

## A word from the chairman

**Dear Friends,**

I was honored and pleased to accept the nomination to serve as chair of the Israel Medical Association's World Fellowship Committee. I would like to convey my thanks to Dr. Zeev Feldman for his leadership as Chairman the past eight years; I am grateful for his steady guidance and sage perspectives.

The IMA-WF will continue to create and enhance mutual bonds between Israeli health professionals (including physicians, residents, fellows, medical students and allied health professionals) and their counterparts in other countries and to give individual members and chapters an opportunity to identify with and express solidarity with Israel,



the IMA and the progress of medicine in Israel.

I am pleased to welcome the new board members: Dr. Alex Levine, Dr. Ruth Gur and Dr. Shaked Lev-Ari.

Our new board members each bring a unique set of skills which will enhance the IMA World Fellowship's ability to meet the challenges ahead. These new members join me and the continuing board members, Dr. Shimshon Erdman and Dr. Nadine Steinblatt, both of whom have contributed greatly over the years.

What a great privilege to be part of this active committee, made up of such wonderful people. I'm looking forward to working together.

In the meantime, I welcome the opportunity to meet many of you at the next IMA-WF Conference in Israel. Please stay tuned for details.

Wishing you good health, happiness, peace and prosperity, today and all through the year! L'shanah Tovah!  
With my very best,

> **Professor Arnon Afek**  
Chairman, IMA World Fellowship



**The Israeli Medical Association**

wishes you,  
your family  
and your community  
a happy, healthy and  
flourishing year ahead

**Shana Tova**



# A word from the outgoing chairman

## Shalom Friends,

Reflecting on the last eight years, during which I served as Chair of the Israel Medical Association's World Fellowship Committee, I am proud of the committee's achievements.

Some highlights include:

- Provision of scholarships to over 150 Israeli doctors who have gone on fellowship abroad
- Establishment of physician exchange programs with Panama, Bolivia and Uruguay



- Creation of a partnership with Taglit which resulted in subsequent meetings with Taglit Medical Missions to Israel
- Formation and execution of approximately 10 IMA World Fellowship medical conferences in Israel and throughout the world
- Facilitation of support to hundreds of doctors considering moving to Israel
- Collaboration on myriad workshops, promoting Israel's state-of-the-art medical technologies and breakthroughs, with our 24 WF chapters around the globe.

As I complete my term, I am excited to welcome Professor Arnon Afek who recently began his tenure as Chair of the IMA-WF. Prof. Arnon Afek is the Associated Director General of Sheba Medical Center and the Acting Director of Sheba General Hospital, after completing his tenure as the Director General (DG) and the Associate Medical DG of the Israeli Ministry of Health (2014-17). Without a doubt, his vast experience in cultivating relationships and creating programming will enhance our enduring partnership with our friends from abroad. I was recently elected president of the Israel State Employed Physician Organization as well as vice-president of The Israel Medical Association. and remain wholly committed to cultivating and developing our connections internationally.

Finally, I am grateful to the WF committee members who were always

enthusiastic and devoted to our work. My abiding thanks to: Dr. Yoram Blachar, Dr. Shimshon Erdman, Prof. Gilbert Sebbag, Dr. Esther Barchilon, Dr. Nadine Steinblatt and Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner.

Wishing everyone a successful year, filled with days of discoveries and fruitful discourse.

Yours truly,

> **Dr. Zeev Feldman**

Past-Chairman, IMA World Fellowship

# IMA Domestic News and Activities

## Professor Zion Hagay Elected President of IMA

» Prof. Zion Hagay, a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, was elected president of the Israeli Medical Association in late May, replacing anesthesiologist Prof. Leonid Eidelman, who served in the position for eight years.

For the past four years, Prof. Hagay has served as vice president of the IMA and chairman of the hospital doctors' division of Clalit Health Services, Israel's

largest health fund. He previously headed Rehovot's Kaplan Medical Center Gynecology and Obstetrics Department for 21 years.

Professor Eidelman will continue his involvement with the IMA as a board member of the Scientific Council and chair of the Institute for Quality in Medicine. Moreover, in October, he will begin serving his term as president of the World Medical Association.



## CIJA Medical Mission to Israel

» On June 6th, Malke Borow, IMA's Director of the Division of Law and Policy, met with a delegation of medical students from University of Toronto's medical school, who were participating in a Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) Mission to Israel. Malke provided the 18 medical students with an overview of the Israeli medical system and spoke about the IMA's extensive work on behalf of doctors and the Israeli healthcare system. CIJA is a non-partisan organization that creates and implements strategies for the purpose of improving the quality of Jewish life in Canada and abroad, increasing support for Israel, and strengthening the Canada-Israel relationship.



# The Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship Scholarship Ceremony

» This year 15 scholarships were awarded to outstanding Israeli physicians who are going to or have already began fellowship programs around the world. The Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship hosted a scholarship ceremony attended by IMA leadership, grantees and their families and representatives from other hospitals and organizations who have donated funds. The scholarships, in the amount of 16,000 NIS each, were funded by the Israeli Medical Association, the Organization of Clalit physicians, the Organization of State Employee Physicians, Rambam Medical Center, Sheba Medical Center, the Sheba Medical Center Physicians' Committee, Tel Aviv Medical Center and the Australasian Jewish Medical Federation.

The World Fellowship Grants Committee convened to evaluate prospective candidates. There was a

plethora, close to 85, of exceptionally qualified applicants and the committee members, comprised of Dr. Zeev Feldman, Dr. Esther Barchilon, Dr. Miriam Katz and Dr. Boris Isikowitz took great care in identifying the most suitable candidates. After much deliberation scholarships were granted to 15 doctors who have been accepted to fellowship positions worldwide. These physicians return to Israel and share their professional knowledge and what's more they serve as emissaries of the State of Israel while abroad.

**“ The scholarships, in the amount of 16,000 NIS each, were funded by the Israeli Medical Association**

The grants presented in memory of deceased physicians, add another dimension to an already meaningful tradition. Invited speakers eulogize the physicians and loved ones are invited to attend.



Recipient	In Memory of	Place of Fellowship	Place of Work
Dr. Ayelet Ollech	Dr. Miriam Zangen	Los Angeles, California, USA	Anna and Robert Lurie Children's Hospital
Dr. Leonti Grin	Dr. Binjamin Kopler	Narita, Japan	International University of Health and Welfare
Dr. Ariel Zilberlicht	Dr. Rafi Wishnitzer	Heidelberg, Australia	Mercy Hospital For Women
Dr. Liad Haimovich	Dr. Gideon Manelis	Paris, France	L' Institut Mutualiste Montsouris
Dr. Moti Harats	Professor Eliezer Rachmilewitz	London, England	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
Dr. Lior Levy	the Australasian Jewish Medical Federation	Melbourne, Australia	Monash University
Dr. Sarina Levy-Mendelovich	Dr. Michael Gilboa	New York, U.S.A.	Mount Sinai Hospital
Dr. Alexis Mitelpunkt	Professor Arie Roth	Ohio, U.S.A.	Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Dr. Nakhoul Nakhoul	Dr. Shlomo Arieli	British Columbia, Canada	Vancouver General Hospital
Dr. Eyal Nachum	Dr. Nachum Rosen	Cambridge, England	Cambridge University
Dr. Boaz Nahmias	Dr. Miriam Zangen	Toronto, Canada	Princess Margaret Cancer Center
Dr. Amit Akirov	Dr. Miriam Zangen	Toronto, Canada	Princess Margaret Cancer Center
Dr. Inbal Kestenbom	Professor Michael Weingarten	Toronto, Canada	Hospital for Sick Children
Dr. Anat Stern	Dr. Liav Givon	New York, U.S.A.	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Dr. Shahr Shelly	Dr. Amit Yaroslavski	Minnesota, U.S.A.	The Mayo Clinic

## German Medical Association and Israeli Medical Association joint board meeting held in Israel

» On March 8th, 2018, the German Medical Association and the Israeli Medical Association held a joint board meeting at the IMA offices in Ramat Gan. Over 12 board members from the GMA traveled to Israel in order

to participate in this historic meeting. A wide range of topics were discussed such as challenges and structure of both the German and Israeli health system; Continued Medical Education; healthcare during massive immigration



to Israel; the role of physicians and physician organizations and the response of the German healthcare system to the global refugee crisis.

## Historic Physicians Exchange Agreement Signed

» In an attempt to collaborate in the area of healthcare between their respective countries, representatives of Colegio Médico de Bolivia and the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) convened and created a cooperation agreement for

the benefit of their members and the improvement of their health systems and physicians' professional practice.

On February 14th, 2018 Dr. Anibal Cruz, President of the Colegio Médico de Bolivia and Prof. Leonid Eidelman,

Past President of the IMA, signed an agreement between the two respective organizations promoting an Exchange Program for Medical Professionals between Bolivia and Israel.



## IMA Awards Ceremony

» At the 43rd IMA national conference on May 22-23, 2018, the traditional IMA awards ceremony recognized recipients with prizes in 7 categories for excellence, professional achievement and special contributions to society and to medicine.

The Awards Committee, comprising Prof. Adrian Ellenbogen, Dr. Alex Levin, Dr. Efraim Zohav, Dr. Haim Neuman, Dr. Meir Ruck and Dr. Noam Binyamin, tasked with choosing from among dozens of recommended candidates, awarded prizes as follows:

### IMA Award of Honor



An IMA Award of Honor went to Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner for his extensive contribution to rehabilitation medicine as a leading physician in that field, both nationally and internationally, and for his service to the IMA as a leader of physicians and a man of insight, commitment and dedication. Dr. Siev-Ner has been an outstanding Chairman of the Israel State Employed Physician Organization and Deputy Chairman of the IMA.



The committee bestowed an IMA Award of Honor on Prof. Francis Mimouni for the scope of his activities over many years in the field of neonatal medicine and for his many contributions to the IMA. His important volunteer roles in recent years included service as General Secretary of the International Society of Neonatologists.



An IMA Award of Honor went to Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa for his role in advancing internal medicine, his activities on the Executive Committee, as Chairman of the Board of Internal Medicine Professions on the Scientific Council, and as a representative of the Forum of Deans on the Scientific Council. Prof. Tur-Kaspa also successfully established the Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee under the difficult conditions imposed by its outlying location.

## Friend of the IMA Award



**Mr.** Shmuel Ben Yaakov, Chair of the Patients Rights Association in Israel, received the Friend of the IMA Award for his many and varied activities in advancing public awareness of medicine and making health a priority item on the public agenda. Mr. Ben Yaakov has invested tremendous efforts over many years in furthering the interests of patients and fostering the development of the health system as a whole.

## IMA Award for Contribution to Medical Science



**Prof.** Benjamin Dekel, selected for the IMA award for Contributions to Medical Science, has achieved global prominence in his field for his pioneering breakthroughs in stem cell tissue research addressing the development of kidney cancer in children and innovative methods for treating it. Thanks to his work, promising new treatments are now being tested for a number of aggressive types of tumors in children.



**Prof.** Yehuda Schoenfeld received the IMA Award for contributions to Medical Science and for his exceptional and long-standing work in internal medicine and clinical immunology. A decade ago, Prof. Schoenfeld established an innovative center, the first of its kind, for the study of autoimmune diseases. He has published numerous articles, described new syndromes, edited many textbooks, developed drugs and organized many international conferences. Prof. Schoenfeld is a member of the editorial board of 40 professional journals in the fields of rheumatology and immunology around the world. He has been an editor of the newspaper Harefua and was a founding editor of IMAJ, the Israel Medical Association Journal.



**Dr.** Irit Weisman was chosen to receive the IMA Award for Excellence in Interpersonal Medicine. Dr. Weisman is an expert in pediatrics, nephrology and pediatric nephrology. Patients and their families deeply appreciate the professional and humane care provided by Dr. Weisman. She places great emphasis on quality of life for dialysis patients and helps patients remain hopeful and cope more easily with their disease.

## IMA Prize for Contributions to the Community



**Dr.** Aviva Elad was chosen to receive the Award for Contributions to the Community for her impressive work in altering attitudes toward the needs of patients and staff. Dr. Elad is a family physician and a member of the Pain Treatment section of the Association of Family Physicians. Her concern for and contributions to the community are evident in her various initiatives involving medical practitioners, the media and the general public. Dr. Elad is the author of the book *Torn White Coat*.



**Prof.** Mordechai Kramer received the IMA Award for Contributions to the Community for raising public awareness of the importance of organ donation, though his interviews, lectures, and a children's book he wrote on the subject. About 700 patients have received lung transplants through the program headed by Prof. Kramer. In addition, Prof. Kramer has worked to lower morbidity from silicosis among marble workers, by organizing appropriate means of protecting their health and preventing the spread of the disease.

## IMA Chairman's Award



**Prof.** Reuven Zimlichman, an internist and department head, received the special Chairman's Award for his contribution to the establishment of the IMA Institute for Quality in Medicine, dedicated to the advancement of quality in the field of medicine, and for recruiting physicians from various specialties for the important work of the Institute.

## IMA Resident's Award



**Dr.** Lior Ungar, a resident in neurochemistry at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, was chosen to receive the IMA Outstanding Resident Prize, thanks to his research and publications at such an early stage of his medical career, alongside his activity as Chair of the IMA Forum of Residents, promoting the integration and involvement of residents in IMA institutions and their participation in efforts to advance Israeli medicine.

## IMA Chairman's Award



**Prof.** Ron Blitzer, Director of the Clalit Institute for Research, received the special IMA Chairman's Award for his leadership with the IMA. The Choosing Wisely project he spearheaded focuses on what is now an emerging global trend – the elimination of unnecessary medical testing and treatments, thereby contributing to patient health. More than 50 Choosing Wisely recommendations have been formulated by IMA affiliate associations, addressing their respective areas of medical expertise.

## Kupat Holim Physicians Association Award for Service to the Community



**This** distinction was awarded to Dr. Elimelech Rotenstreich, an internist and family physician, for his leadership in making the Zvulun Medical Center a widely recognized “brand leader” in Clalit Health Services, in terms of the scope of professional services, treatment availability and good patient relations.

## Israel State Employed Physician Organization Award for Service to the Community



**This** honor was awarded to Prof. Adrian Ellenbogen, a gynecologist who from 1999 to 2015 was the director of the Assisted Reproduction Center at Hillel Yaffe Medical Center, which became a leader in the field of ovum donation in Israel. Prof. Ellenbogen was an early pioneer in promoting the importance of egg donation legislation and its implementation.

## Tour of Rambam Health Care Campus

» Professor Zion Hagay, President of IMA, Dr. Zeev Feldman, President of ARAM (Organization of the State Employed Physicians of Israel) and Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary-general of

IMA, recently visited Rambam Health Care Campus as part of a series of visits to hospitals throughout Israel.

While there, Professor Rafael Beyar, Director of Rambam Health

Care Campus, provided an overview of the hospital's vast clinical activities. Beyar led the participants on a tour of Rambam's Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, the only one of its kind in the world, and was accompanied by Professor Yehuda Ullman, Chair of the Physician's Union at Rambam and Vice-president of the State Employed Physician's Organization.

At the conclusion of the visit, Dr. Oz Mordechai, a pediatric oncologist at Rambam, going on fellowship, received an IMA World Fellowship Scholarship in memory of Dr. Yaron Barel.



## Swedish Medical Association hosted by the Israeli Medical Association

» On May 2nd, 2018 the Israeli Medical Association hosted Heidi Stensmyren, President of the Swedish Medical Association and Hans Dahlgren, Secretary-General of the Swedish Medical Association. During their visit Dr. Stensmyren facilitated an enriching and thought-provoking session about Healthcare Management.



# Medical Achievements

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## Discovery in feline virus could help better fight AIDS

» A mechanism that may serve as the foundation for resistance of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), the virus that causes “feline AIDS,” has been discovered by a team of researchers from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

FIV is caused by viruses very similar to the AIDS-causing HIV-1 virus, which currently affects millions of humans. The feline AIDS disease is transmitted between cats, primarily via saliva, and causes a breakdown of the immune system along with the inability to fight off infections, diseases and development of cancer.

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



## Tunnel-detection tech offers safer, cheaper colonoscopies

» A promising new technology for improving colonoscopies got its start as a way to remotely explore smuggling tunnels.

When a tunnel is discovered, homeland security or military personnel need to quickly and safely determine what’s inside. Beersheva-based startup

IBEX Technologies developed a thin inflatable “sleeve” that can be robotically piloted into a dark tunnel. A camera attached to the front end of the sleeve transmits real-time live video and high-resolution images.

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



## Nano system delivers anticancer drugs to childhood tumors

» A nanotech system invented in Israel for transporting anticancer drugs specifically in pediatric patients has been shown to slow tumor growth and prolong life expectancy in engineered mice by 42 percent. In most of the Western world, cancer is the primary cause of death in children over the age of one.

The new system meets an unmet

need because existing chemotherapy treatments for adult cancer patients are not particularly effective for children due to differences in their physiology and in the way pediatric cancer cells grow and spread. In fact, conventional chemotherapy can cause severe damage to an ill child.

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



# Humanitarian Aid

## From the People of Israel to the People of Guatemala



MASHAV and the Ambassador and staff of the Embassy of Israel in Guatemala organized and delivered immediate humanitarian assistance to the people of Escuintla following the devastating volcanic eruption that hit the region.

Over 100 people were killed and hundreds are still missing following the eruption of the Fuego volcano, its most violent in four decades. Dangerous flows of ash, rocks and toxic gases prompted thousands of locals to evacuate immediately, leaving everything behind.



## MASHAV Establishes New Intensive Care & Trauma Unit in Togo



MASHAV established a state-of-the-art ICU at Atakpamé Hospital and dispatched a team of Israeli medical experts to train the local teams.

Over 40 doctors and nurses took part in the professional training, which covered different aspects of emergency medicine and clinical management.

The project was conducted following

“ **The project was conducted following the signing of an MOU between MASHAV and Togo’s Ministry of Health**

the signing of an MOU between MASHAV and Togo’s Ministry of Health. Within this framework, MASHAV constructed the trauma unit and donated all the necessary construction materials and medical equipment, and Israeli teams arrived on site to install the equipment accordingly. The project was accompanied by MASHAV’s medical adviser, Dr. Yossi Baratz.



# International Activities

## World Medical Association Council Meeting

» Professor Leonid Eidelman, past president of the IMA and president-elect of the WMA, and Adv. Leah Wapner, secretary-general of the IMA, traveled to Riga, Latvia in April to participate in the World Medical Association (WMA) 209th Council Meeting, where delegates from numerous National Medical Associations were present.

The physician leaders from around the world debated a number of key issues. Policy items on the agenda included therapeutic abortion, medical tourism and the professional autonomy of physicians. The meeting included reports on the regional conferences that have been held to discuss policy on end of life questions, a discussion in which Professor Eidelman plays a vital role.

During the two-day meeting, The



Council Resolution on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. Concerned about current global discussions on nuclear proliferation and given the catastrophic consequences of these weapons on human health and the environment, the World Medical Association (WMA) and its constituent members consider that they have a

responsibility to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide.

Moreover, the Israeli Medical Association submitted a policy paper addressing Biosimilar Medicinal Products which will be sent to all WMA members for their comments and discussed at their next meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 2018.

## American Medical Association Annual Meeting

» IMA Secretary- General Adv. Leah Wapner attended the 2018 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) on June 9- 13, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. There were an abundance of workshops including: Exploring the cutting edge of gene therapy in medicine; Blockchain in health care: Hype or here to stay? Small changes, big results: Innovations in patient-centered technology; Transitioning to practice in a modern healthcare system and many more interesting meetings and discussions.

During the meeting Barbara McAneny M.D., an oncologist from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was sworn in as the 173rd president of the AMA. Dr. McAneny is the first physician from that specialty to hold the AMA's top post. As co-founder of the New Mexico Cancer Center, Dr. McAneny has witnessed, first-hand, the burdens—physical and financial—that afflict the sickest patients.

Dr. McAneny highlighted the role physician leaders and the AMA have played in shaping health system reform, celebrating work done to



advocate for patient access to health insurance, implement value-based care methods and positive reforms to prior authorization. Still, she said, much work remains to be done, calling for physician leadership.

## EFMA 33rd Annual Meeting

» The 33rd Annual Meeting of the European Forum of Medical Associations was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 29th-June 1st, 2018. The Azerbaijan Medical Association hosted the meeting, which was attended by 100 participants from leading world and European Medical Organizations. These included representatives from the World Health Organization - Regional Office for Europe, the Standing Committee of European doctors (CPME), the World Medical Association (WMA), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World



Federation of Medical Education (WFME), and the Southeast European Medical Forum (SEEMF) as well as representatives of 20 national medical associations from countries across the WHO European Region and experts from the fields of medical education, health economics, and public policy.

The meeting focused on a range of timely and thought-provoking issues: national health insurance, primary health care, workforce planning and continuing medical education.

EFMA Secretary General, Leah Wapner, opened the meeting by thanking the Forum hosts and inviting the participants to think about what they want to see from the EFMA organization. She explained that members of the EFMA Liaison Committee have been reviewing the role of EFMA and are currently looking at undertaking a re-organization process.

The opening ceremony also included

welcome remarks from the President of the Azerbaijan Medical Association, Dr Nariman Safarli, Ms Zackiya Mustafayeva, the head of the executive office of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Health and Dr. Rashad Mahmudov, a member of the National Parliament of Azerbaijan.

IMA past president, Prof. Leonid Eidelman, presented an inspiring and stimulating speech on Continuing Medical Education in a Post-Modern Era. He discussed the effects new technology has on medical education and proposed a new way to teach. Prof. Eidelman's presentation generated a lively discussion from the participants.

The conference was a platform for exchange and provided the participants with the opportunity to hear and learn from representatives of National Medical Associations who are not always represented at other international meetings.

## Israeli Medical Association Representatives at the Nefesh B' Nefesh Mega Event

» Malke Borow, Director of the Division of Law and Policy and Dana Fishbain, Director of the Scientific Council, participated in the Nefesh B' Nefesh Mega Event in New York.

The Nefesh B'Nefesh Medical Professionals Seminar at the Israel Mega Event is the 'can't miss' event for medical professionals considering Aliyah.

While there, they personally met with

close to 100 doctors who are considering making Aliyah, answered questions and helped them navigate the process of transferring their medical license.

## The Third International Meeting on Wellbeing Performance

» WELL-MED 3, the Third International Meeting on Wellbeing Performance took place recently in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Given the fact that the health and wellbeing of health professionals is inextricably linked to the quality of care they provide, the conference explored how burnout and wellbeing are related to different aspects of quality of care and patient safety. Specifically, the

conference looked at the relationship between physician health and clinical decision making, communication in clinical practice, medical errors, quality of care, civility in the workplace, and patient neglect.

Malke Borow, the director of IMA's Division of Law and Policy attended the conference in Greece and presented a paper entitled "Physician health in Israel: From theory to practice" which

she co-wrote with Lilach Malatskey and Rachel Wilf Miron.



## Historical Agreement Signed between the Medical Association of Uganda and the Israeli Medical Association

On July 27th, “Israeli Medicine on the Equator”, which implements an innovative model for the development of rural medicine in Africa, inaugurated the first diabetes clinic in Uganda in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to Uganda, the Minister of Local Health and the Solel Boneh Uganda administration.

The multi-disciplinary diabetes clinic in Kiboga, is a product of the development of medical capabilities, which led to the signing of a unique partnership between the Medical Association of Uganda and the Israeli Medical Association. This collaboration will also lead to an increase in medical facilities at the Kiboga hospital.

Prof. Zion Hagay, President of

the IMA, said: “Along with its many challenges, Israeli medicine in general, and Israeli doctors in particular, are an example of unprecedented and professional initiatives. In Uganda, there is a combination of talent and experience, and we are confident that this unique cooperation will bring benefits to both sides.”

Since 2005, some 70 Israeli medical professionals have been volunteering at the Kiboga Hospital, in one of the poorest areas in Uganda. The initiative has developed into a development project which trains Ugandan doctors to manage health systems and acquire medical knowledge such as diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable



diseases. The Israeli doctors work together with the Ministry of Health and the local staff to ensure that the Ugandan doctors apply Israeli medical knowledge and the Israeli doctors learn the local methods of work.



## Meeting with the Executive Committee of the Uruguayan Medical Association

» Dr. Shimson Erdman, a member of IMA's World Fellowship Committee, who originally hails from Uruguay, was recently in Montevideo for a visit. While there he was invited to attend the Uruguayan Medical Association's (Sindicato Médico del Uruguay) executive committee's meeting. Dr. Erdman spoke briefly and noted that 50 years ago he stood in the same room and delivered remarks

on behalf of the Uruguayan Medical Students and being invited all these decades on was meaningful and provided him with a sense of completion.

Dr. Erdman thanked Dr. Gustavo Grecco, president of the SMU, and the members of the executive committee for their work on behalf of doctors in Uruguay and their commitment to improving healthcare worldwide.

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# INTERVIEW with Gilbert Sebbag

**Full Name:** Gilbert SEBBAG  
**Occupation:** Surgeon, Head of Surgery Department,  
 Professor of Surgery

**Date of Aliyah:** November 1981  
**Originally from:** Born in Morocco, Aliyah from France  
**Made aliyah with:** No, Single

## Background/General Information

### Tell us briefly about your education and past work experiences.

I went through elementary and high school in the French Educational System in Meknes, Morocco.

In 1980 Medical Graduation and Medical Doctor Diploma from the Faculty of Medicine, University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (France).

### How did you decide to make Aliyah?

My decision came after medical school about one year after spending a wonderful 18 months in Israel. I attended an Academic Ulpan in Kibbutz Ein Harod Meuhad, and subsequently my Medical Internship at the Soroka University Medical Center (SUMC) in

Beer Sheva.

Aliyah proper happened a year later, when I completed my MD Thesis. I also started a Surgery Residency in a Parisian hospital.

### What were your reasons for making Aliyah?

I proceeded logically, following the Zionist education we received at home. By the way, I'm the only sibling in my family who made Aliyah. My main motivation for Aliyah was this extraordinary and immediate feeling of total belonging to the Jewish State.

## The Aliyah Process

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

After my first contact with the Jewish Agency representative, who by the way is today one of my best friends, I landed in Israel four months later with one suitcase and a big baggage with medicine books.

## Life in Israel

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

I am married to Yehudith whom I met here in Israel, and a father of 4. We live in Meitar, in Southern Israel, close to Beer Sheva.

I enrolled in the Israeli Air Force early after making Aliyah, as the Flight Academy Physician, and served until 2006 as a Reserve Flying Surgeon in IAF 669 SRCU, with the rank of Major.

I completed my surgery residency at the SUMC, then I went through a two year Surgical Oncology Fellowship in Washington DC. I am now Head of the Surgery Division and the Surgery B Department in the SUMC in Beer Sheva. I teach, as a Professor of Surgery, in the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva.



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

Again, I think living in Israel is a privilege.

I managed to use the many challenges in my first years in Israel to help me to a better integration. Nothing is given here, like in every place you move over the world.

Family life, military duty and working in a public hospital where keys helpers

in my good integration process in Israel.

**Compare working as a physician in Canada to working as one in Israel.**

I did work in public hospitals in France and also in Washington DC in the US. Medicine is the same, patients pose the same challenges. If any, the difference lays in the inter-personal relationship with hospital staff, most of the time here it's a warmer experience,

sometimes a bit blunt...

**Describe any professional culture shocks you've experienced since your move.**

Many small things and events still bother me even today. But I cannot remember experiencing any real cultural shock. Thanks probably to a very early and crucial decision to adapt myself to this wonderful country, and not the way around.



UNESCO Chair  
in Bioethics  
(Paris)

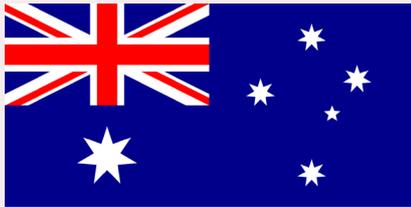


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# Chapter Tidbits



## AUSTRALIA

### » Australasian Jewish Medical Federation (VIC)

Our November AGM, was well attended and we heard Professor Ashley Bush speak eloquently about Alzheimer’s Disease and the search for a cure. In particular he outlined his research on whether Alzheimer’s is a proteinopathy and whether there is a disorder in the regulation of iron, zinc

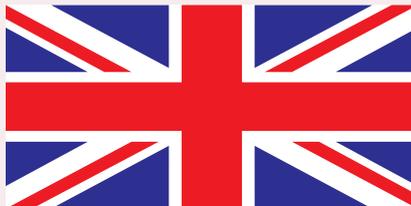
and copper metabolism in the brain. Our next function will be a scientific meeting in May, where cardiologist . Dr Hendrik will speak about treatment options in systolic heart failure.

The AJMF continues to sponsor Israeli physicians who have come to Australia to further develop their skills. Recently we have given scholarships to Dr Alon Krispin who is doing a fellowship in forensic radiology at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, and Dr Lorin Schwartz who is pursuing an electrophysiology fellowship at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Approval for support was also given to Dr Ariel Roitman, who will be starting an Otolaryngology fellowship at Auckland



City Hospital in New Zealand later this year. Scholarships have also been awarded to medical students from Victoria, NSW and Queensland who recently completed their electives at Israeli hospitals.

*Dr Miriam Kuttner  
President, AJMF (VIC)*



## UK

### » The Visiting Israeli Colorectal Surgeons

On Monday 5th March 2018 the Jewish Medical Association UK hosted a reception for a team of visiting Israeli colorectal surgeons.

The visit was organized by Prof Alex Deutsch and was led by Dr Reuven Weil from the Rabin Medical Centre (Golda). The visit was supported by the Israel, Britain and the Commonwealth Association – John Furman Fund; and by the David Yanir Foundation for the

Advancement of Colorectal Surgery in Israel.

The members of the visiting team were:

- Dr Betty Abitbul (Barzilai Medical Centre, Ashkelon)
- Dr Midhat Abu Snieneh (Asaf Harofe Medical Centre, Ramla)
- Dr Shadi Abu Swis (Soroka Medical Centre, Beersheba)
- Dr Nimrod Aviran (Beilinson Medical Centre, Petach Tikva)
- Dr Guy Elad (Meir Medical Centre, Kfar Saba)
- Dr Khalayieh Harbi (Kaplan Medical Centre, Rehovot)
- Dr Muhammad Khalifa (WesternGalilee Medical Centre, Nahariyah)
- Dr Guy Pascal (Carmel Medical Centre, Haifa)

- Dr Jacob Rachmuth (Hadassah-HU Medical Centre, Jerusalem)
- Dr Meir Zemel (Sourasky-Ichilov Medical Centre, Tel Aviv)

While in the UK they were the guests of Mr Richard Cohen (University College London Hospital), Mr Joseph Nunoo-Mensah (Kings College Hospital) and Mr Andrew Williams (St Thomas’s Hospital), and will be attending a course at Basingstoke Hospital.

Following the reception there was a panel discussion symposium chaired by Prof Irving Taylor on the topic of “Ulcerative Colitis 2017”.

After an update on medical (Dr Sara McCartney) and surgical (Mr Richard Cohen) aspects of the disease, three Ulcerative Colitis case studies were presented by the visiting Israeli surgeons for discussion of management.

December 12-13  
2018 Tel Aviv, Israel  
David InterContinental Hotel

In Conjunction with the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Israeli Society for Surgery of the Hand



The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Israel Orthopaedic Association (IOA)

Dear IOA Alumni and colleagues around the globe:

**IOA is dedicated to teaching and providing the best educational experience possible for its members.**

The Israeli Orthopedics community includes our Alumni's former fellows. As part of Israel 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations and the IOA 38<sup>th</sup> annual meeting we will celebrate the excellences in Orthopedics and cordially invite you to take active part and join us!

The **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Israel Orthopaedic Association (IOA 2018)**, that will take place **12-13 December 2018 in Tel-Aviv, Israel.**

This meeting is held annually in Israel and brings together physicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, technology experts, academics, venture capitalists and medical industry representatives for important dialogues to build bridges globally for the improvement of Orthopaedic medicine in the future.

Israel is a leader in start-up innovations and having celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> year we would like to provide a platform for innovation in the upcoming meeting with the aim to strengthen forces.

We would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in this endeavor. A special rate of 250 USD for registration will be applicable to you plus a waived entry to the gala dinner. The gala dinner will be a great stage for networking with global experts. We have booked blocks of rooms at reduced rates negotiated low rates and suggest early booking to enjoy from it. Rooms will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Please visit our [website](#) for further details.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at what promises to be an exceptional first IOA Alumni meeting in December in Tel Aviv.

Sincerely yours,

**Prof. Iri Liebergall**  
President, Israeli Orthopaedic Association

**Dr. Amal Khoury**  
Chairman, Scientific Committee

**For further details please contact:**

Osnat Siluk Retig

**IOA Meeting Secretariat**

**Email:** osiluk@paragong.com

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We are now accepting inquiries for exhibitors,  
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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 for all IMA World Fellowship members. IMAJ publishes original articles and reviews, editorials, case reports and other feature columns. Unique is IMAJ's coverage of specific regional issues - infectious and parasitic diseases, effects of the local environment on morbidity and mortality, Jewish genetic diseases, epidemiology of subpopulations - relevant to medical practice in distant countries with similar biopsychosocial problems.

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## Personal Connections

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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