

## A word from the chairman

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with the latest issue of IMA "Around the Globe". Recently the IMA has enjoyed international activity, with trips to the Vatican and Japan. We participated in the WMA General Assembly in Chicago, and joined European organization meetings in Brussels. At our office, we welcomed doctors from Canada and the United States. And, as you can read about in more detail in this issue, "Choosing Wisely" was officially launched in Israel. The campaign aims to help physicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures.

Within the IMA World Fellowship, we have completed our 2017 Regional Meetings in Dusseldorf. Prof. Leonid Eidelman and I were pleased to see many of you taking part in the European meeting, and I enjoyed the opportunity to reunite with long-time members and meet new members face-to-face. I would like to thank Prof. Rotem Lanzman, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Physicians in Germany (BVJM), for organizing such a successful and

interesting meeting. The American Israeli Medical Association (AIMA) held its 10th annual BioMedTech summit in October, focusing on the current state of Israeli medicine and startups and what the medical field will look like in 2030. Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner and I had the honor of speaking at the event which was a great success. Our abiding appreciation to Dr. Jacob Offenberger, President of AIMA and Dr. Ben Drillings, Director of AIMA, for spearheading the event and for their abiding partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Leonid Eidelman, President of the Israeli Medical Association, who was elected President of the World Medical Association (WMA), an umbrella body representing national medical associations with more than nine million members around the world. Eidelman received more than two-thirds of the votes and will take office a year from now.

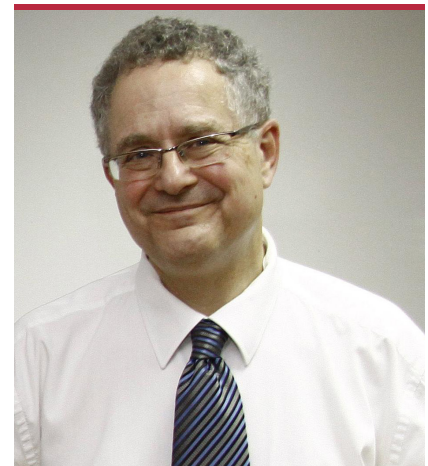
As always, in this newsletter you will also be able to read about upcoming events in both Israel and abroad and hear about the activities of our IMA Chapters

throughout the world.

It is hard to believe that 2017 has come to a close and 2018 is already here. On that note, my heartfelt wishes for a wonderful new year filled with joy, health and enriching experiences.

> Dr. Zeev Feldman

Chairman,  
IMA World Fellowship



■ Dr. Zeev Feldman

# IMA Domestic News and Activities

## “Choosing Wisely” Launched in Israel

» On December 3rd, 2017, “Choosing Wisely” was officially spearheaded in Israel. The campaign aims to help physicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures, and to assist physicians and patients in making informed and effective choices to ensure high quality care.

Choosing Wisely is an international community, made up of nations who are implementing similar programs in their respective countries. At present, this community includes representation from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherland, New Zealand, South Korea, Switzerland, United States and Wales.

The event honoring this occasion was held at IMA. Among the guests were doctors and representatives from the

Ministry of Health, Scientific Council and IMA. The keynote speaker was Dr. Wendy Levinson, who heads Choosing Wisely Canada and is a pioneer of the Project. She spoke about the implementation of the program and its achievements in Canada and the United States.

Prof. Leonid Eidelman, President of the IMA, and Prof. Itamar Grotto, head of Public Health Services at the Ministry of Health, delivered brief remarks and praised the initiative. Moreover, approximately 14 societies presented their recommendations to physicians and the public. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the nursing profession, who presented their list of recommendations.

As part of the initiative, the Hebrew website was launched, where one can find recommendations and a plethora of information about the initiative and the principles of its activity. The

recommendations of Choosing Wisely in Israel were written by the IMA’s scientific societies which represent physicians in Israel in the various fields of medical expertise. The Israeli recommendations join hundreds of recommendations written by other member countries. Some are similar to existing recommendations, some are unique and all have been adapted to reflect the characteristics of the Israeli medical system. The site can be found at: <http://www.choosingwisely.org.il/>

The IMA is operating this initiative as part of the “Quality Leaders” project, under the direction of Prof. Ran Blitzer, in cooperation with the Israeli Society for the Prevention of Overdiagnosis and Overtreatment; the Israeli Society for Quality Healthcare and the IMA Institute for Quality in Medicine.



■ Dr. Wendy Levinson, Chair, Choosing Wisely Canada

## Forum for the Health of the Physician and the Prevention of Burn Out

» On November 20th, 2017, the Israeli Medical Association hosted a forum for the health of the physician and the prevention of burn out.

Erica Frank, MD, MPH, Professor and Canada Research Chair, UBC; Founder and President, NextGenU.org, gave a lecture on “Healthy Doc Equals Healthy Patient”. She spoke about the international, evidence-based links between physicians’ health choices and their patients. She also discussed ways to simultaneously improve physicians’ health and that of patients globally.

She imparted that physicians with the healthiest habits are more likely to advise their patients about related preventive habits and how appropriate physician revelation about healthy personal habits can make them more believable and motivating to patients.

Moreover, Frank stressed that medical students who are encouraged to be healthy are more likely to become doctors who talk about prevention.

Dr. Frank’s presentation was followed by a brainstorming session with the aim of “translating” the responsibility and commitment of IMA to the doctor’s health.



■ Erica Frank, MD, MPH, Professor and Canada Research Chair, UBC; Founder and President, NextGenU.org

At the forum’s conclusion, those present received tasks to examine the feasibility of the various ideas raised at the meeting. Some of the ideas for projects dealt with physical activity for physicians, proper nutrition, preventive medicine and testing for early detection

of diseases.

In February, the first IMA conference will be held on the subject and it will include a brainstorming session building upon the outcomes and conclusions of this meeting.

# Medical Achievements

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## Hidden bacteria can hinder chemotherapy, study finds

» A Bacteria hidden inside cancer cells may hinder the effectiveness of chemotherapy. The surprising finding was published last week in Science magazine based on research led by molecular cell biologist Ravid Straussman of the Weizmann Institute

of Science in Rehovot, Israel. Straussman's team was testing the effect of normal non-cancerous human skin cells on the sensitivity of cancers to chemotherapy when they serendipitously stumbled upon bacteria that had accidentally contaminated the skin cells.



■ Chemotherapy

To read the full story, [click here](#).

## Haifa hospital tests first implant for heart failure

» A 72-year old Canadian man has become the world's first recipient of an Israeli-developed implant to treat diastolic heart failure – a fairly common condition for which there is no effective long-term treatment.

The minimally invasive surgery was performed on July 26th at Rambam

Health Care Campus, a medical center in Haifa, by a multidisciplinary team led by cardiologists Gil Bolotin, director of cardiac surgery, and Arthur Kerner, senior physician in the Interventional Cardiology Unit.



■ Cardiologist Gil Bolotin checking patient Robert MacLachlan

To read the full story, [click here](#).

## How your eyelids move is a clue to diagnosing disease

» What do your eyes say? An eyelid motion monitor (EMM) under advanced development at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa can diagnose certain diseases.

Not yet commercialized, the device – which attaches to standard refraction glasses used in eye exams – already has won several international awards and was ranked in the top 20 in the Texas Instruments Innovation Challenge – Europe Design Contest.

Over the past two years, a prototype of



■ Dr. Oz Levinkron, seated, of the Technion Faculty of Medicine, wears the device that can diagnose diseases based on eyelid motion. At right, lead researcher Adi Hanuka of the Technion.

the device has been used in clinical trials at Emek Medical Center in Afula under the direction of Dr. Daniel Briscoe, ophthalmology department head.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

# Humanitarian Aid

## Experts Delegation to Togo



Deputy Head of MASHAV Ambassador Yuval Fuchs led an experts' delegation to Togo to establish an action plan for cooperation in the areas of agriculture, education and health.

: installation of an Emergency and Trauma Unit including training of local medical staff.

During the visit, an MOU was signed between MASHAV and Togo's Ministry of Health signed for the establishment and

: Ambassador Fuchs was accompanied by Dr. Yossi Baratz, MASHAV's medical adviser, Galit Aber, Head of Training at CINADCO, and agricultural expert Yariv Keidar.



■ Signing MOU for the establishment and installation of an Emergency and Trauma Unit

# Israeli Humanitarian and Emergency Teams Arrive in Mexico



Following the devastating earthquake which hit the country, a fifty-member team of the IDF Search and Rescue Unit, together with a planeload of equipment arrived in Mexico to take part in rescue operations.

As news arrived of the devastating magnitude of the earthquake, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered that assistance and a search and rescue operation be organized and leave for Mexico as soon as possible. Upon arrival the Israeli delegation immediately joined the local teams in life-saving efforts to reach those still trapped under the debris.

During the visit, an MOU was signed between MASHAV and Togo’s Ministry of Health signed for the establishment and installation of an Emergency and Trauma Unit including training of local medical staff.

Ambassador Fuchs was accompanied by Dr. Yossi Baratz, MASHAV’s medical adviser, Galit Aber, Head of Training at CINADCO, and agricultural expert Yariv Keidar.

**“ Israeli delegation immediately joined the local teams in life-saving efforts**



■ Israel’s Search and Rescue Unit at work in Mexico



# International Activities

## CMAAO's 32<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

» The Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) held its 32nd General Assembly and 53rd Council Meeting in Tokyo this September. As its name indicates, this organization builds connections among medical associations within the Asia-Pacific region by promoting information exchange and other activities aimed at improving the health of all citizens. Currently, CMAAO encompasses 17 national medical associations; Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, serves as its president and Dr. Ravindran Naidu is the president-elect.

During the GA, there was a



■ Participants at the 2017 CMAAO General Assembly, Tokyo

symposium on “End-of-Life Questions”, with an invitation extended to the WMA members of the Asian region of which Israel and China attended. Professor Leonid Eidelman, President of the IMA, presented at the symposium, his focus

was the Israeli perspective.

In general, the NMAs comprising the CMAAO support the creation of Advanced Directive and advanced care planning with physicians for terminally-ill patients.

## Professor Leonid Eidelman Elected President of the WMA

» Professor Leonid Eidelman, President” of the Israeli Medical Association, has been elected president of the World Medical Association (WMA), an umbrella body representing national medical associations with more than nine million members around the world. Representatives of the WMA gathered in Chicago for the organization’s annual meeting, during which elections were held for its next president. Eidelman received more than two-thirds of the votes and will take office a year from now.

Eidelman, 65, will succeed Japan’s Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura to lead the WMA beginning in October 2018. He has served as president of the Israeli Medical Association since 2009. He is a specialist in intensive care and anesthesia and manages the anesthesiology department

at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, in addition to his role as professor of anesthesiology and intensive care medicine at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. He immigrated to Israel from Riga, Latvia in 1987.

Eidelman’s election comes at a time that international organizations have come under pressure from pro-Palestinian Authority groups to expel Israel, including a 2016 attempt to kick Israel out of the WMA for allegedly “torturing” Arab patients. In a statement, Eidelman shared that the ongoing attempts to boycott Israel’s medical establishment gives the election added significance.

“The fact that an Israeli doctor was elected to the most prestigious role in the world of medicine, with a great



■ Prof. Leonid Eidelman, President-elect, WMA and President, IMA

deal of influence on the most important decisions regarding the behavior of doctors . . . is very significant.”

Professor Eidelman is also a prominent authority in the area of medical ethics in Israel, and has spoken out frequently against the force-feeding of hunger striking security prisoners from the Palestinian Authority.

## CPME General Assembly

» The CPME General Assembly and Working Groups meetings took place on 24-25 November 2017, in Brussels (Belgium). Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner, a board member of IMA’s World Fellowship, attended the meeting.

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. They are committed to contributing the medical profession’s point of view to EU institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.



■ CPME GA which took place in the International Auditorium, Brussels

## WMA European Regional Meeting on End-of-Life Questions

» Recent World Medical Association sessions have featured dynamic discussions on euthanasia and physician-assisted dying. To explore ethical dilemmas relating to end-of-life issues on a broader scale, plans were announced to initiate regional workshops focused on

these questions.

Given the range of policy and perspectives on this often-controversial subject in Europe, the German Medical Association collaborated with the World Medical Association and the Pontifical Academy for Life in the Vatican to host

this meeting. It took place at the Aula vecchia del Sinodo, Vatican on November 16-17.

This two-day event gathered leading European medical professionals, legal authorities, experts in palliative care and medical ethics, theological scholars and philosophers to debate the different policies on these issues, to explore patient rights and treatment limitations, and to better understand public opinion regarding end-of-life questions.

Professor Leonid Eidelman, President of the IMA and President-elect of the WMA delivered remarks about Compassionate use and conscientious objection.



■ Participants at the 2017 CMAAO General Assembly, Tokyo



## Declaration of Geneva Amended

» A newly revised version of the Declaration of Geneva was adopted by the World Medical Association (WMA) General Assembly on October 14, 2017, in Chicago.

As the contemporary successor to the 2500-year-old Hippocratic Oath, the current version of the Declaration, which had to this point been amended only minimally in the nearly 70 years since its adoption, addresses a number of key ethical parameters relating to the patient-physician relationship, medical confidentiality, respect for teachers and colleagues, and other issues.

The workgroup was chaired by

the German Medical Association and composed of workgroup members from different cultural, religious, and racial backgrounds, including Malke Borow, IMA's Director of the Division of Law and Policy. They were tasked with determining the need for a revision and carefully considered the Declaration in light of modern developments in medicine and medical ethics, as well as in the context of other important WMA policies and respected international literature. The workgroup also based its recommendations on comments solicited from WMA members on several occasions.

Each comment received over the course of the revision process was carefully reviewed by workgroup members and considered for inclusion in the revised draft.

“ They were tasked with determining the need for a revision and carefully considered the Declaration in light of modern developments in medicine and medical ethics

### The Revised Physician's Pledge

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

I WILL FOSTER the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;

I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

## World Medical Association General Assembly

» The World Medical Association (WMA) gathered in Chicago from October 11-14 for its Annual General Assembly. The event included committee meetings and debates with a keynote speech delivered by Dr. Antoni Fauci, an American immunologist and head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. During the assembly Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, President of the Japan Medical Association, was appointed WMA's President for 2017/2018 and Professor Leonid Eidelman, President of IMA, was elected to serve as its president for 2018/2019.

Moreover, revisions to the Declaration of Geneva, originally implemented by the Association in 1948, were adopted.

The WMA represents physicians of all specialties and sectors all over the world. It aims at ensuring both the independence of physicians and the highest possible standards in medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights. With 111 National Medical Associations, the WMA constitutes a forum for its members to communicate,

to co-operate, to achieve consensus on high standards of medical ethics and professional competence, and to promote the professional freedom of physicians worldwide.

Professor Leonid Eidelman, President of IMA and Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary-General of IMA, participated in the Assembly and attended many sessions

related to the different committees of WMA including: Medical Ethics, Finance and Planning, Socio Medical Affairs and more.

The IMA is honored to collaborate with the WMA and work together in promoting change and improving global health.



■ L to R: Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, President, WMA, Prof. Leonid Eidelman, President-elect, WMA and Dr. Ketan Desai, outgoing President, WMA



■ Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary-General, IMA



■ WMA Dinner at the Field Museum

# INTERVIEW with Arie E. Pelta

**Full Name:** Arie E. Pelta, MD  
**Occupation:** Colon and Rectal Surgeon  
**Date of Aliyah:** July 24, 2013

**Originally from:** Atlanta Georgia, USA  
**Made aliyah with:** Wife Alyssa and Seven Children: Avigayil, Elisheva, Yehuda, Rachel, Shalom, Moshe, and Ayelet

## Background/General Information

### Could you tell us a little bit about your education and past work experiences?

I graduated Valley Torah High School (Los Angeles) in 1991 and then spent a year in Yeshivat Ohr Yerushalyim in Beit Meir, Israel. That same year I also served in the IDF program Shomer Yisrael. In 1996, I graduated from YU with a BA in Biology and Pre-Medicine and was accepted to New York Medical College.

I received my M.D. degree in May 2001 and started my General Surgery Residency training at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. In 2006, I completed my final year as Chief Resident of General Surgery at North Shore – LIJ Medical Centers.

From 2007-2009 I worked in a large surgical practice; Georgia Colon and Rectal Surgical Associates (GCRSA). During this time, I became board certified in general surgery and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS); USA board certification is vital, since it is objective evidence that a surgeon is an expert in their field.

In 2009, I left GCRSA and joined the teaching staff of Atlanta Medical Center in order to build its colorectal surgery department and train its surgical residents. During this time, I became board certified and a fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (FASCRS) and became a Clinical Assistant Professor from the

Medical College of Georgia and Clinical Associate Professor from Ross University. I held this position until I made Aliyah in 2013.

### How did you decide to make Aliyah?

Since I was a child, my paternal holocaust survivor grandparents and my father had always instilled within me the dream to live in Israel. My stint at yeshiva in Israel, including my brief IDF service, planted the seeds of love for Israel and a desire to return.

I first attempted to make Aliyah in 2009. I saw an ad in the Jerusalem Post in which the IDF invited doctors from the USA to make Aliyah. I sent in my information several times but never received a reply. Later that year I attended a conference held by Nefesh b’Nefesh in NY. Dr. Chezi Levy, from the Ministry of Health, appealed to the fully trained doctors in the audience, that the State of Israel was in dire need of our services. He stressed that Israel had a severe shortage of doctors. This was an opportunity of a lifetime and the right time to make Aliyah.

In June 2012, I received my Fellowship Diploma from the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (signifying that I was recognized as an expert in my surgical field). That same day I went online and completed the Aliyah application.

### What were your reasons for making Aliyah?



■ Arie E. Pelta, MD

Making Aliyah is a continuous challenge; we are glad to be here. If we believe we are here doing G-ds work, then everything we experience is worthwhile. I really believe and feel that we are living in G-ds Palace and doing exactly what is our life goal – settling the land of Israel.

Thus, in June 2012, I again looked into the possibility of finding a job in Israel.

## The Aliyah Process

### Could you briefly describe the process of making Aliyah?

It was not easy. It’s still not easy. I started using the NBN website and contacting their staff. A lot of the information was not updated and I conducted extensive research. I started sending emails to every hospital in Israel listed on the website. In tandem, I began the process of getting my medical license in Israel.

To my surprise, most hospitals in

Israel did not respond. Thankfully, I was able to set up several interviews with hospitals in the north and the center of Israel. With that in hand, my wife and I went on our first pilot trip which coincided with “Operation Pillar of Defense.

None of the hospitals where I interviewed had available positions, but their representatives were happy to meet with me. They reminded me that a full monthly salary before taxes was only 8,000 NIS. During the trip, I interviewed at Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot and was offered a full-time position as Chairman of the Colorectal Surgery Division. With this offer on the table, we were determined to make Aliyah. Later that year we went on a second pilot trip to explore housing and schooling options in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

I quit my lucrative job at Atlanta Medical Center, we sold or gave away most of our books and furniture and put our large house on the market. That’s the price we were willing to pay. Nefesh b’ Nefesh guided us through the Aliyah process.

## Life in Israel

### Where do you live and work in Israel? Can you describe your job?

I work part time as a colon and rectal surgeon at Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot. I am part of a large private surgical practice in Assuta Tel-Aviv called Assia Medical. In addition, I manage two Colorectal Surgery clinics for Clalit, one in Mekor Baruch, Jerusalem and another one in the Big Mall, Beit Shemesh. In this capacity, I perform operations on a weekly basis for colorectal surgical issues.

Additionally, I volunteer at Magen

David Adom and Ichud Hatzalah and serve as the medical director of Ichud Hatzalah, Beit Shemesh. Currently, I field phone calls from EMTs and paramedics from Eilat to Ramat Hagolan several days a week. This past summer, I became a Captain in the IDF medical corps (Res.) and was recently assigned to be a physician in a MASH unit, supporting a major tank battalion assigned to the Golan Heights.

### What do you enjoy most about life in Israel? What are some of the challenges you have faced?

I enjoy living as a Jew to the fullest. I know this is my purpose in life, as a Jew. I know I am raising my children to be here forever; we are home. The holidays are the real deal, I feel and live it. My favorite pastime is going hiking with my children and walking the same hills as King David and Abraham. We love visiting archeological sites and discussing the biblical stories which happened on location, such as the battle of David and Goliath as can be seen from Tel Azeka, overlooking the Ella valley.

I face challenges every day. It’s a struggle being recognized as a specialist in my field. To the best of my knowledge there are only two other fellowship trained board certified colorectal



■ The Pelta family

surgeons in Israel. I am not allowed to use the title professor that I earned from the medical college of Georgia. As a result, Israeli patients do not believe that I am really a highly trained expert in my field. There is a huge need for surgeons in my profession, but it has been a real challenge finding a position in colon and rectal surgery. Presently, I work very long hours and pay high taxes.

We are still trying to find a permanent place to live. Two years ago, we bought a house on paper, which is still under construction, and the costs are much greater than anticipated.

My wife and I are still learning the ins and outs of the school system. Thankfully, our children are adjusting and speak Hebrew fluently.

Please see my blog on the Times of Israel web site.



■ Dr. Pelta and his children

# Chapter Tidbits



## AUSTRALIA

» At the end of July, the AJMF assisted the Israeli Embassy in Canberra with organising a 10 day ENT (Ear Nose & Throat) mission to Fiji. This was the 3rd mission conducted under the auspices of the Israel Department of Foreign Affairs MASHAV Centre of International Development and Cooperation, and our members, Dr Michael Gordon, Dr Eduard Pudel, Dr Mark Fajgman and Professor Rob Berkowitz generously donated their time and expertise. The medical mission provided free health screenings and 21 major surgeries at the local hospital in Suva, and generated much positive media attention in both the local and international press.

The AJMF organised a number

of clinical and educational meetings during the year; including presentations on Optimizing Drug Delivery to Patients with Asthma by Dr Linda Schachter and Pain Management and the Inherited Opiod Patient by Dr Daniel Lewis. There was also a joint function with the Australian Jewish Psychologists on the topic, Halachic Perspectives on Euthanasia, which provoked a broad discussion on a wide range of halachic and medical dilemmas.

Our annual movie night was well attended and members enjoyed a preview screening of the film, Bye



■ 2017 Medical Mission to Fiji



■ Dr Miriam Kuttner with visiting Israeli Fellows, Dr Amit Azriel, Dr Samuel Moscovici and Dr Uri Dior

Bye Germany, from the local Jewish International Film Festival.

The Victorian Branch has provided support for three Israeli Medical Fellows doing further training in Australia and also awarded two student scholarships to Australian medical students undertaking their elective training in an Israeli Hospital.

**Dr Miriam Kuttner**  
President AJMF (VIC)  
[www.ajmf.org.au](http://www.ajmf.org.au)



## UNITED STATES

» The American Israeli Medical Association (AIMA) held its 10th annual BioMedTech summit on October

15th, 2017, focusing on the current state of Israeli medicine and startups and what the medical field will look like in 2030.

Ben Drillings, the director of AIMA, provided some statistics about the Israeli medical field, most notably that Israeli biomedical companies received \$4.8 billion in investment in 2016, an 11% increase from the year prior.

Additionally, Drillings noted that there is a total of 568 Israeli biomed

companies and 1,350 active life science companies, half of which focused research and development. Israel also has the highest PhDs per capita worldwide.

Dr. Zeev Feldman, chairman of the Israel Medical Association World Fellowship, followed Drillings with a presentation predicting the state of Israeli health care and medicine in 2030. Feldman highlighted predictions from a Futurology podcast that 80%

of all doctor's visits would be replaced by automated tests and that 90% of restaurants would use 3-D printers for food, and then proceeded to give a rundown of what Israeli medicine and health care would look like.

Feldman predicted that fragmentation and specialization would continue in the field, as he believes that new specialties will be established and existing ones would be expanded. Feldman predicted that by 2030, most surgeries would rely on wireless energy, people can obtain "hyper-individual medicines" and pharmaceuticals will be nonexistent.

He also provided statistics showing that Israel is fourth worldwide in life expectancy and spends 7.4% of its GDP on health care, which he said was "extremely low."

Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner of the IMA World Fellowship followed Feldman by discussing how the Israeli army provides medical aid to those in dire need of it in other countries.

For example, when Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake in 2010 the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) sent field hospital staff members to Haiti in 72 hours, where they treated over 4,000 patients and performed 215 operations

in a span of two weeks.

Siev-Ner shared that in 2013, Israel provided care to seven Syrians at the border harmed by the civil war that has ravaged the country since 2011. Israel even ensured that the medical documentation they provided to the Syrians they treated had zero indication that they were treated by Israelis.

The final keynote speaker was Jon Medved, the CEO of OurCrowd. Medved focused on the thriving startup culture in Israel. He also pointed out that \$5 billion has been invested in Israeli startups and Israeli venture investment has soared by 150% since 2013.



## GERMANY

» The Association of Jewish Physicians in Germany hosted a Jewish physicians conference in Düsseldorf, Germany from 17-19.11.2017 on the theme "Jewish Tradition and Israeli High-Tech". Professor Rotem Lanzman, Chairman of the Association of German Physicians, was instrumental in ensuring the event's success.

The meeting followed on the successful European Jewish Medical Forum which took place in London in 2015, and was planned in cooperation with the Israeli Medical Association (IMA).

The President of the German Medical Association, Professor Frank Ulrich Montgomery, took part in the meeting, as



■ L to R: Dr. Zeev Feldman, Chairman, World Fellowship, Israeli Medical Association and Prof. Rotem Lanzman, Chairman, Association of Jewish Physicians in Germany

did, the Chair of the German Jewish community, Dr. Josef Schuster, who is himself a physician. In attendance, on behalf of IMA, was Professor Leonid Eidelman (IMA President) and Dr. Zeev Feldman (IMA World Fellowship chair).

Keynote addresses were delivered by Professor Efrat Levy – Lahat from Shaarei Zedek Hospital, Jerusalem. She is Israel's leading medical geneticist, and a world authority on genetic studies of Jewish populations, and by Professor

Gabriel Krestin, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, who is one of Europe's leading radiologists and has played an important role both in the European Society of Radiology in in promoting strategic studies in the subject.

Contributions from the Israeli hi-tech sector came from Professor Rafael Beyar, Rambam Hospital and Professor Chaim Lotan, Hadassah Medical Center.

The conference took place at the Radisson BLU Hotel (Düsseldorf-Golzheim), and was supported by the Jewish Community in Düsseldorf.



■ L to R: Prof. Frank Ulrich Montgomery, President, German Medical Association and Prof. Leonid Eidelman, President, Israeli Medical Association

**AUSTRIA**

» The Austrian Chapter of IMA World Fellowship hosted an event held at the United Nation headquarters in Vienna during the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Israel’s Ambassador to Austria, Talya Lador Fresher opened the session “Addiction and Gender”. Gabriele Fischer and Ronit Lev-Arie, both of whom work at Beit Ruth, a center for women suffering from abuse and addiction in

Afula, presented. The event was well attended by an international audience spanning four continents.

As well, the Chapter organized an event, as part of the WHO meeting in Geneva, in cooperation with the missions of Israel and Japan. The theme of the event was “The day after; medical aid and emergency situations around the globe”. The speakers included: Dr. Itzhak Ziv-Ner, Director, Rehabilitative Medicine, Israel’s Ministry of Health and a board member of IMA’s World Fellowship. He spoke about the rehabilitation work carried out by Israel following a major earthquake in Haiti comprised of training a local rehabilitation team and supervising it for two years. Hamutal Ende, Therapeutic

Medical Clown, Dream Doctors Project discussed the aid provided by the Israeli team of “dream doctors” (clinical clowns) following the earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal.

Professor Mooli Lahad, founder and director of the Institute of Dramatherapy, and director of the CSPC - The International Stress Prevention Center in Israel and Yoko Arai, Psychological Counselor at the Victim Support Center, Tokyo reported about their partnership in training and supervising local teams that treated individuals in Japan suffering from PTS following the Tsunami and Fukushima Accident.

All speakers were awarded the Vera Weizman award for humanitarian aid.



■ L to R: Silvia Prist (Co-President WIZO Switzerland), Anne Argi (Honorary Member WIZO Switzerland and Representative of WIZO Switzerland to the UN), Hamutal Ende (Therapeutic Medical Clown Dream Doctors Project), Esther Mor (President, WORLD WIZO), Dr. Hava Bugajer Gleitman (President, WIZO Austria, Representative of WIZO Austria to the UN), Yoko Arai (Psychological Counselor at the Victim Support Center, Tokyo), Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner (Director of Rehabilitative Medicine, Israel’s Ministry of Health), Prof. Shmuel Lahad PhD (Founder and President of the Community Stress Prevention and Trauma Center, Israel), Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter (Permanent Mission Israel UN Geneva), Ambassador Kansuke Nagaoka (Permanent Mission Japan UN Geneva)

# Conferences

## 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Israeli Society of Anesthesiologists

» The 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Israeli Society of Anesthesiologists was held jointly with the Israeli Society of Critical Care Medicine in November 2017. The meeting combined great scientific content with a tremendous opportunity to see and taste the diverse and beautiful flavors of Israel. This year an outstanding gallery of speakers from all over the world participated and imparted the most significant advances within anesthesiology.

The fields of Anesthesiology and Critical Care are changing. No longer

is the Anesthesiologist bound to the operating room. Anesthesiologists are at the core of the modern hospital – and beyond. For this reason, the theme for the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress was “Anesthesia in the Modern Era: Anytime, Anywhere”.

This year, the European Society of Anesthesiologists conducted its Annual Focus meeting in conjunction with the congress. The ESA Focus meeting, dedicated to regional anesthesia, followed the two-day conference.

Dr. Eran Segal, the president of the conference, worked endlessly towards



■ Dr. Eran Segal, president of the conference

ensuring the success of the event.

The conference had an impressive

### The conference had an impressive line-up of speakers including:

Gillian Abir, USA  
David Amar, USA  
Pedro Amorim, Portugal  
Jeffrey Apfelbaum, USA  
Gabriella Aschkenasy, Israel  
Alexander Avidan, Israel  
Mati Bakon, Israel  
Yaron Bar Lavie, Israel  
Shahar Bar Yosef, Israel  
Michal Barak Israel  
Yechiel Michael Barilan, Israel  
Dana Baron-Shahaf, Israel  
Brian Bateman, USA  
Yaakov Beilin, USA  
Ruth Ben Harush, Israel  
Haim Berkenstadt, Israel  
Dmitri Bezinover, USA  
Phillip Biderman, Israel

Federico Bilotta, Italy  
Gilles Boccara, France  
David Bogod, UK  
Ruben Bromiker, Israel  
Evgeni Brotfain, Israel  
Serban Bubenek, Romania  
Pablo Buksenbaum, Israel  
Alexander Butwick, USA  
Brendan Carvalho, USA  
Davy Cheng, Canada  
Edmond Cohen USA  
Amir Cohen, Israel  
Jonathan Cohen, Israel  
Jeremy Collins, USA  
Joseph Danto, USA  
Elyad Davidson, Israel  
Stefan De Hert, Belgium  
Benjamin Drenger, Israel

Perla Eckstein, Israel  
Aryeh Eden, Israel  
Arik Eden, Israel  
Ruthy Edry, Israel  
Leonid Eidelman, Israel  
Sharon Einav, Israel  
Segal Eran, Israel  
Gad Estis Israel  
Alex Evers, USA  
Tibi Ezri, Israel  
Shai Fein, Israel  
Daniela Filipescu, Romania  
Jeffrey Fisher, Israel  
Ron Fleishun, Israel  
Omri Gefen, Israel  
Benjamin Gesundheit, Israel  
Yehuda Ginosar, Israel  
Violeta Glauber, Israel



Michael Gofeld, USA  
 Sara Goldhaber-Fiebert, USA  
 Zeev Goldik, Israel  
 Alik Gololobov, Israel  
 Or Goren, Israel  
 Yaacov Gozal, Israel  
 Gil Grant, USA  
 Nikolaus Gravenstein, USA  
 Shaun Gruenbaum, USA  
 Adrian Grunfeld, Israel  
 Gabriel Gurman, Israel  
 Stephen Halpern, Canada  
 Nasir Hawash, Israel  
 David Hoppenstein, Israel  
 Daniela Ionesco, Romania  
 Alexander Ioscovitch, Israel  
 Alexander Izikson, Israel  
 Zeev Kain USA  
 Yeshayu Katz, Israel  
 Boris Kessel, Israel  
 Lesley Kesslin, Israel  
 Moti Klein, Israel  
 Yoram Klein, Israel  
 Alexander Kogan, Israel  
 Steven Konstadt, USA  
 Massimo Lamperti, UAE  
 Ruth Landau, USA  
 Giovanni Landoni, USA  
 Amit Lehavi, Israel  
 Jerry Lerman, USA  
 Michael C Lewis, USA  
 Francisco Lobo, Portugal  
 David Lubarsky, USA

Stephen Luney, UK  
 Idit Matot, Israel  
 Tommaso Mauri, Italy  
 David Mazer, Canada  
 Ofer Merin, Israel  
 Yuval Meroz, Israel  
 Francesco Mojoli Italy  
 Timothy E. Morey, USA  
 Orit Nahtomi-Shick, Israel  
 Adi Nimrod, Israel  
 Michael O'Connor, USA  
 Sharon Orbach-Zinger, Israel  
 Dina Orkin, Israel  
 Clemens Ortner, Austria  
 Natalia Pak, Israel  
 Perre Pandin, Belgium  
 Azriel Perel, Israel  
 William Peruzzi, USA  
 Beverly K Philip, USA  
 James Philip, USA  
 Reuven Pizov, Israel  
 David Polaner, USA  
 Finn M. Radtke, Denmark  
 Jacob Raphael, USA  
 Aeyal Raz, Israel  
 David Reich, USA  
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 Evgeny Reider, Israel  
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 Ron Samet, USA

Dorel Sandesc, Romania  
 Daniel Sessler, USA  
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 Martha Weiss, Israel  
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 Eric Wilkens, USA  
 Dafna Willner, Israel  
 Judge Ram Winograd, Israel  
 Cynthia Wong, USA  
 Kai Zacharowski, Germany  
 Rakefet Zalashik, UK  
 Avishai Ziser, Israel  
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**Prof. Leonid Eidelman**  
President

**2018**

**Adv. Leah Wapner**  
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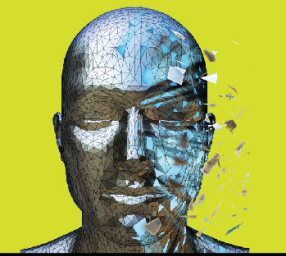
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In this section you will have the opportunity to extend personal messages, either for professional or personal purposes. You may wish to find a placement, a place to stay or seek other advice or services from any of our IMA World Fellowship members around the globe or offer yourself as a friendly face to other physicians.

If so, please send your message to [international@ima.org.il](mailto:international@ima.org.il) for our next edition.

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