

## A word from the chairman

**Dear Friends,**

I am pleased to present you with the latest issue of the IMA's "Around the Globe."

Here at the IMA-World Fellowship, we've been welcoming new members from across the world and enjoying the involvement of our newest board members, who are forging contacts in Israel and abroad.

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.

In 2018, Jewish people were confronted once again with the terrifying reality of our place in the world. When antisemitism rears its head within the medical community, I urge you to turn to us and let the IMA be a resource for you and an advocate for Jewish doctors. You can request a copy of our Public

Relations Kit to combat misinformation about Israel and find a reliable and current source of information about Israel's medical and humanitarian aid at home, in Gaza, and in areas of crisis throughout the world.

It is hard to believe that 2018 has come to a close and 2019 is already here.

On that note, my heartfelt wishes for a wonderful new year filled with joy, and most important of all, health to you and your family.

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



# IMA Domestic News and Activities

## Friends from around the globe in Israel for the UNESCO Bioethics Conference

» Physicians and leading health professionals from around the globe were in Israel the week of November 25th, for the UNESCO Bioethics Conference. There were over 100 parallel sessions in 3 days with hundreds of participants from over 60 countries

This includes our colleagues: Dr. Otmar Kloiber, secretary-general of the World Medical Association, Dr. Selma Gungör, board member of the Turkish Medical Association, Dr. Jacques de Haller, outgoing president of the CPME (The Standing Committee of European Doctors). Annabel Seebohm, secretary-general of the CPME, Sarada Das, deputy secretary-general of the CPME, Thomas

Hedmark, policy analyst at the Swedish Medical Association, Professor Ravi Wankhedkar, President of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. R.N. Tandon, honorary secretary-general of the Indian Medical Association, Professor Thomas Linden, a board member at the Swedish Medical Association and Jeppe Berggreen Høj from the Danish Medical Association.

While here, they had dinner, overlooking the old city of Jerusalem with Professor Zion Hagay, IMA's president, Professor Leonid Eidelman, IMA's past-president and president of the WMA, Dr. Moshe Kostiner, IMA's vice-president, Leah Wapner, IMA's secretary-



general, Dr. Tami Karni, chair of IMA's ethics bureau and Malke Borow, director of IMA's law and public policy division.



## Historic Bill Passed in the War Against Tobacco

» After 20 years of legislative efforts that failed due to industry pressures and falling behind many western and developing countries in the war against tobacco, the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) approved a ban

on advertising/marketing of smoking products and banning tobacco products in public.

The Israeli Medical Association is grateful to members of the Knesset Economics Committee, headed by

MK Eitan Cabel, who proved that it is possible to advance public interest in health. This bill will save the lives of countless young people and youth.



# Medical Achievements

printed by courtesy of ISRAEL21c [www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org)

## Israelis discover promising treatment for aggressive brain tumors

» A new treatment for aggressive brain tumors (glioblastoma) shows great promise, according to a report by Israeli scientists that was published recently in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*.

Glioblastoma is a serious and incurable brain cancer. Patients receiving this diagnosis typically have 11 to 20 months to live. One of the main difficulties in treating this cancer is that its cells quickly build up a resistance to chemotherapy.

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



## AI tool helps radiologists clear dangerous data bottleneck

» It's not every day that *TIME* magazine calls you a genius. "They're not calling me a genius," Elad Walach protests. "They're referring to the company!"

Walach is the 30-year-old CEO of Aidoc, a two-year-old Tel Aviv-based startup

that is saving lives through medical imaging.

Aidoc applies proprietary artificial intelligence to the millions of images generated every year by CT scans in order to catch serious issues before a human radiologist even has a chance to review the results.

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

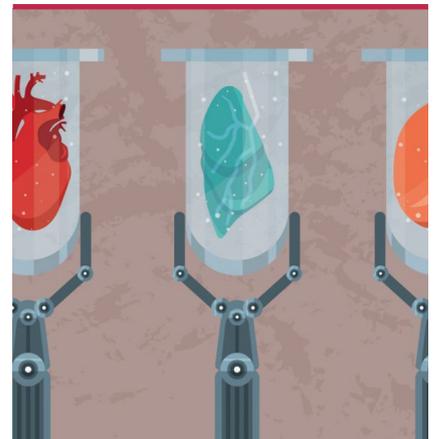


## Israeli scientists develop implanted organs that won't be rejected

» Israeli researchers report that they have invented the first fully personalized tissue implant, engineered from a patient's own materials and cells. The new technology makes it possible to engineer any kind of tissue implant, for the spinal cord, to the heart, or brain, from one small fatty tissue biopsy.

"We were able to create a personalized hydrogel from the materials of the biopsy, to differentiate fatty tissue cells into different cell types and to engineer cardiac, spinal cord, cortical and other tissue implants to treat different diseases," said lead researcher Prof. Tal Dvir of Tel Aviv University's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology.

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



# Humanitarian Aid

## MASHAV and Save a Child's Heart Cooperation


 A team of Save a Child's Heart in partnership with MASHAV arrived in Tanzania to conduct heart surgeries in cooperation with the local pediatric cardiac team of Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam.

Save a Child's Heart believes that every child deserves a chance at life, regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality

or financial status. Their mission is to improve the quality of cardiac care for children in developing countries by training medical personnel and saving children's lives.

Within the framework of cooperation between MASHAV and SACH, MASHAV was happy to welcome and host the International Board Members of Save A Child's Heart during their visit to Israel, under the message: Strengthening cooperation, saving lives.



# First Regional Trauma Training Inaugurated in Togo



The first of its kind regional training brought together 20 doctors and medical staff from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Senegal and Togo.

The practical part of the training took place in Atakpame Trauma Center recently established by MASHAV.

During his visit to Togo, Ambassador Haskel inaugurated a new greenhouse built at MASHAV and Togo's Institute for Agricultural Research (ITRA) Joint Agricultural Demonstration & Training Center near Lomé.

The program was inaugurated in Lomé by Head of MASHAV Ambassador Gil Haskel and Togo's Minister of Health Moustafa Mijiyawa, in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to Togo Eli Benta, the Deputy Director of MoFA's Africa Department, Ambassador Gideon Behar, and distinguished guests.

**“ The project includes the establishment of modern Israeli agro-technologies and improved seeds for open field & protected crops.**

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## Marking MASHAV's 60th Anniversary in Kenya



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MASHAV, the Embassy of Israel in Kenya & Israeli company IRG group joined hands for the renovation of the Pediatric Oncology Ward at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Marking MASHAV's anniversary, the renovation included provision of new beds, washrooms and a fun playroom. The Embassy is a long-standing partner of the Hospital, and adopted the Pediatric Oncology Ward in 2011.



# International Activities

## CPME General Assembly

» The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) General Assembly and Working Groups meetings took place on 09-10 November 2018, in Geneva. Professor Zion Hagay, president of IMA, Professor Leonid Eidelman, president of the WMA, Dr. Itzhak Siev-Ner, a board member of IMA, and Leah Wapner, secretary-general of IMA, attended the meeting.

During the Assembly, the CPME

appointed members of the Board and elected the President, four Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer. The term of office starts on 1 January 2019 for a period of three years until 31 December 2021. The president-elect is Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery from Germany.

There were an array of working groups focusing on diet, nutrition and physical activity, e-health, healthcare for refugees and undocumented migrants,

pharmaceuticals and professional practice.

Professor Eidelman delivered a presentation about Healthcare in Conflict Settings which featured key statements from the WMA and position papers developed by NMA's. He stressed the importance of the physician's professional obligation to the patient and the highest ethical standards.

## Unveiling Ceremony Marking the Withdrawal of the Medical Licenses of Jewish German Doctors

» On November 8th, 2018, the eve of Kristallnacht, the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Germany organized an unveiling ceremony marking the withdrawal of the medical licenses of Jewish German doctors 85 years ago. Professor Zion Hagay,

President of IMA, Professor Leonid Eidelman, President of the WMA and Leah Wapner, the Secretary-General of IMA participated in the moving event which reinforced IMA's enduring partnership with the German Medical Association.



## Global Health Forum in Taiwan

» The Global Health Forum took place in Taiwan from October 28th-29th 2018. It was the 14th forum



with over 300 participants.

Adv. Leah Wapner, IMA's secretary-general was invited to participate. She had the distinct honor of introducing the plenary "Resilience in Settings – Challenges and Solutions".

The opening remarks were delivered by Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Shih-Chung Chen, followed by an opening address given by the vice president of Taiwan, Prof. Chien-Jen Chen.



## European Union of Medical Specialists Meeting

» Professor Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association, participated in the European Union of Medical Specialists meeting which took place October 19th-20 2018 in Brussels. The European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes – UEMS) is a non-governmental organization representing national associations of medical specialists in the European Union and in associated countries.

The UEMS is the oldest medical organization in Europe. With a current membership of 34 countries, it is the



representative organization of the Specialists in the European Union and National Associations of Medical its associated countries.

## Development of Self-Regulated System in Healthcare Conference

» Dr. Alex Levine, a vice-president of the Israeli Medical Association and member of IMA's World Fellowship Committee, recently attended the Development of Self-Regulated System in Healthcare Conference which took place in Moscow. Key topics of the conference revealed current issues related to physicians' professional self-regulation: the need for legislative

changes, special aspects of the Association's work in regions and at the federal level and self-regulatory status.

Dr. Levine delivered a presentation about Israel's health care system and IMA's mission. His report produced considerable interest among listeners and was of relevance to the participating doctors from Russia.



## Volunteer Doctors from Israel Create a Unique Model for the Development of Rural Medicine in Uganda

» The Israeli Medical Association recently signed an agreement with the Uganda Medical Association, which focuses on developing medical capabilities and training medical teams. This comes on the heels of fruitful cooperation between Uganda's and Israel's medical communities that is spearheaded by Medicine on the Equator which is operated as part of Brit Olam.

The program is comprised of:

- Sending four delegations a year,

with (preferably) two doctors (or a doctor and registered nurse) for periods of 3-4 months each.

- Ongoing medical care in the Kiboga Hospital and upgrading and establishing the medical services there.
- Training local teams to give first response when no doctor is available.
- Strengthening ties between Israeli medical teams and Ugandan medical teams in the Kiboga



“ The Israeli Medical Association recently signed an agreement with the Uganda Medical Association, which focuses on developing medical capabilities and training medical teams

region through ongoing work meetings.

- Obtaining medical equipment for the hospital and community clinics.
- Sending medical specialists to train and providing specialist medical services.
- Promoting creative, supportive, and enriching activity for the hospitalized children and youth.
- Creating a clinical and educational model which fosters replication and expansion of this model in other Ugandan districts.

## Statement on Biosimilar Medicinal Products Adopted by the World Medical Association

» A statement on Biosimilar Medicinal Products written by the Israeli Medical Association was adopted at the 62nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association held in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 2018.

The full version follows:

*Adopted by the 69th WMA General Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 2018*

**PREAMBLE**

1. The expiry of patents for original biotherapeutics has led to the development and approval of copies, called ‘similar biological medicinal products’ or ‘biosimilars’ that are highly similar to a previously approved biological product, known as the originator or reference product.
2. In light of the fact that biosimilars are made in living organisms, there may be some minor differences from the reference medicine, as minor variability is a characteristic attribute of all biological medicines. The manufacture of biosimilars is generally more complex than the manufacture of chemically derived molecules. Therefore, the active substance in the final biosimilar can have an inherent degree of minor variability. Innovator biologics also have inherent batch-to-batch variability, and for that reason biosimilars are not always interchangeable with the reference products, even after regulatory approval.
3. Biosimilars are not the same as generics. A generic drug is an identical copy of a currently licensed pharmaceutical product that has an expired patent protection and must contain the ‘same active ingredients as the original formulation’. A biosimilar is a different product with a similar, but not identical, structure that elicits a similar clinical response. As a result, biosimilar medicines have the potential to cause an unwanted immune response. Whereas generics are interchangeable, biosimilars are not always interchangeable.
4. Biosimilars have been available in Europe for almost a decade following their approval by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2005. The first biosimilar was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in the United States in 2015.
5. Biosimilar medicines have transformed the outlook for patients with chronic and debilitating conditions, as it is possible to obtain similar efficacy as that of the reference product at a lower cost.
6. Biosimilars will also increase availability for patients without access to the bio-originator. Greater global access to effective biopharmaceuticals can reduce disability, morbidity, and mortality associated with various chronic diseases.
7. Nonetheless, the potentially lower cost of biosimilars raises the risk that insurers and health care providers may favor them over the originator product, even when

they may not be appropriate for an individual patient or in situations when they have not demonstrated adequate clinical equivalence to an original biological product. The decision to prescribe biosimilars or to switch patients from reference medicine to a biosimilar must be made by the attending physicians, not by health insurance companies.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. National medical associations should work with their governments to develop national guidance on safety of biosimilars.
2. National medical associations should advocate for delivering biosimilar therapies that are as safe and effective as their reference products.
3. National medical associations should strive to ensure that physician autonomy is preserved in directing which biologic product is dispensed.
4. Where appropriate, national medical associations should lobby against allowing insurers and health funds to require biosimilar and originator product’s interchangeability, and for safe regulations of interchanging biosimilar medicines where this is allowed.
5. Physicians must ensure that patient medical records accurately reflect the biosimilar medicine that is being prescribed and taken.
6. Physicians shouldn’t prescribe a biosimilar to patients already showing success with the originator product, unless clinical equivalence has been clearly demonstrated and established and patients are adequately informed and have given consent. There should be no substitution between biosimilars and other drugs without the attending physician’s permission.
7. Physicians should seek to improve their understanding of the distinctions between biosimilar products that are highly similar to or are interchangeable with an originator product; raise awareness of the issues surrounding biosimilars and interchangeability; and promote clearly delineated labelling of biosimilar products.
8. Physicians should remain vigilant and report to the manufacturer, as well as through the designated regulatory pathways, any adverse events suffered by patients using originator biological products or biosimilars.

## INTERVIEW with Adina Greenberg-Kuhr

**Full Name:** Adina Greenberg-Kuhr  
**Occupation:** Pediatrician  
**Date of Aliyah:** 05/09/2005

**Originally from:** New York  
**Made aliyah with:** single

### Background/General Information

**Could you tell us a little bit about your education and past work experiences.**

I studied pre-med and got a BA in history from Columbia University in New York and then studied medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I did my residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai and continued there an extra year as chief resident, mainly teaching students and residents in the hospital. After that, I worked in Elmhurst Hospital as an attending in the pediatric ER.

**How did you decide to make Aliyah? What were your reasons for making Aliyah?**

Since I was a young child I always wanted to make aliyah. I grew up in a very zionistic home and my family travelled to Israel almost every year on vacation. The visits left me with a love for the country and the people. In the early 2000s my siblings moved to Jerusalem and Ramat Beit Shemesh. I debated moving to Israel after university but decided that I wanted to complete my medical education in the States. After residency the time was right and I made aliyah. Although I loved America and the education that I received there, it has always been clear to me that my home would be in Israel –as it has always been the home of the jewish people and holds our future.

### The Aliyah Process

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

The process of making aliyah was much easier than I expected, thanks to Nefesh b’Nefesh. I contacted them and they helped me with all the paperwork and documentation that I needed. They arranged a flight to Israel with other young Jews making aliyah at the same time. When I arrived everything was already arranged and they even helped me deal with the process of getting licensed in Israel. In addition, soon after arriving in Israel I met my husband and so I couldn’t have asked for a better absorption.



### Life in Israel

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

Currently, I live in Modiin and work in Kupat Holim Leumit in Modiin. It is a small kupah but one which is warm and inviting. The staff is friendly, smart and treat all patients as if they are family. I do mostly primary care pediatrics but also teach residents once a week in the clinical setting.

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

I enjoy living in a country which runs on a Jewish calendar and where my kids are surrounded by Jews of all types. I like that the contributions that I make in work and outside of work go directly toward improving the Jewish homeland where I hope my children and grandchildren will flourish.

Moving to a new country is always challenging. Even though I came with

a strong knowledge of Hebrew I still feel that my ability to express myself is somewhat limited.

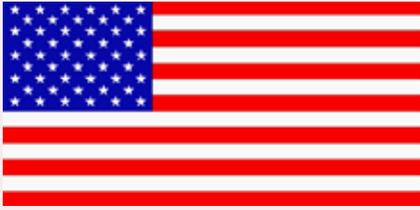
**Compare working in the US to working in Israel. Describe any professional culture shocks you've experienced in Israel.**

It is somewhat difficult for me to compare my work here and in America as I mainly worked in the hospital setting in the States and in the outpatient setting

in Israel. I do find that in America there is a much stronger connection between the hospital and the doctors in the clinics- more communication and more interaction with your patients once they are admitted. Also it is hard for me to get used to the tipat chalav system. I am used to giving patient vaccines and having well child care and preventive medicine as part of the pediatric visit and not being done by two separate entities.



## Chapter Tidbits



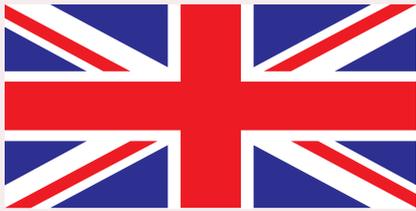
### UNITED STATES

#### » American Israeli Medical Association (AIMA)

On October 7th, 2018 the American Israeli Medical Association held its 11th Annual Bio Med Tech Summit in Brentwood, California. This year's theme was medical technology and included an impressive line-up of speakers and representatives from 21 medical device and life science companies including: SensoGenic, GlucoMe, Magenta Medical, PulseOr, Algis Labs and PillTracker.

Amir Naiberg, CEO of TDG-UCLA, spoke about the Biomed ecosystem, Olivier Jarry, president of DarioHealth, spoke about diabetes in control and Dr. Jacob Offenbeger, president of AIMA, delivered an opening address. It was well attended with close to 200 people present.





UK

» **Jewish Medical Association UK**

Henry Cohen Visiting Professor – visit to Israel, May-June 2018

Prof Patrick Maxwell, together with Mrs Maxwell, visited Israel in May-June 2018.

During his visit, Prof Maxwell toured all five Israeli medical schools, as well as the Weizmann Institute. At Tzfat (Bar-Ilan Medical School) he was welcomed by Dr

Essa-Haddad from Population Health, Prof Anthony Luder (Ziv Hospital) and Dr Zvi Segal (Western Galilee Hospital). At the Technion he met with the Dean of Medicine, Prof Marom, and with Prof Marcelle Machlouf; and at Rapaport-Rambam with Prof Karl Skorecki. At Ben Gurion he met with Profs Henkin, Moran, Lewis and Jotkowitz. At the Weizmann he was welcomed by the Vice-President, Prof Neeman and then met with Drs Zalckvar and Shalit. At Sheba Hospital (Tel Aviv University Medical School) he was shown the Childrens' Hospital by Prof Reichmann. In Jerusalem his first visit was to meet Prof Jonathan Halevy at Shaarei Zedek. This was followed by a tour of Yad Vashem. At Hebrew University – Hadassah he was welcomed by the Dean of the Medical

School, Prof Dina Ben Yehuda, and presentations were given by Prof Ora Paltiel (Head of the School of Public Health) and by Dr Harel and Profs Ben Porath, Lorberbaum-Galski, Domb and Geerts. He also met with Prof Keshet, Dr Gross and Prof Altuvia in their research units. On his final day, Ambassador Quarrey hosted a breakfast meeting at the UK Embassy, where a group of young Cambridge graduates (Drs Balcombe, Fertleman, Galinsky-Tzoref, Pepys-Vered, Pine and Silverstein) told him about experiences at the interface between British and Israeli science and medicine. Prof Afek, from the Israeli Medical Association, also participated in this meeting, mentioning the importance of international exchange with the UK.

The poster features a light blue background with dynamic, glowing blue and white curved arrows and lines. At the top left is the logo of the Israeli Medical Association, which includes a caduceus and text in Hebrew and English. At the top right is the logo of the World Medical Association (WMA). The central text reads 'Physician' in a blue, spaced-out font, with '2030' below it in large, 3D-style numbers made of colorful beads. Below the numbers, it says 'WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION & ISRAELI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION' and 'MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 | HERZLIYA, ISRAEL'. Above the main title, it says 'SAVE THE DATE'.

ההסתדרות  
הרפואית בישראל  
Israeli Medical  
Association



Sea of Galilee, Israel



May peace, prosperity, and happiness be yours throughout the holidays and new year

**The Israeli Medical Association**

**Prof. Zion Hagay**  
President

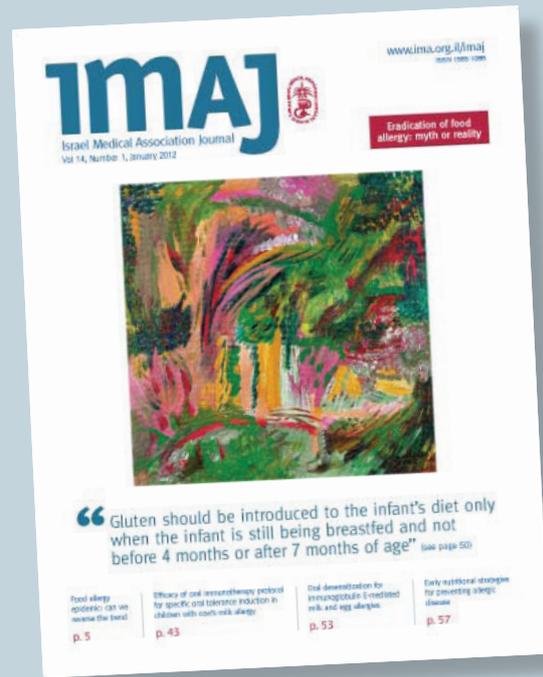
**Adv. Leah Wapner**  
Secretary General

2019

## 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.

> [www.ima.org.il/imag](http://www.ima.org.il/imag)



## 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.

## Ima Around The Globe

**“IMA around the Globe”**

is published by the International Relations Department

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