



A Word from the WF Chairperson



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the latest edition of IMA Around the Globe, featuring updates on recent domestic and international events.

This past year has been particularly challenging for Israel, especially following the tragic events of October 7th. In this issue you will read about

various initiatives that the Israeli Medical Association has started in response, such as the Global Jewish Health Alliance and the Writers' Group. Together, we've worked to ensure continued medical care, while also combating antisemitism and anti-Zionism in healthcare globally.

We know many of you are experiencing anti-Israel and/or anti-Semitic sentiments or behavior in your own countries. We are here to help in whatever way we can.

There is always good news as well. We highlight here some new Israeli achievements and discoveries that advance patient care.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all Shana Tova and Chag Sameach and may this season bring about the safe return of all our hostages and our brave soldiers and inspire hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Professor Hana Leiba
Chair
IMA - World Fellowship

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

**A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY
NEW YEAR!**



IMA Domestic News and Activities

Webinar- Israeli Medicine: A Story of Inspiration.

The Israeli Medical Association hosted a webinar on May 28th titled *"Israeli Medicine: A Story of Inspiration, Stories of Medical Care that Builds Bridges."* The event featured Arab and Jewish physicians discussing their cooperative efforts in global disaster response, providing care to Syrian war casualties, improving regional trauma care, and offering medical aid to children from underserved regions. The webinar highlighted the powerful collaboration within Israeli healthcare, embodying the spirit of healing and unity across communities

Date: May 28th, 2024

Global Jewish Health Alliance

The Global Jewish Health Alliance is a non-political, international organization, co-founded by the Israeli Medical Association and the American Jewish Medical Association (AJMA) in early 2024, following the events of October 7, 2023. Born from an urgent need in the wake of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in healthcare, GJHA stands as a beacon of advocacy, education, and collaboration. As the GJHA endeavors to create a united front, it stands poised to make a meaningful impact on global health and social justice, guided by the timeless Jewish values of compassion, equity, and solidarity.

The GJHA coordinates Jewish medical associations and groups from around the world to further our common goals. The aim of the Global Jewish Health Alliance is to amplify the Jewish voice in global health, combat antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and foster equitable representation in healthcare systems.

[Global Jewish Health Alliance Website](#)



Stay tuned for upcoming details on IMA's international membership in our next newsletter.

Science Abroad

On September 22, the IMA was proud to be a sponsor of the Pioneering Israeli Medicine Conference held in New York City. The conference was spearheaded by Science Abroad, an organization dedicated to bringing Israeli doctors and researchers back to Israel, strengthening the country's healthcare and innovation sectors.

The conference focused on cutting-edge Israeli medicine and explored topics such as trauma care, PTSD treatment, rehabilitation, IDF medicine, medical treatment under fire, and healthcare-driven innovation.

Adv. Malke Borow, Director of the Division of Law and Policy, spoke about the Israeli Medical Association and its role in innovation, policy, labor and international relations, as well as meeting with many potential Israeli physicians.



Adv. Malke Borow speaking at the "Pioneering Israeli Medicine" conference in New York. Photo by Ohad Kab

Features

A Year of Challenges: The IMA's Dedication to Our Community

Over the past year, Israel has faced unprecedented challenges that have tested our resilience and commitment to the health and well-being of our community.

The events following October 7th have placed immense strain not only on our healthcare system but also on the emotional and psychological well-being of our members and the broader population.

In response to this turmoil, the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) has remained steadfast in its mission to support healthcare professionals and advocate for the rights and needs of our community.

In the face of adversity, the IMA has initiated and engaged in various projects aimed at addressing the urgent needs arising from the conflict. We have focused on enhancing mental health support for medical professionals and providing resources to help them cope with ongoing stressors. Additionally, our participation in the Global Jewish Health Alliance has allowed us to collaborate with international medical organizations, amplifying our advocacy efforts and ensuring that the voice of Israeli healthcare is heard on the global stage.

Our commitment to supporting doctors in the reserves has been particularly significant; we have diligently worked to ensure that these medical professionals receive the necessary resources, training, and support as they balance their military and civilian roles.

Through these initiatives, the IMA has demonstrated its unwavering dedication to protecting our profession and advocating for the health of our society, striving to foster hope and resilience amidst challenging times.

Medical Achievements

October 7 stats reveal extraordinary lifesaving medical efforts



Dr. Aviv Gelber, head of the Commanders and Officers Branch at the IDF Military Medical Academy, speaking at the "Pioneering Israeli Medicine" conference in New York.

Photo by Ohad Kab

On October 7, 2023, Magen David Adom responded to a staggering 22,000 emergency calls and collected 3,800 blood units, far exceeding typical daily numbers. The IDF's medical teams managed over 1,500 urgent cases and conducted more than 1,300 air evacuations. These statistics were presented at the "Pioneering Israeli Medicine" conference, highlighting significant advancements in Israeli healthcare and the ongoing necessity for rehabilitation support amid the challenges posed by conflict.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

Link to the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/october-7-stats-reveal-extraordinary-lifesaving-medical-efforts/>



New app can trigger your brain into enhanced healing



Remepy founders, from left: Dr. Michal Tsur, Prof. Amir Amedi and Or Shoval.
Photo via Remepy

Israeli startup Remepy has developed "hybrid drugs" combining traditional medicine with smartphone apps to enhance treatments for diseases like cancer and Parkinson's. The app triggers the brain to release specific chemicals that enhance the effectiveness of pharmaceuticals. This approach, called "digital molecules," customizes treatments to reduce side effects or increase drug efficacy. Remepy has completed clinical trials with over 200 patients, showing promising results. The company aims to bring its first product to market within three years.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

Link to the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/new-app-can-trigger-your-brain-into-enhanced-healing/>

Eyelid wearable can predict and alert to epileptic seizure



Salignostics' founding team in Jerusalem.
Photo by Osnat Krasnansky

Israel-based company, Blink Energy, has developed an innovative wearable device that attaches to the eyelid to monitor blink patterns. Using AI, it detects abnormalities that can predict conditions like epilepsy, sleep disorders, and Parkinson's disease. The device aims to provide early warnings, especially for epilepsy patients, to reduce anxiety and improve quality of life. Although still in prototype form, the patch is lightweight and discreet. The company plans to launch commercially within two years. The wearable technology has received backing from Israeli innovation organizations.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

Link to the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/eyelid-wearable-can-predict-and-alert-to-epileptic-seizure/>

Saliva-based cancer testing on its way



Salignostics' founding team in Jerusalem.
Photo by Osnat Krasnansky

Israeli startup Salignostics, in partnership with Sheba Medical Center, is developing a saliva-based test for early detection of oral cancer. The test leverages Salignostics' existing saliva processing technology, which has already been used in home pregnancy and COVID-19 tests. Saliva's direct contact with infected tissue makes it a valuable tool for detecting disease markers early, potentially improving survival rates. If successful, the platform could expand to diagnose other cancers, enhancing early diagnosis and treatment outcomes.

Article courtesy of Israel 21c.

Link to the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/saliva-based-cancer-testing-on-its-way/>

Health Minister at Enosh's Mental Health Conference: "Mental Health is a National Mission"



Uriel Bosso Minister of Health. Photo by Yariv Katz

The 2024 Mental Health Conference organized by the Enosh Association took place at the beginning of September, with the theme of "Operation Swords of Iron." Health Minister Uriel Busso addressed the Ministry of Health's plans in light of the current situation. "Over the past year, we have been leading the National Mental Health Program with unprecedented budgets and intensive work... In these challenging and emotional times, marked by tension and disagreements on a personal level, we are turning mental health into a national mission. We will lead a deep systemic reform."

"Recently, we revised the regional model and expanded patients' choice options for psychiatric hospitalization. We have increased the number of psychiatry residents in hospitals and provided additional support to institutions so they can accommodate more residents, thereby increasing services and manpower for the coming years. Additionally, we are advancing new construction plans and adding highly skilled professionals to hospitals, and we are very close to a historic salary agreement for public sector psychologists. There is no doubt that psychiatric hospitals play a very significant role in the mental health system, and alongside them, we must strengthen and expand services within the community."

Source: Calcalist September 4, 2024

<https://www.calcalist.co.il/conferences/article/sjidycsn0>

Finance Minister and Health Minister Promote New Hospital in Be'er Sheva



Photo by Niv Mosman

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Health Minister Uriel Busso signed the necessary permits in early September this year for the establishment of a new hospital in Be'er Sheva. This follows the government's decision to strengthen the public healthcare system and expand public hospitalization services in southern Israel. These permits are required to allow the partners involved in the hospital's creation to begin the planning and construction process.

After extensive preparatory work, the Ministers of Health and Finance signed permits for the Sheba Medical Center to establish the new hospital in Be'er Sheva. They also approved a permit for a joint venture between the Meuhedet and Leumit health funds, aimed at significantly improving the quality of healthcare services for the residents of the south. This is in addition to enhancing community-based care while ensuring that the new hospital is built as quickly and efficiently as possible. Once completed, the hospital will include approximately 600 beds and offer a wide range of services that will integrate with both hospitalization and community-based services in southern Israel.

Source: Makor Rishon September 8, 2024

<https://www.makorishon.co.il/news/783429/>

International Conferences/ Webinars

IMA participation in the Southeast European Medical Forum (SEEMF).



Dr. Alexander Levin MD, MHA Chairman, Community Division, "Clalit" Doctors' Organization Vice chairman of IMA SEEMF Board member

In September 2019, former IMA president Professor Leonid Eidelman and I were invited to participate in the 10-th meeting of SEEMF in Sofia, Bulgaria. SEEMF was created 15 years ago on the initiative of Professor Andrey Kehayov, former president of the Bulgarian Medical Association. The goals of the organization were to develop links between doctors from the countries of southeast Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union, to improve medical qualifications and to promote the development of healthcare in these countries. Now 26 countries, including Israel, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Latvia, Germany, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and many others send representatives to annual meetings of the Forum. At the general meeting of the delegates at the 10-th Congress of SEEMF, Israel was unanimously accepted as a member of the organization, and I was elected as a member of the Board. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic and

the Russia-Ukraine war made some unpleasant adjustments to the activities of the organization, and the annual meetings in 2020-2021 were cancelled. The next meeting took place in the city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria in 2022. An Israeli delegation including myself, Professor Shlomo Birkenfeld, Dr. Moshe Kostiner and Dr. Anatoli Brutman participated, and a report entitled "The Israeli Health Care system" was presented at the Congress. The next, 12th congress of SEEMF took place in 2023 in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece, where a report entitled "Migration of Israeli doctors" was presented and aroused great interest among the audience. Our delegation visited the Jewish Museum in Thessaloniki, where we learned about the history of the Jews in the city, the tragedy that happened after the Nazi occupation, the heroic struggle of the Jews in the ghetto and the death of Jewish community of the city, which before Second World War made up more than half of the population of the second largest city in Greece.

Today the SEEMF is one of the leading organizations that has united doctors and medical associations of many countries. Over the past two years it has been co-opted into the European and World Medical Associations.

The program of the annual SEEMF congress presents topics of many areas of medicine, including Immunology, Endocrinology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal medicine, Cardiology, Orthopedics, Family practice, Public Health and others. This gives Israeli doctors the opportunity to present their research and developments at the international level. In addition, active participation in the activities of SEEMF strengthens ties with foreign colleagues and helps to avoid attempts to isolate Israeli doctors during this difficult time.

The IMA and the leadership of the association as a whole attach great importance to participation in the activities of the Forum. As a member of the Board, I try in every way to develop cooperation with representatives of all countries, including Muslim ones. Doctors should be free of political tension and develop mutual cooperation. In the near future the 13-th congress of the SEEMF will be held, and it will certainly be a new milestone on the path of cooperation between the IMA and SEEMF.



CONFEMEL Conference, Mexico 2023

As a representative of the IMA, in November 2023 I first attended a conference of CONFEMEL (Confederation of Medical Organizations of Latin America and the Caribe) in Guadalajara, Mexico, when the Israel Medical Association was admitted as an Associated Member of the organization. For many years we had collaborated and shared experiences in the field of medical organizations and this was just a formalization of this fruitful relationship.

The next conference was held in Santander, Spain on May 9-11/2024 and was a great opportunity to meet all our friends from Latin America and the colleagues from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and the Vatican.

Santander is a beautiful city on the Cantabrian Sea and the hosts made sure we enjoyed our stay in the city.

In the different sessions we exchanged our experiences on vital themes of our profession: violence against medical staff, the politics of drugs and its economic impact in the practice of medicine, the influence and changes in areas with high migration index, the importance of CME and securing a similar standard of accreditation to the



physicians in the different countries and last but not least, the ethical aspect of all these issues.

As you can see, in this globalized world we share many similar conflicts and ways of facing them.

A most interesting and challenging program made for a very successful conference.

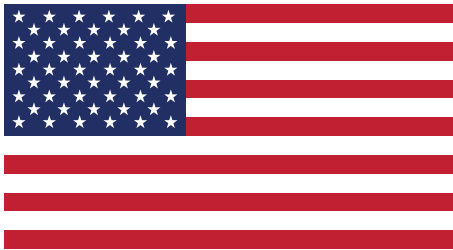
Looking forward to the next meeting that will take place in Lima, Peru next November.



Dr Ester Barchilon Assistant Director, Relations with Latin America

Chapter Updates

USA



Round Table Discussion with Prof. Ronni Gamzu

On Sunday, April 14, 2024, Prof. Ronni Gamzu, CEO of Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, led an exclusive round table discussion on Israel's rehabilitation and PTSD initiatives. Prof. Gamzu, who directed Israel's COVID-19 response, discussed his efforts in establishing the Assif Center for Mental Health and a rehabilitation hospital for Israel's veterans.

"One Vision, One Community, One Nation" – Meet the Physicians of Reim

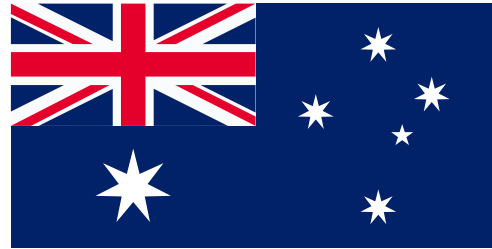
On March 17, 2024, the physicians behind Reim shared how they brought together renowned U.S. doctors to save lives and support Israeli physicians who were called to duty.

Reim is a nonprofit that provides urgent medical aid to Israel. Since October 7, they've worked with the Israeli Ministry of Health to send volunteer doctors and medical equipment to hospitals.

AIMA Bani Medical Center Live Art Show Auction

On April 11, 2024, the AIMA Bani Medical Center hosted a live art show and auction to support their medical initiatives.

Australia



Post October 7th has seen a dramatic change in our organisation. The interest in the AJMF has grown since medical practitioners have had an increased need to connect with each other. There has been an influx of a younger generation of medical professionals with an interest in engaging with other Jewish doctors but also in participating in advocacy in the healthcare space. As in other countries, there have been many examples of both anti-Israel vitriol and antisemitism. We have engaged with medical regulators to enforce rules regarding appropriate professional behaviour both in person and online including on social media sites. We have also represented our medical community to politicians and those in senior administrative positions in our hospital system.



President Australasian Jewish Medical Federation (VIC)

We have seen a degeneration in attitudes towards Israel's right to exist and to defend itself from Hamas, with moral confusion across the board; medical student organisations, specialist medical colleges, universities, and nursing unions. Jewish medical practitioners here, as in other countries, have felt isolated and vilified. Some of our talented medical practitioners have also penned excellent articles in medical journals presenting our narrative in this Israel / Gaza conflict. It is in times of adversity when Jews have displayed significantly increased unity, and this has been no exception in our medical community here in Australia.

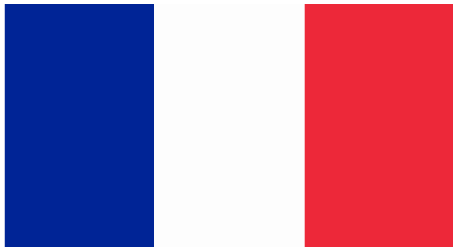
Dr Jack Green

Canada



The Canadian branch of the world federation of the IMA continues its commitment to fostering and supporting relationships between IMA Israel and IMA Canada. We have sent financial support to several organizations in Israel since October 7, 2023. We are working on how best to find support for Canadian physicians who wish to work in Israel. We plan to meet with our membership to discuss initiatives.

France



Congress of French Jewish Doctors in Tel Aviv

The congress went well, it brought together 195 French doctors. It is a shame that the president of the IMA or one of the representatives of the IMA was not present; it would have been an opportunity to discuss future projects together. We had fruitful meetings with Magen David Adom (an ambulance was offered by one of our members) and with Keren Kayemet Le Israel. We had some interesting visits.

Dr Bruno Halioua





ההסתדרות
הרפואית בישראל
Israeli Medical
Association

האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית
לרפואה מדעית
ליד ההסתדרות הרפואית בישראל

הכנס המדעי השנתי הראשון של
האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית לרפואה מדעית

Clinician - scientists the untold stories

5.12.24

אקספו תל אביב ◀◀◀ SAVE THE DATE



IMA

Around The Globe

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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.

www.ima.org.il/imag