them by truck to Ukraine. The fund has worked to collect donations used to purchase medical supplies in great need in Ukraine. The Israeli Medical Association took a lead in procuring medical supplies in Israel and shipping them to Ukraine via Poland.

Leah also presented the role of National Medical Associations (NMA) in times of conflict. Leah updated the participants on the work of the taskforce. In addition, she noted that NMA's have a triple duty to:

- Care for population and health workforce
- Advocate neutrality of health workforce
- Advocate for Medical Aid

IMA's Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner and Prof Leonid Eidelman co-chaired the session on rehabilitation. Dr. Siev-Ner introduced the topic of rehabilitation and then presented on rehabilitation in times of disasters.

Throughout the meeting, participants were also able to hear first-hand from the many experts who presented from Ukraine.

The meeting was a great success, and participants were also able to enjoy some time in the beautiful and interesting city of Warsaw. On Thursday evening, participants were treated to a gala dinner in a traditional Polish restaurant, where they tasted delicious Polish cuisine. On Saturday there was a social tour which began with a walking tour of the Warsaw-Royal route walk and included both the Old and New Town. Following this, the participants enjoyed a Vistula River Sightseeing Cruise, where they were served a delicious lunch and relaxed cruising down the river.

SEEMF BOARD MEETING, MACEDONIA.



The Southeast European Medical Forum (SEEMF) held its annual Board Meeting in Ohrid, North Macedonia in May of 2023. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 5th International Congress of Gynecologists and Obstetricians that was organized by the Macedonia Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians.

Dr. Alex Levin, Chairman of Community Division Association of Physicians, Deputy Chair of IMA and SEEMF Board Member, attended the meeting on behalf of the Israeli Medical Association.

Prior to the meeting, Dr Levin visited Bulgaria and met with Prof. Andrey Kehayov, SEEMF President, and other leading Bulgarian doctors to further cooperation and relations between Bulgarian doctors and the Israeli Medical Association.

Prof. Andrey Kehayov then accompanied Dr. Alex Levin on the long drive from Bulgaria to the city of Ohrid, located in the western part North Macedonia, finally arriving at the shores of Lake Ohrid, one of the world's most beautiful lakes.

Upon arrival in Ohrid, Dr. Levin met members of the SEEMF Secretariat and participated in the opening of 5th International Congress of Gynecologists and Obstetricians. The next day, the SEEMF Congress meeting was held with

the participation of representatives from 16 member states of the organization.

The meeting covered several important topics, among them: organization of an annual SEEMF conference in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece, distribution of a SEEMF newsletter and organizational plans for 2024.

The representative from Greece gave an overview of the preparation of the conference in Thessaloniki, the agenda, and the motivations for setting up the conference.

The first issue of the SEEMF organization newsletter, which includes both professional and organizational content, was presented.

Monte Negro proposed to hold the next SEEMF Congress in 2024 and this proposal was appreciated by members of the secretariat. The secretariat also decided to conditionally accept the state of Croatia as a member of the Organization until a final decision is made at the Thessaloniki conference.

In the evening, the participants were invited to a dinner where they talked about the importance of cooperation between member states in the organization and where the members expressed their appreciation to the State of Israel and to the level of medicine in our country.



BMA's 191st Annual General Meeting



St George's Hall - BMA Celebratory Dinner

The British Medical Association held their 191st Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year in the city of Liverpool from the 3rd to the 5th of July. The AGM is responsible for the appointment of auditors, approval of the annual report and financial statements, and considers any proposed amendments to the articles of the medical association or any matters that the Council wishes to discuss. As part of the AGM, constituent bodies send elected representatives to the Annual Representatives Meeting (ARM), where they debate upon and pass new BMA policies. ARM also conducts various elections, considers reports from council, the board, and committees.

The Israeli Medical Association (IMA) was invited to attend as part of the international delegation. The IMA's International Relations Officer, Michelle Glekin, represented the Association at the meeting. The meeting began with an awards ceremony, where awards were presented to BMA members and staff for their outstanding and sustained commitment to the work of the association and profession. Professor Martin McKee, the President of the BMA, gave a keynote address and highlighted the important work that the BMA and all its members and staff do.

The next morning, the Annual Representatives Meeting began with Dr. Phil Banfield, BMA Chair of Council, presenting the opening address in which he discussed the problems that the National Health Service (NHS) is facing.



BMA - left to right Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Prof. Dr. J.A. Jayala, Prof Martin McKee, Mrs McKee, Dr. J.P Tabone, Mrs Michelle Glekin



Left to right - Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, Dr. Osahon Enabulele, Sir Michael Marmot, Dr. J.A. Jayala, Michelle Glekin, Sarada Das

"As we look at our health service today, we see hospitals falling apart and ambulances stacked outside emergency departments. We look patients in the eye and apologise when we have not been able to provide the care and treatments we've been trained to give. All around us the NHS is collapsing." Dr. Banfield stated that the situation is not a result of the pandemic, nor due to new economic challenges precipitated by the war in Europe. He suggested that this is something about which British doctors have been warning for more than a decade.

In addition to interesting discussions on issues such as doctors' pay and contracts, professional regulation and medical ethics and human rights, participants were also able to attend scientific sessions on various issues. On day one, IMA's International Relations Officer, Michelle Glekin, attended the session on "Delving into our DNA-genomics and the revolution transforming healthcare in the NHS" which was led by Professor Dame Sue Hill DBE, the Chief Scientific Officer for England. On day two, she attended the session on "Social Justice and Health Equity: What we need governments to do", which was led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director, UCL Institute of Health Equity and past president of the World Medical Association.

The BMA also hosted an International Guests Reception where the international delegates were able to meet. What became apparent from discussions with the other participants was that many countries are facing the same issues of workforce burnout, poor working conditions and poor remuneration. At this meeting, guests were able to meet with the incoming President of the BMA, Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, an honorary consultant physician at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. Prof Sir Gilmore trained in Cambridge, London, and in the USA. He currently chairs the UK Alcohol Health Alliance and the Department of Health Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group and is a Trustee of the Foundation for Liver Research. He is also the

President of the Medical Council on Alcohol. In addition to this, he is a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside. We look forward to working more closely with Prof Sir Gilmore over the next year in the international arena.

On the final evening, guests enjoyed a celebratory dinner which was held in the beautiful building of St George's Hall. The Hall is one of the finest examples of a neoclassical building and stands majestically over the city skyline. The guests enjoyed a delicious meal where they were able to meet with BMA leadership, colleagues from around the world and doctors from across the United Kingdom.

American Medical Association Annual Meeting

The American Medical Association held their annual meeting from the 9th – 14th of June at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. The Israeli Medical Association was represented at the meeting by Prof Zion Hagay (President), Adv Leah Wapner (Secretary General) and Michelle Glekin (International Relations Officer).

The meeting began with an opening ceremony on Friday evening. In his opening address, outgoing President Dr. Jack Resneck spoke about attacks on physicians and the resilience of the AMA in fighting these. "We are more resolute in our work because of the challenges and existential threats to our profession and our patients. Even when there are temporary setbacks, our common cause is to speak out for, and to advance our flame, our ethical values, and our common purpose—that is what keeps us going."

James Madara, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AMA



Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld - Inauguration



AMA House of Delegates

highlighted the importance of organised medicine and the need for a unified voice for the profession.

Dr. Bruce Scott, an otolaryngologist from Kentucky, was voted president-elect of the AMA. He stated that “Winning the faith and support of my peers to represent the nation’s physicians and patients we serve is a great honor and tremendous responsibility...With physician burnout surging, prior authorizations taking more and more time and resources away from patient care, and an unsustainable Medicare system, I will advocate relentlessly during my presidency for the AMA Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians”. Dr. Scott will be installed as AMA president in June 2024.

The IMA delegation attended a side event on the AMA Physicians Innovation Network (PIN) which was hosted by Matter, a global healthcare startup incubator. AMAs PIN is a free platform designed to connect companies seeking clinical validation for their solutions with physicians and other key stakeholders. There was also a panel discussion with health care technology investors.

The delegation also joined an international dinner which was hosted by AMA CEO James Madara. The evening began with a reception followed by a seated dinner, where guests were able to network and enjoy the views of the city from

the balcony.

On Tuesday 13th June, Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, was inaugurated as the 178th AMA president. Dr. Ehrenfeld is a practicing anaesthesiologist, senior associate dean, and tenured professor of anaesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he leads the largest state-wide health philanthropy, the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment.

He is also the first openly gay person to hold the office of AMA president. In his inauguration speech Dr. Ehrenfeld called for physicians to seek a more equitable tomorrow.

“Standing on this stage tonight and accepting the honor of the AMA presidency is proof that our organization can evolve. This is why visibility matters,” he said. “This is why, when you have a platform like this one, you have a responsibility to use it for the greater good and to try and lift up those who haven’t yet found their voice.”

The Israeli Medical Association wishes Dr. Ehrenfeld much success in the coming year and we look forward to continuing to work together in the international arena.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by a reception and dinner/dance in the hotel’s grand ballroom. The guests enjoyed a delicious meal, wonderful music by the band Bluewater Kings and lots of dancing.

127th German Medical Assembly

On the 15th -17th of May the Israeli Medical Association was represented by Prof Zion Hagay, President together with Adv. Leah Wapner, CEO at the 127th German Medical Assembly of the German Medical Association in Essen, Germany. For four days, 250 medical representatives from all over Germany gathered to provide impetus for health policy and to discuss important professional policy issues.

Prof Hagay was invited to speak at the opening of an Exhibition "Fegt alle hinweg..." Zum Approbationsentzug jüdischer Ärztinnen und Ärzte, "Sweep away all those who do not want to understand the signs of the times ..." which is dedicated to the Jewish doctors whose license to practice medicine was forcibly revoked in 1938. The exhibition, which showed portraits of Jewish doctors who were ostracised, expelled and murdered by the National Socialists, was held in the Old Synagogue in Essen. At the opening of the exhibition, Dr. Rudolf Henke, President of the North Rhine Medical Association, welcomed the guests to



Folkwang Chamber Orchestra Essen and Uwaga! under the direction of Johannes Klump.
Photo credit Christian Glawe Greibel.



Winner of the Paracelsus Medal, 2023, Dr. Leon Weintraub, Dr. Claus Vogerl and Dr. Conellia Coesman with BAK President Reinhardt. Photo Credit Christian Glawe Greibel.



Old Synagogue in Essen. Left to right Prof. Frank Montgomery, Dr. Ramin Parsi Parsi, Prof. Zion Hagay, Adv. Leah Wapner, Michelle Glekin, Annette Guntert.

the event. He was followed by Julia Jacob, the 1st Mayoress of the City of Essen and Dr. Uri-Robert Kaufmann, the Director of the Old Synagogue Essen and then the curators of the exhibition Mrs Ursula Ebell, and Dr. Hansjörg Ebell, who introduced the exhibition.

Prof Hagay was honoured to be invited to such an important and prestigious event. In his speech he commended the German people for doing what many other nations have not been able to do, and that is to stand up and acknowledge the mistakes of the past and apologise. Prof Hagay stated that “This is not an easy task, and it really means so much. Particularly as physicians, it is important for us to stand up and acknowledge the past.”

That evening the international guests were invited to a reception and gala dinner at the Parkhaus Hügel restaurant. This beautiful traditional restaurant lies on the shore of the lovely Baldeneysee Lake. The participants were treated to a delicious meal, beautiful views, and time to connect with National Medical Associations from across the globe.

The official opening ceremony of the 127th German Medical Assembly was held at the Philharmonie, Essen. The meeting began with a wonderful performance from the Folkwang Chamber Orchestra Essen and Uwaga, under the direction of Johannes Klump.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Federal Minister

of Health Prof. Dr. Karl Lauterbach and the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Karl-Josef Laumann.

In his opening speech, Dr. Reinhardt called on all those responsible in politics, society and the health care system to promote climate protection and climate adaptation through decisive measures.

On Wednesday morning, Leah Wapner was invited to present about the situation in Israel in relation to the proposed judicial reform. Leah outlined the main points of the proposed reform and explained how the country is split in their feelings toward this. While there has been a huge response in the form of spontaneous grass roots uprising against the proposed reform, there have also been many citizens protesting in support of the reform. This has torn family and friends apart. There are many people who believe when they voted on the 1st of November that we need to let this government rule. Leah outlined the IMA's response to the proposed legislation and the statement that was released in March 2023. It was an incredibly moving speech, and she received a standing ovation in response.

On Thursday, the 18th of May, the 127th German Medical Assembly re-elected Dr. Klaus Reinhardt as the President of the German Medical Association. We wish Dr. Reinhardt much success in this continued role, and we look forward to working with him during his next term as president.

Aliya Interview with Dr. Deborah Rund



Full Name: Deborah Rund

Occupation: Hematologist

Date of Aliyah: 1987

Made Aliyah from: New York City

Made Aliyah with: Husband and 2 small sons.

Personal/Professional Background

Could you tell me a bit about your education and work experience?

I was born in New York City and received my MD degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (1980). I trained in Hematology-Oncology at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. I took all my board specialization exams in Hematology and Oncology and made Aliyah immediately after my last exam, turning down lucrative positions in the hospital where I worked.

The Aliyah Process

What made you decide to make Aliyah?

My maternal family fled Nazi Germany and my mother arrived in NY in 1937 at age 10, with many relatives perishing in the Shoah. We had relatives who fled to Palestine in the 1930's. I grew up knowing that Israel was our real homeland. I also married an ardent Zionist who had been very active in Bnei Akiva and his friends made Aliyah long before we did. Our Aliyah was delayed by a decade as I decided to complete all my medical training in the USA.

Life in Israel

Briefly describe the Aliyah process:

We made Aliyah directly to Jerusalem. We were assisted

somewhat by an organization called "Tehila" which was a precursor of Nefesh B'Nefesh. We initially lived in an absorption center and then bought an apartment in Jerusalem.

Describe your professional work in Israel:

I had already found a job via my department head at Columbia who knew the head of the hematology department at Hadassah Ein Kerem. Thus I started work 18 days after landing. Fortunately, my work initially was in a research laboratory. I had learned Hebrew for 12 years but it was Biblical Hebrew with proper grammar and a pronounced Ashkenazi accent. It took me a while to learn colloquial and medical Hebrew.

Since I initially worked in research I was not pressed by the slow process of applying for a medical license and initially I was not allowed to go near patients. Fortunately, I did not have to take exams in Hebrew which I undoubtedly would have failed. I eventually got my permanent license 3 years (!) after bringing all my official documents to the offices of Misrad Habriut. Fortunately, I had brought letters attesting to my work competency from my colleagues in the USA which expedited the process as well as originals of every diploma I ever attained and certificates of specialization and medical licensure. I had received a temporary license after one year, but a permanent license took 3 years.

I stayed for 33 years in the same department working as a senior hematologist, morphologist, and Director of Apheresis. I did research, taught students, and participated in academia. Since age 70, I have become a consultant to an Israeli high-tech company working on the application of artificial intelligence to hematology, in the form of digital microscopy. I also have sort of retired and work now online for 2 medical journals.

Compare your work in your home country with working in Israel:

I found the level of patient care in hematology to be superb. I enjoyed having a very varied patient clientele, from all religions and backgrounds. I rarely saw private patients, preferring to see them in clinic. The main culture shock was the paucity of funds for research, which worsened during my years in Israel. This greatly affected my laboratory and eventually I abandoned research since my field (thalassemia) was one which lost funding, though initially I was able to do well with molecular studies of the disease in Israel. Overall I think I have achieved less than I may have academically if I had stayed in the USA (it took a long time to get academic rank here). However, I feel I devoted myself to the country and raised my family here which was worth any financial and personal sacrifices.

Chapter Updates



UK Chapter Update

(Jewish Medical Association UK)

Tamir Sirkis from Exeter, UK talks about his elective at the Haematology and Oncology, Schneider Childrens' Medical Centre / Tel Aviv University Medical School, Petach Tikva, Israel.

For my elective, I went to the Haematology-Oncology department at the Schneider Children Medical Centre in Israel.

Overall, I really enjoyed the experience and would recommend the elective to future students. There were many fascinating experiences of how culture combines with medicine, such as seeing a doctor spend 20 minutes to write a referral to a Rabbi, so that the Rabbi can provide medico-religious advice to the Jewish mother of a 3-year-old child with cancer who had a poor prognosis. These experiences have allowed me to appreciate the perspectives of religious patients of different religions, and I feel I am now better able to understand their thinking regarding medical decisions.

There were also many opportunities for me to develop my interests as a prospective academic clinician. Weekly journal club presentations included talks from world experts UCL, Chile and Canada, and most clinicians were happy to chat about their research with me. I therefore felt I gained useful advice on getting experience in medical research and have expanded my international research network.

Clinically, the ethnicities present in Israel gave me more exposure to conditions which are not as common as in the

UK. Consanguinity is prevalent in certain communities in Israel, and as such, rare genetic syndromes that predispose patients to cancer are more common. There are also conditions which are more common in the ethnicities prominent in Israel, which meant I had good exposure to conditions such as sickle cell anaemia and beta-thalassemia. As such, I felt the elective has given me an increased understanding of these conditions, which I hope will translate to increased confidence in managing patients with these conditions in my work as a doctor.

Professor Sir Simon Schama

The UK Chapter also welcomed guest speaker Professor Sir Simon Schama. Professor Sir Simon Schama, University Professor of Art History and History was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge and taught at Cambridge, Oxford, and Harvard before coming to Columbia in 1993. His courses have addressed the British Empire, English and French art and politics, the Gothic Revival in England, Ruskin, and Victorian culture. Throughout his distinguished career Prof Schama has contributed significantly to Jewish history. One of his first books was about Two Rothschilds and the Land of Israel (1978). Two major volumes about the History of the Jews (1000 BCE - 1492 and 1492 - 1900) and the BBC television series "The Story of the Jews" have appeared since 2000. His most recent book is on the highly topical subject of "Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations", 2023, which brings together aspects of medical, cultural, British, and Jewish history. 'Foreign Bodies' crosses the borders between east and west, Asia and Europe, the worlds of rich and poor, politics and science. It is a thrilling story that carries with it the credo of its author on the interconnectedness of humanity and nature, of the powerful and the people. Ultimately, Schama says, as we face the challenges of our times together, 'there are no foreigners, only familiars'.



Italian Chapter Update

The Italian Jewish Medical Association (AME) accounts among its Jewish and non-Jewish members both professionals and students in the field of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Psychology, Physiotherapy, and Nursing and is supported by its three regional branches: Milan and Northern Italy, Bologna and Tuscany, and Rome and Central Italy.

The Board of AME has been recently renewed for the period 2023-25 with the election of the national President Rosanna Supino and the three regional Presidents: Maurizio Turiel - Milan; Marina Marini-Bologna; Jacopo Castelnuovo-Rome.

The Association's activity is multifold and amongst its goals, there is the promotion of cultural exchanges with the emphasis on research, bioethics, and social medicine.

Other activities are related to sanitary services offered to the Jewish population in general, and to sanitary support during specific occasions, such as that offered in the synagogues during the Moadim.

For this latest initiative in 2023, AME Roma is being supported by the Friends of Magen David Adom association represented by our member Dr Cesare Efrati.

Over the past four years under the leadership of the Past President Prof. Fabio Gaj the initiatives carried on by AME Roma have been diverse, mostly related to social and cultural activities and volunteer work such as; one day lectures and meetings on different topics (male infertility; Israel medical support towards the Syrian population during the civil war - organized by the Israeli Embassy in Rome; adult and pediatric dental prevention day; breast cancer awareness), structured yearly courses (Jewish ethics in medicine; medicine and Shoah; bikur holim); yearly dental prevention campaign in Jewish schools; yearly emergency/casualty management course for the staff of the Jewish Community Security Service in charge of protecting the Jewish citizens in everyday activities; the blood donation day organized in cooperation with non-Jewish associations; rapid testing for SARS COV19 of all students of Roman Jewish schools before the vaccination campaign was available, supporting the

Jewish Deputation of Social Assistance providing dental care almost free of charge.

Recently AME Roma has welcomed among its member the Israeli fourth-year medical student at the University of Rome Tor Vergata - School of Medicine - Itay Moshe.

In 2023 AME has organized:

In Ferrara: conference in memory of Prof. Germano Salavatorelli on the subject: "A

modern Zedakà model: sanitary assistance as a tool for international cooperation".

Speakers: Davide Assael (philosopher, journalist), Giovanni Boniolo (Prof of science and medical humanities philosophy, University of Ferrara), Lucia Dal Negro

(co-founder and CEO of Delab S.r.l. SB), Nadav Davidovich (Ben Gurion University Israel), Mariano Schlimovich (Executive Director of the European Council of Jewish Communities) and Massimo Leone (neurologist; Besta Neurological Institute of Milan, public health program DREAM in Africa, Sant'Egidio Community);

Run for Mem; a city marathon to promote the remembrance and awareness of the Shoah amongst the general population.

In Bologna: online conference on the subject "...and they were deprived of the right

to cure..." about the expulsion of Jewish Italian physicians from the fascist medical labor unions.

In Milan; House of Memory: presentation of the book "The Evil in Medicine" by Federico Perozziello. Club Noam - conference on the subject "No, here it does not happen. But what if it happens? If we and our relationships are fatigued, who do we talk to? What can be done?" speakers Diana De Marchi (professor, President of the Commission for Equal Opportunities and Civil Rights - Municipality of Milan), Tamara Raba' (psychologist and therapist at DSM Niguarda), and Gabrielle Fellus (self-defense and self-esteem expert, I Respect center).

And finally, travel grants to Israel have been offered to attend an IMA course to be held in December.

Jacopo Castelnuovo DDS, MSD

President, AME Roma



*American Healthcare Professionals
& Friends for Medicine in Israel*



Fall 2023 Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel

November 11*-16, 2023

*After Shabbat

APF's **Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel** will be held November 11 to 16, 2023.

Created in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Health and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Medical Corps, this one-of-a-kind program offers physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals firsthand training from some of the world's foremost experts.

The course is open to Jews and non-Jews alike. Past participants have included those in the fields of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology, Internal medicine, Podiatry, Anesthesiology, Family Medicine, Physical Therapy, Nursing, Advanced Practice Nursing, Emergency Medical Technology and Public Health.

This activity has been granted 34 European CME credits (ECMEC®s) by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®).

If you have any questions, contact Amir Goldshtein at amir@apfmed.org or call 617-232-5382.



התאחדות
הרפואות בישראל
Israeli Medical
Association



The Future Health Matrix

September 18th-20th, 2024 | Hilton Tel-Aviv, Israel

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ISRAELI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL – IMAJ

We are happy to inform you that the Israeli Medical Association Journal (IMAJ) is available online to all IMA World Fellowship members.

IMAJ publishes original articles and reviews, editorials, case reports and other feature columns and includes unique coverage of specific regional issues such as infectious and parasitic diseases, effects of the local environment on morbidity and mortality and Jewish genetic diseases, that are relevant to medical practice in distant countries with similar biopsychosocial problems.

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