



A Word from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you with another edition of IMA Around the Globe.

Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine has dominated headlines around the world and has deeply affected us all. Highlighted in this issue is the work done by the IMA, led by Professor Leonid Eidelman, who

at the request of the Ukraine Medical Association arranged for groundbreaking medical instructional broadcasts to be transmitted live to Ukrainian doctors working on the frontline. The IMA was also instrumental in raising funds for the shipment of urgently needed medical supplies, and Professor Eidelman, along with other IMA personnel, accompanied this humanitarian shipment to Poland, and then onto Ukraine where it was gratefully received.

Sadly, the news also features the continued physical attacks on medical personnel in Israeli hospitals. Following a particularly harrowing incident at Jerusalem's Hadassah

University Hospital, a 24-hour strike was held on Thursday, May 19th, in which Israeli physicians called for an end to violence.

With the Covid pandemic now hopefully behind us, and with life slowly returning to normal, we are pleased to provide you with an update of our activities during the last 12 months. As always, you will be able to read about the various domestic and international events that have taken place, both virtual and in-person, and you will be able to catch up with some of our Chapter Heads for news from around the world and read about some of the latest Israeli medical innovations.

We have also included an update about the IMA's Physicians' Exchange Program with Panama and share information about the latest group that joined the program in 2021.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Shavuot.

Prof. Arnon Afek
Chairman
IMA – World Fellowship



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

A HAPPY SHAVUOT



IMA Domestic News and Activities

Physicians' Exchange Program with Panama 2021

In 2019, the Israeli Medical Association welcomed the first group of Panamanian doctors on the Physician's Exchange Program. Following the resounding success of this initiative, that enables doctors from overseas to perform their residencies and fellowships in Israel, plans were made to bring a second group from Panama in early 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic this program was put on hold. However, at the end of May of this year, we welcomed six doctors from Panama who arrived to participate in the **Physicians' Exchange Program – Panama 2021**.



From left to right: Dr. Isaias Caballero, H.E. Adis Urieta Vega, Ambassador of Panama in Israel, Dr. Henry Quintero, Dr. Jose Asprilla, Dr. Jose Obaldia, Dr. Shimshon Erdman, Director of the Israeli Medical Association's Physicians' Exchange Program, Dr. Alberto Moran, and Dr. Jose Baruco.

Following all the stringent restrictions for entry into Israel and upon their release from quarantine after serological testing, all six doctors sat the Israeli Medical Licensing Exam (IMLE) in early June as part of the requirements of this program. After which, the group arrived at the Israeli Medical Association's offices in Ramat Gan where they began an intensive 3-month Ulpan (Hebrew School). As part of the Ulpan, the doctors enjoyed several excursions

in Israel, including tours of Jerusalem and other historical sites.



From left to right: Dr. Jose Obaldia, Dr. Alberto Moran, Ms. Sisi Ohayon (Ulpan Aviv), Dr. Jose Baruco, Dr. Jose Asprilla, Dr. Henry Quintero, and Dr. Isaias Caballero.



From left to right: Dr. Alberto Moran, Dr. Jose Obaldia, Dr. Henry Quintero, Dr. Jose Asprilla and Dr. Isaias Caballero.

H.E. Adis Urieta Vega, Ambassador of Panama in Israel, provided additional support and guidance to the group and very kindly hosted the Ulpan Graduation Ceremony at the Embassy on October 12th.

Two of this year's intake Dr. Joseph Shasho and Dr. David Shahal were exempt from both Ulpan and the IMLE so joined the program later in the year just before the start of their residencies.

Three of the doctors have joined Beilinson Hospital to make their residencies: Dr. Jose Baruco (Cardiac Surgery), Dr. Jose Obaldia (Neurology) and Dr. Henry Quintero (Neurosurgery) in addition to Dr. Alberto Moran who will make his Coloproctology Fellowship.

Dr. Jose Asprilla (Neurosurgery), Dr. David Shahal (Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery) and Dr. Joseph Shasho and Dr. Isaias Caballero (Urology) have joined Sheba Medical Center where all four will make their residencies.

The Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship Scholarships, 2021.



In 2021, 18 scholarships were awarded to outstanding Israeli physicians who are going to or have already begun fellowship programs around the world. The US\$4,000 (16,000 NIS) scholarships were funded by the Israeli Medical Association, the Organization of Clalit Physicians, the Organization of State Employee Physicians, Rambam Medical Center, Rambam Medical Center Physicians' Committee, Sheba Medical Center and Sheba Medical Center Physicians' Committee.

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

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

The World Fellowship Grants Committee meeting was held in the presence of Adv. Sara Broker of the Israeli Medical Association who monitored the process. Scholarships were granted to 18 doctors who have been accepted to fellowship positions in the US, Canada, UK, Ireland, Germany, and Australia.

Due to the understandable restrictions enforced upon us by the Corona Pandemic, the World Fellowship Grants Committee made the difficult decision to cancel the World Fellowship Scholarship Ceremony. However, as in previous years, scholarships were awarded to the recipients in memory of a deceased physician, thereby maintaining this meaningful tradition.

The Israeli Medical Association's Live Broadcasts to Ukraine

The Israeli Medical Association in collaboration with the Israeli Surgical Association, initiated a series of live instructional broadcasts given to medical staff in combat zones in Ukraine.



Dr. Neta Cohen and Dr. Tali Capua from Ichilov (Pediatric Trauma Broadcast)

Following a request from the Ukraine Medical Association, this project was headed by Prof. Leonid Eidelman (past president of the World and Israeli Medical Associations). Broadcast from the Ichilov Simulation Center, Israeli doctors instructed their colleagues on how to treat traumatic injuries and how to use innovative life-saving techniques in both adults and children.

Drs. Hany Bahouth, Fahim Kanani and Dina Rozov from Rambam gave the instruction on Air-Way Management. Professor Boris Kessel, Dr. Dima Rozov and Dr. Fahim Kanani gave the instruction on Bleeding Control. Dr. Hany Bahouth and Dr. Daria Chorna gave the instruction on Multi Trauma and Dr. Neta Cohen and Dr. Tali Capua from Ichilov gave the instruction on Pediatric Trauma.



Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary General, IMA

Medical Help for Ukraine

Following requests for assistance from our colleagues at the Ukrainian Medical Association, on the 2nd of March the WMA, EFMA and CPME set up a taskforce to coordinate their response to the war in Ukraine. Many medical associations including the Israeli Medical Association stepped up with offers of assistance both financially and logistically. After receiving a request from the Japanese Medical and other Associations who wanted to donate a substantial amount of money, on the 4th of March, the taskforce decided to establish the **Ukraine Medical Help Fund**. This fund is intended for collecting donations which will be used to purchase medical supplies desperately needed in Ukraine. Prof. Leonid Eidelman, Past President of the World Medical Association, and Israeli Medical Association was appointed to oversee the use of the funds by the task force.

To date, the total funds accumulated amounts to 984,154.91 Euros. The first order of medical supplies was made with the assistance of the Israeli Medical Association, which coordinated sourcing suppliers, negotiating prices, and organizing its delivery to the Ukraine. On Friday the 25th of March the first truck containing essential medicines, training equipment, and medical equipment valued at 569,880 Euros arrived in Ukraine and the medical equipment was delivered on March 30th. Prof Leonid Eidelman accompanied the aid to Poland to ensure its release from customs and travelled to Lviv, Ukraine to oversee its arrival at the warehouse of the Ukrainian Medical Association.



Professor Leonid Eidelman, IMA

While in Ukraine Prof. Eidelman met with Prof. Andrii Bazylevych from the Ukrainian Medical Association to coordinate the current needs and prepare an updated list of medical supplies required. The Israeli Medical Association is now working to purchase all the items on this list and will once again arrange its delivery to Ukraine.

Thank you for the many donations received. These donations are vital and allow us to continue to support our colleagues in the Ukraine.



If you would like to support this initiative, you can donate here: [EFMA: War in Europe- Humanitarian Aid. - Givechak](#)

STRIKE AGAINST VIOLENCE



Dr. Tamar Elram, Director Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus

Following a wave of attacks against medical personnel across Israel, the Israeli Medical Association announced a 24-hour strike that was held on Thursday, May 19th.

The attacks, which have intensified in recent months, culminated in two particularly troubling incidents, one in Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center where a patient's relatives attacked medical staff and caused a significant amount of damage to the Intensive Care unit and one in Galilee Medical Center.

The Israeli Medical Association called for police presence in every emergency room and said that hospitals and clinics need to improve their security. IMA also urged for a change in legislation, so that an attack on medical staff would be treated with the same severity as an attack on a uniformed police officer.

Prof. Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association, announced that Thursday's strike would be just the beginning if changes were not made to protect medical personnel and warned that violence in the health system had become epidemic.

During the strike, hospitals worked in 'Shabbat' mode, meaning that non-urgent elective surgeries were not performed, and outpatient clinics were closed. Rallies and protests were held outside hospital buildings throughout the day.



Professor Zion Hagay, President of the Israeli Medical Association, Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus.

Features

Focus on Kaplan Medical Center.

Kaplan Medical Center (KMC) is one of the largest hospitals in the CLALIT Health Services network. It is also Israel's largest health services (HMO) provider and in fact, the second largest health services provider in the world.

Situated in Rehovot in central Israel, Kaplan Medical Center serves a community of around 1 million residents from Rishon Lezion and Modi'in-Macabim-Reut in the north to Ashdod and Kiryat Gat in the south and provides treatment to around 700,000 patients each year.

Built to meet the needs of the growing immigrant and local population, Kaplan Medical Center was established in 1953 when construction of hastily built barracks containing

88 inpatient beds were built on a 60-acre campus. The medical center was named after Eliezer Kaplan, a well-known Zionist and the first Finance Minister of Israel. Over time, the hospital's facilities were upgraded to accommodate the ever-increasing population in the 80's and 90's.

Kaplan Medical Center is now a major teaching hospital affiliated with Hadassah Medical Center and the Hebrew University Medical School, both in Jerusalem. This 554-bed hospital has over 50 wards and units that enable residency training and medical training for students in their clinical years: OB/GYN, ENT, Ophthalmology, Cardiology, Oncology, Breast Health, the 'Neve Or' HIV Center, Neonatal

Intensive Care Unit, Heart Intensive Care Unit, Dialysis, Surgical Outpatients, and Urology among many others. In addition, the Hertzfeld Rehabilitation Geriatric Hospital is part of the Kaplan Medical Center, providing therapeutic and medical care to the region's geriatric

patients. In 2010, KMC received the American JCI (Joint Commission International) accreditation for the first time to ensure the highest level of medical care and patient safety.



For more information about Kaplan Medical Center:
<https://hospitals.clalit.co.il/kaplan/he/Pages/default.aspx>



An interview with Dr. Michael B. Atkins by Dr. Shaked Lev-Ari, Israeli Medical Association's World Fellowship Committee Member.

Who influenced you the most in choosing a medical profession and field of research?

My father. He was a successful lawyer, but said as I left for college, "if I had to do it over again, I would become a doctor." I chose oncology because of my exciting Cell Biology class and teacher in college who led me to the conclusion that cancer is cell biology gone awry.

Also, oncology interested me because I wanted to be in a field that would continue to be challenging throughout my career and that had direct interaction with patients with diseases that influence their wellbeing.

What are the three most important lessons you have learned from the recent period following the COVID Pandemic?

That people can adapt to new circumstances and learn to work and interact remotely. That cancer immunotherapy research has direct relevance to understanding and managing COVID-19. That doctor-patient relationships are compromised by social and physical distancing and restrictions on how many people can participate in a clinical visit.

How do you think the treatment of solid cancers will change in 20 years?

I believe that cytotoxic chemotherapy will be the first line therapy for only a minority of diseases. Adjuvant immunotherapy will be provided for at least 20 different types of cancers, reducing the number of patients with metastatic cancer by 30- 50%.

Cellular therapy will be commonplace especially for those predicted not to respond to checkpoint inhibition. Finally, most treatment will be provided with curative intent.

What is your best advice for a young doctor who is undecided about his future career?

Choose a discipline that is a challenge and will stay interesting throughout your career. Consider a career that involves not just improving the therapy of individual patients, but of diseases. Identify a basic science partner with whom to share a research agenda and colleagues around the world with whom to collaborate.



Dr. Michael B. Atkins



Dr. Shaked Lev-Ari

As someone who has visited Israel several times, what do you think about Israel's public health system?

Israeli medicine provides care to all citizens even those that are not Jewish, regardless of their ability to pay. However, this of necessity requires some limitations in the diagnostic testing and treatments that are available.

Michael B. Atkins, MD is the Deputy Director & Professor, Acting Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology MedStar, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University Hospital, DC. He is an internationally recognized expert on melanoma and kidney cancer in clinical trials and evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Atkins' major research interests are cancer immunotherapy, treatment of melanoma and renal cell carcinoma, predictive markers for response to biologic therapy, and antiangiogenic and targeted therapies. His research work has been inspired the oncology society around the world.

Shaked Lev-Ari, MD is a senior physician, specialist in medical oncology at Ella Institute for Immuno-Oncology and Melanoma in Sheba. She is a current research fellow in Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, DC. **Early diagnosis and acceleration of research: the technologies that will dominate in 2022.**

"Memories of a Doctor"

Using Podcasts to facilitate fourth generation access to Holocaust mémoires

Yael Yekel, Matthew Fox¹

¹Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics, Ben-Gurion University

"Memories of a Doctor", a personal memoir by Dr. Fruma Gurwitz was first published in 1981. Dr. Gurwitz compassionately describes her first-hand account of life as a doctor in a Lithuanian town before and during World War II. She sheds light on the common practices, tools and instruments, and close community ties which were part and parcel of operating a clinic in days past. Poignant accounts are presented of the unprecedented evolving roles of a physician in the Ghetto: from treating patients with everyday illness to anesthetizing and smuggling toddlers out of Kovno Ghetto. Heartrending recollections of colleagues that had earned the honorific title of 'Righteous Among the Nations' by risking their own lives and families helping to hide and save her daughters, as well as those colleagues who turned their backs on her when she needed them most.

About 40 years after the book was first published, Dr. Gurwitz's great-granddaughter, actress Yael Yekel,



decided to record the book in her own voice adaptation, to facilitate its access to the fourth generation. In so doing she hoped the memoir would not be lost with its last printed copies. The recordings have been made available to the public as a series of podcast chapters, on all popular audio platforms free of charge in perpetuity. The recordings have been received with a lot of interest and many downloads from listeners around the world. A trailer audio clip is available on this link: <https://youtu.be/ymZZtVAP4J4>

The recorded version of "The Memories of a Doctor" also gained the attention of Dr. Matt Fox, director of the "Medicine & Holocaust" program at Ben Gurion University, who recognized an innovative and experiential teaching opportunity in the audiobook – for both medical students and physicians. Dr. Fox has created a teaching module making use of specific segments of the recordings which serve as a testimonial combined with guiding questions that facilitate written reflective responses on the unique role of the Jewish medical services in the Ghettos.

Medical Achievements

AI Technology Helps Identify Patients At Risk From Sepsis



Professor Noam Shomron (photo courtesy of Tel Aviv University)

A new artificial intelligence technology developed at Tel Aviv University will make it possible to identify patients at risk of serious illness from blood infections — one of the world’s leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

The researchers trained the AI program to study the electronic medical records of about 8,000 patients at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center who were found to be positive for blood infections between the years 2014 and 2020. These records included demographic data, blood test results, medical history, and diagnosis.

“We wanted to see if the AI would identify patterns of information in the files that would allow us to automatically predict which patients would develop serious illness, or even death, as a result of the infection,” explained **Prof. Noam Shomron**.

Article courtesy of: Israel21c. To view the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/ai-technology-helps-identify-patients-at-risk-from-sepsis/>

Scientists discover the mechanism that causes nerve destruction in ALS

An Israeli research group has discovered the biological mechanism causing nerve destruction in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

The groundbreaking study suggests that the course of this fatal disease can be delayed and even reversed in its early stages.

The research was led by Tel Aviv University Prof. Eran Perlmutter and his doctoral students Topaz Altman and Ariel Ionescu and was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Amir Dori, director of the clinic for neuro-muscular diseases at Sheba Medical Center.

Article courtesy of Israel21c. To view the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/scientists-discover-the-mechanism-that-causes-nerve-destruction-in-als/>

Israeli children’s hospital offers remote at-home monitoring of infants with complex heart defects, from Israel, Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Cyprus

At-home monitoring of babies born with complex heart malformations has been shown to reduce mortality from 15 percent to less than 5 percent.

A new partnership between med-tech startup **Datos Health** and The Heart Institute at Sheba Medical Center’s **Safra Children’s Hospital** now offers remote home monitoring of pediatric cardiac patients in medically underserved communities: Israel’s ultra-Orthodox sector, the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Kurdistan and Cyprus.

“We are proud to offer this new program to families in Israel and beyond to improve the care and survival of children born with complex heart conditions,” said Dr. Yoav Bolker, senior pediatric cardiologist at Sheba, the largest medical center in the Middle East.



Article courtesy of: Israel21c. To view the full article: <https://www.israel21c.org/babies-with-fragile-hearts-now-can-be-monitored-remotely/>

Early diagnosis and acceleration of research: the technologies that will dominate in 2022.

The main trends that shaped the year 2021 in the field of medical technology in Israel were both related to medical information – according to a survey given to senior industry investors in Israel, conducted by consulting firm McKinsey and the IATI (Israeli Advanced Technology Industries).

30% of investors said that the strongest trend was digital medicine, 30% voted for medical innovation derived from data and artificial intelligence (e.g., drug development using artificial intelligence), and 13% of respondents chose another interesting trend, related and unrelated to the previous two: migration of personnel from the non-medical high-tech fields to the medical field, who contribute their knowledge to innovation in the field.

Article Courtesy of Globes, 29.1.2022 

To view original article (in Hebrew): <https://www.globes.co.il/news/article.aspx?did=1001399927>

World ranking of medical faculties

The annual supplement of the British Newspaper “The Times”, **Times Higher Education**, ranked institutions of higher education in the world for 2022, and placed the Tel Aviv Faculty of Medicine in a large, concentrated group of institutions, 151-175 in the rankings.

The rankings were given to 925 academic training institutions in the field of medicine around the world from 50 countries for pre-clinical academic training. In the top ten: 1 Oxford (UK), 2 Harvard (USA), 3-4 Cambridge and Imperial College, London (UK), 5 University of Toronto (Canada), 6 Stanford (USA), 7 Tsinghua University (China), 8 USL, London (UK), 9-10 Johns Hopkins Weill (USA).

The Tel Aviv Faculty of Medicine is ranked along-side the Catholic University of Portugal, Georgetown (USA), Hong Kong Polytechnic, the University of Illinois in Chicago, and the University of Science in Jordan.

The Faculty of Medicine at the Technion is the second Israeli institution to receive a ranking on the list (201-250). The Faculty of Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is ranked in the 301-400 grouping and the universities of Bar Ilan, Ben Gurion and the University of Haifa are listed in the 401-500 ranking.

Article courtesy of Doctors Only 13.1.22 

To view the article (in Hebrew): <https://doctorsonly.co.il/2022/01/247595/>

Researchers from Israel have succeeded in creating 3D human spinal cord tissues to treat the paralyzed.

A scientific breakthrough from Tel Aviv University could create an amazing change in the world and allow the paralyzed to get back on their feet.

Researchers have been able to engineer a three-dimensional human spinal cord and implant it in lab models suffering from chronic paralysis. The results of their study were very impressive: about 80 percent of the transplanted mice were able to walk again. This global breakthrough was led by Prof. Tal Dvir’s research group from the Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology, the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research and the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Tel Aviv University. The results were published in the prestigious journal ‘Advanced Science’.

Prof. Dvir notes “that it is important to understand that there are millions of people in the world who are paralyzed from spinal cord injuries and that there is no existing treatment. Those people who are injured at a very young age will have to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of their lives. Our goal is to produce custom spinal cord implants specifically for each paralyzed person, implant them and cause the repair of damaged tissue without fear of rejection”.

Courtesy of Walla 7.2.2022 

To view the full article (in Hebrew): <https://healthy.walla.co.il/item/3487128>

International Conferences/ Webinars

World Medical Association General Assembly

The Israeli Medical Association (IMA) participated in the World Medical Association (WMA) General Assembly from the 11th – 15th of October 2021. This virtual annual assembly was attended by National Medical Associations across the globe. The meeting was originally scheduled to be hosted by the British Medical Association in London, however due to the pandemic it was changed to a virtual meeting.

Prior to the General Assembly, a 2-day scientific session was organised by the British Medical Association on the global response to antimicrobial resistance, in the context of COVID-19. Among the issues discussed at the General Assembly were migrants, family violence, sports medicine, and the covid-19 pandemic. An emergency resolution was adopted calling for an end to travel discrimination caused by certain vaccines not being recognized in all countries. Another issue discussed was gender inequalities in health care. The proposal calls for an end to historical discrimination in health care, which has led to women and girls being restricted in their access to employment, education, and health care.

IMA Secretary General, Leah Wapner, Chair of the WMA Medical Technology Workgroup, gave an update on the work that the group has been doing and their plans for future months. The purpose of the workgroup is to review WMA policy, identify out-dated or missing policy and develop potential projects in medical technology. At the next Workgroup meeting, renowned Israeli expert Prof Salomon Stemmer from the Israeli Institute of Innovation



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will speak with the members.

Israeli Medical Association's Director of Law and Policy Division, Malke Borow represents the IMA in the Ehealth workgroup and is currently working to revise the WMA statement on Telemedicine.

The WMA General Assembly adopted the Israeli Medical Association's proposed statement on medical liability, which addresses issues related to medical liability claims and the implications of defensive medicine. The Statement said: 'A culture of medical liability litigation is growing in some countries, increasing health care costs, restraining access to health care services, and hindering efforts to improve patient safety and health care quality.'

Dr. Osahon Enabulele, former President of the Nigerian Medical Association, was elected President elect of the World Medical Association for 2022-23. Dr. Heidi Stensmyren, President of the Swedish Medical Association, was installed as the 72nd President of the WMA.

The 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland on 31 October – 13 November 2021. 120 world leaders came together for two weeks of global negotiations in the battle against climate change. COP26 President Alok Sharma said: "The science is clear, that the window of time we have to keep the goal of 1.5°C alive, and to avoid the worst effects of climate change, is closing fast. But with political will and commitment, we can, and must, deliver an outcome in Glasgow the world can be proud of."

The COP26 meeting brought the major emitting countries face to face with the countries most vulnerable to climate change. The leaders heard from young climate activists, indigenous peoples, and business leaders from across the globe.

The Israeli Medical Association was invited to attend and represent the World Medical Association along with Dr. Ankush Kumar Bansal from the Associate Members section, Dr. Ekpe Philips Uche and Dr. Innocent Achanya Otobo Ujah from Nigerian Medical Association, and Maira Sudabra from



Left to right: Khaled Abdel Ghaffar – Minister of Higher Education and Minister of Scientific Research of Egypt, Gillian Keegan, UK Minister of State for Care and Mental Health, Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, Diarmid-Campbell-Lendrum, WHO’s Climate change and Health lead, Katie Huffling, Association of Nurses for a Healthy Environment, Richard Smith, President of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, Wendy Morton, UK Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas, Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of Global Climate and Health Alliance, Rachel Levine, US Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr Maria Neira, Director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization, Poornima Prabhakaran, Deputy Director of the Public Health Foundation of India. Photo Credit: Bianka Csenki/Global Climate and Health Alliance.

Latvian Medical Association and WMA Journal.

For the first time, health was a major focus and the WMA provided over 65 educational and panel sessions on topics such as universal health access, protecting the future generation’s right to live in a healthy environment, climate emergency, and divestment from fossil fuels.

One of the key written messages of the WMA delegation and health sector representation at the conference was the Healthy Climate Prescription, <https://healthyclimateletter.net/>. This letter asks government delegations to take action to meet the Paris Agreement commitments of stopping warming to the 1.5°C target by further reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GGE). Approximately 600 organizations representing 50 million healthcare workers signed this letter, which was presented to Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Minister of Scientific Research of Egypt (future hosts of COP27), at the Climate Action for Health event.

Another initiative led by the WHO was to encourage countries to commit to build climate resilient and low carbon health systems. Over 50 countries have committed to this process, agreeing to take concrete steps towards creating health systems that are resilient to growing climate impacts, while many countries also committed to transform their health systems to be more sustainable and low carbon. In addition to this, fourteen countries have also set a target date to reach net zero carbon emissions in their health system before 2050.



Left to Right: Dr Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance; Richard Smith, President of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, Gillian Keegan, UK Minister of State for Care and Mental Health; Diarmid Campbell Lendrum, WHO’s Climate Change and Health Lead.

CPME Hybrid Meeting Board and General Assembly

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) held their first hybrid meeting on the 25-27 of November 2021. The meeting was held at the Soria Moria Hotel in Oslo Norway with many participants attending in-person. Those who were not able to travel to Norway were able to connect to the meeting virtually on the Zoom platform. Israeli Medical Association, Secretary General, Leah Wapner and International Relations Officer, Michelle Glekin both connected virtually to the meeting. While we were not able to be with all our European colleagues in-person, it was wonderful to see so many of them together again in a meeting room discussing important health policy issues.



The first day of meetings began with a conference hosted in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Association on “The power and limitation of data and its use for policy-making”. This was followed by a session on national reports where National Medical Associations gave updates about the Covid-19 situation in their country. The meeting then split into smaller workgroups on the following topics: eHealth; Professional Practice and Patients’ Rights; Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Products; and Public Health and Disease Prevention.

The second day of the meeting included the General Assembly and Board Meeting, where a new board was elected. Dr Christiaan Keijzer from the Netherlands was elected as CPME President for a 3-year term, from 2022 to 2024. Previously, Dr Keijzer served as Vice President of the CPME. Dr Keijzer said “It is an honour to be elected as President of CPME and I aim to build on the excellent work of the outgoing Executive Committee in increasing the visibility of our association at the European level. I also look forward to strengthening our cooperation with our partner European Medical Organisations.” In addition, two new Vice-Presidents, Dr Marily Passakiotou from Greece and Dr Jacqueline Rossant-Lumbroso from France were elected to join the Board.

During the meeting the participants discussed many pressing issues for health professionals, including ethics and Covid-19 and vaccinations. A response to the European Commission public consultation on air quality was adopted. The response emphasizes that EU air quality standards should be made more stringent, and more aligned with the current WHO recommendations. The Board also adopted a response to the European Commission’s public consultation on the general pharmaceutical legislation and a policy on the Health Workforce.

36th Annual EFMA Virtual Meeting

On the 9th of December 2021, the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA) held their 36th Annual Meeting. The virtual meeting focused on Covid-19 and specifically addressed three areas: Vaccine Acceptance Rates, Immunization Inequality, and the after-effects of Covid-19: Mental Health and Access to Care.



Israeli Medical Association Secretary General, Leah Wapner, chaired the meeting. Leah began by recognizing several colleagues who lost their lives to Covid-19, and a minute’s silence was held in their memory.

The meeting began with a Keynote speech by Dr. John Kinsman, an expert in social and behavioural change at the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. Dr. Kinsman presented on facilitating COVID-19 vaccination acceptance and uptake in the EU/EEA. He was followed by the Chair of the Medical Ethics Committee at the Danish Medical Association, Dr. Klaus Peder Klausen, who spoke about the role of physicians in giving information about vaccines, highlighting the success of vaccination uptake in Denmark.

The next session focused on vaccination inequality, where experts from the World Health Organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations provided a wide range of perspectives from governmental organisations, health professionals and the pharma industry. This made for a lively discussion. Next up were reports from National Medical Associations who provided updates from their country experiences. Reports were given from Portugal, Greece, and Kazakhstan, which highlighted the different experiences across the European Region.

The final session focused on the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and was split into two areas: Mental Health and Access to Care. Dr. Daisy Fancourt, an Associate Professor of Psychobiology & Epidemiology at University College London, presented on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on mental health, with a focus on adults living in the UK. In March 2020, Dr. Fancourt established the COVID-19 Social Study, which has become the largest study on the psychological and social impact of the pandemic. She highlighted the effect of gender differences and inequalities on mental health. Dr Fancourt was followed by Dr. Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, the Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems at the WHO

Regional Office for Europe, who spoke about the individual and social impacts of the pandemic. She then continued to discuss the WHO's response and plans for the future.

Dr. Sarah Garner, Acting Regional Advisor, Access to Medicines and Health Products at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, presented on the work of the Oslo Medicines Initiative. This Initiative was established by the WHO Europe, Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Medicines Agency and aims to provide a neutral platform for the public and private sectors to jointly outline a vision for equitable and sustainable access to effective, innovative and affordable medicines. This session was followed by country reports from Latvia and the European Medical Students Association.

At the end of the meeting participants were invited to join the 37th Annual EFMA Meeting in Lviv, Ukraine in May 2022.

IMA representatives at Nefesh B'Nefesh MedEx Event



from left to right: Dana Fishbain, Anna Bagola, Adv. Malke Borow

On Sunday March 27- Monday March 28, 2022, Malke Borow, Director of the Division of Law and Policy at the IMA, Dana Fishbain, Manager of the IMA Scientific Council and Anna Bagola, Foreign Representative at the IMA Scientific Council, represented the IMA at the "Aliya MedEx", the special session for medical professionals, held

in Teaneck, New Jersey, USA.

Over the course of the day, Malke, Dana and Anna met personally with tens of physicians considering Aliya, answering questions, and beginning the process of transferring their specialty certifications to Israel. On hand were also representatives of the Ministry of Health who assisted in starting the process of transferring their medical licenses, a notary to certify their documents, and representatives of various employers, including hospitals and kupot cholim.

The event got warm reviews from the future olim, who mentioned the great help afforded them in the complex process of Aliya. The IMA celebrates those physicians planning aliya and is here to assist them on the other side of the ocean as well.



To view the event: <https://fb.watch/cl9pcWO1MA/>

FIEM ASSEMBLY, ASUNCIÓN - PARAGUAY

The Israeli Medical Association sent a delegation to the XIII Foro Iberoamericano de Entidades Médicas and CONFEMEL (CONFEDERACION MEDICA LATINOAMERICANA Y DEL CARIBE), which was held in Asunción, Paraguay, on May 16-18th, 2022. CONFEMEL is an organization representing medical associations from nearly 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Spain and Portugal. Israel is currently a partial member of this important organization and aspires to gain full membership. This effort has been put forward and directed by Dr. Shimshon Erdman, IMA's Director of Relations with Latin America and honorary member of CONFEMEL.

The attending delegates included Leah Wapner, Secretary General of IMA, Dr. Ester Barchilon and Dr. Elhanan Greenberg. At the general assembly of CONFEMEL, held on May 18th, the proposal of Israel gaining full membership status received unanimous support. However, since this step requires a change of



Aguije!

(Gracias)

El Círculo Paraguayo de Médicos agradece a todos los colegas extranjeros quienes nos dieron la confianza para la realización en nuestro país del **XIII Foro Iberoamericano de Entidades Médicas 2022**, realizado los días 16, 17 y 18 de mayo, donde hemos compartido días maravillosos e inolvidables, sobre todo hemos aprendido e intercambiado experiencias que favorecerán a nuestras comunidades.

Esperamos que la hospitalidad y cordialidad de cada uno de los paraguayos con quienes tuvieron la oportunidad de contactar, haya llenado sus expectativas y sus emociones.



organizational statutes, it will be discussed in a special assembly to be held as soon as possible, most probably in September of this year.

Israel has strong relations with many member countries of CONFEMEL and the Israeli Medical Association currently hosts the Physicians' Exchange Program in which young doctors from Panama perform their residencies and fellowships in hospitals across Israel, and this project is to be expanded to include doctors from other Latin American countries. We feel that Israel's contribution can greatly improve the professional level of medicine in Latin America, for the betterment of patients, doctors, and public health.



(from left to right) Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary General of the Israeli Medical Association, Dr. Ester Barchilon, Dr. Elchanan Greenberg

Israeli Medical Association's World Fellowship Around the Globe: Aliyah Interview.

Aliya Interview with Bianca Grunberg Tesler

Personal/Professional Background

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

I graduated in medicine at the University of São Paulo Medical School in December 1980 and completed my residency in OB/GYN in 1984 at the Clinics Hospital of the University of São Paulo. I've worked at the same hospital and in private practice, also being part of a professor's team until 2009 when I decided to switch to medical oncology (after losing my dad, mum and husband to cancer...) Although I didn't manage to have a specialist title as an oncologist, I've worked since 2012 in chemotherapy clinics and seeing patients as part of the oncology team.

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

I lived with my parents in Israel from the age of 8 to 11 (so technically I'm a "ktina hozeret", with the same rights as an Olah Chadasha). We moved back to Brazil when I was 11 years old, but I've always wanted to return to Israel. After performing my 3-year long residency in Brazil I tried to find a place in Israel to complete it (as in Israel an OB/GYN residency is 6-years long), but unfortunately, I didn't manage to do this. Then I met my husband, who was not interested in making Aliya. After my husband died from pancreatic cancer in 2008, my only son was about to begin law school, so I waited for him, however when he decided that he did not want to make Aliya, it took a few more years before I felt that it was ok to leave him alone in Brazil and to come to Israel by myself. Then Corona began...so it took me one year more before I finally arrived.

The Aliyah Process

Could you briefly describe the process of making Aliyah?

It was a very bureaucratic process. I had to provide copious



Full Name: Bianca Grunberg Tesler
Occupation: Medical Doctor
Date of Aliyah: 13/04/2021
Originally from: São Paulo, Brazil
Made Aliyah with: Alone
(my only son is 31 years old and is a lawyer in São Paulo. He does not plan to make Aliya at this time).

amounts of documents to the "Global Center", as I needed to be recognized as a "katin chozer" and not a "toshav chozer. Then, when everything seemed to be going ok, Ben Gurion Airport closed. As I had an Israeli passport, I couldn't join the "130 olim from South America" flight, so I arrived last year, on April 13th instead of January 28th.

Life in Israel

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

I've lived in Haifa since I've arrived. I worked for 6 1/2 months as "Syaat Gan Yeladim" (Kindergarten Assistant) while waiting for the Ministry of Health to find a place for me to do the "Hitnassut Klinit", so that I could obtain my license to become a doctor in Israel.

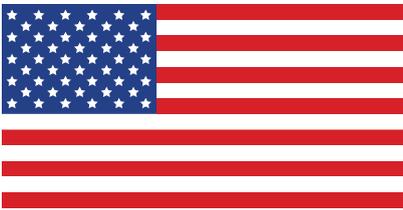
On December 15th 2021, under the supervision of Professor Zeev Wiener, I began my "hitnassut" in the OB/GYN Department at Rambam Hospital, which I will finish on June 14th of this year.

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

I enjoy the freedom of walking around at any given time without feeling worried about my personal safety, as this can be an issue in São Paulo. I also like the challenges of the new beginnings.

What is difficult for me is being so far away from my only son; it's harder than I thought it would be. Also, it's not easy to get used to lots of little (and big) problems in the apartment I rent and not being able to change them. Hebrew is not a problem for me, nor is "medical Hebrew" as I'm coping quite well with it, which is a very pleasant surprise. Of course, I hope to be approved and to get my Israeli medical license as soon as possible as I don't intend to be a "Syaat Gan Yeladim" for the rest of my life...the process just takes time, I know Israel needs doctors and I want to be able to work as one!!!

Chapter Updates



US Chapter Update

The American Israeli Medical Association (AIMA) is a networking organization based in Los Angeles. AIMA specializes in bringing together investors, venture capitalists, professional firms, executives, medical doctors, and academics to share their ideas and knowledge about the current trends in the medical industry. On May 15th, 2022, Dr. Ben Drillings, Director of AIMA, hosted an event where Keynote Speaker Dr. Ohad Hochman, CEO of Bnai Zion Medical Center, and former Chief Medical Officer of the Israeli Navy talked to invited guests.

American Israeli Medical Association is Inviting You
May 15th 2022 at 6 P.M.
Private Home in Beverly Hills



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Ohad Hochman
CEO of Bnai Zion Medical Center
Former Chief Medical Officer of the Israeli Navy

Sign up Today:
[Click Here to Register](#)

Refreshments will be Served
For Questions, Please E-mail: drben@a2zhealth.com
Space is Limited



(left to right) Dr. Ben Drillings, Dr. Ohad Hochman



Canadian Chapter Update

Journeys From Ethiopia and Daliat-El-Carmel (Druze Village) to Canada

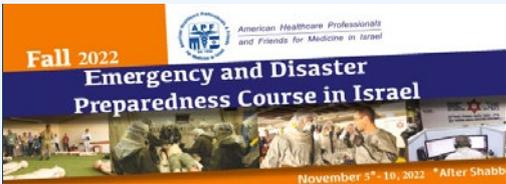
On April 7th, 2022, we enjoyed an excellent webinar with 140 doctors in attendance via Zoom. Two Israeli fellows, one from a Druze community, now doing a fellowship in Emergency Medicine at Sickkids (The Hospital for Sick Kids, Toronto) as well as an Ethiopian fellow, studying Head and Neck Surgery in Toronto told the impressive story of their journeys from their origins to achieving their medical degrees.

Dr. Rose Geist, President, Canadian (Toronto) Chapter.



**American Healthcare Professionals
and Friends for Medicine in Israel**

We look forward to welcoming this year's participants!



**Fall 2022
Emergency and Disaster
Preparedness Course in Israel**
November 5th - 10, 2022 *After Shabb

APF's 22nd **Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel** will take place from November 5 to 10, 2022.

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

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

For more Information

2022 Podiatry Trip to Israel



**American Healthcare Professionals
and Friends for Medicine in Israel**



2022 Podiatry Trip to Israel
The Third Podiatry Scientific Mission in Israel, October 27 to November 5, 2022

APF's third **Podiatry Scientific Mission in Israel** will be held October 27 to November 5, 2022.

Join physicians and other clinicians from across the U.S. and Canada to participate in this amazing trip, which includes inspiring lectures from Israeli and American speakers. In addition, attendees will visit three Israeli high-tech companies, tour the Knesset and Masada, float in the Dead Sea and much more.

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

For more Information

Hadassah Northeastern Doctor at Texas Southwestern to Build Trauma Mastery

JOIN APF TODAY AND BE PART OF SHAPING ISRAEL'S FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS.

**International Master's Program
on Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University**



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SACKLER FACULTY OF MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM
FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The International Multidisciplinary Program for Emergency and Disaster Management was established at Tel Aviv University in 2011 with the aim of providing the graduates with the knowledge and skills required to effectively deal with emergencies and disasters and their consequences.

The 10-months program enables students from all over the world to study in Israel, gain knowledge and competencies in emergency preparedness and management, and learn from leading experts as their lecturers and faculty.

The master's program has three major goals:

1. To impart the academic knowledge and the operational and theoretical analysis skills required when dealing with emergency and disaster situations.
2. To develop new, innovative and critical ways of thinking when examining intervention plans for dealing with emergency and disaster situations, as well as the ability to transform these plans into action.
3. To provide the knowledge and hands-on experience to develop the skills needed for dealing with diverse types of emergencies and disasters, using tools and skills for capacity building, management, organization, evaluation, and analysis of such situations.



"Complicated traumas are kind of rare in Israel these days, maybe once a week," says Dr. Feldman. "Here it's every day."

"Israel's population is smaller. In the United States and other places abroad, they have these large hospitals where one can do these programs. You do procedures again and again and, with the proper guidance, get the proper experience. It's like logging flight hours to become the best pilot."

Click [here](#) for more information, or email Assaf Levinton, Administrative Director at emergex@tauex.tau.ac.il.

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Around The Globe

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ISRAELI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL – IMAJ

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

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

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