From The President

I would like to summarize some of the important activities of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel during the current year.

1. Emergency Disaster Preparedness Course and Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry There are 34 participants scheduled to attend the November 3-8 Course in Israel under the able direction of Dr. Michael Frogel, Dr. Amir Blumenfeld and APF Associate Director Carol Ghatan. As before, CME credit will be available. The next Course is scheduled for May 10-15, 2008 and details will be available shortly on our website. The very excellence of this Course has resulted in police officers, fire fighters, and disaster planners, in addition to physicians and healthcare professionals, from all over North America attending this and previous Courses.

2. EMV Registry Currently there are approximately 400 physicians and healthcare professionals on the Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry. This Registry was utilized extensively in a mock call-up drill on May 30, 2006. The EMV Registry list is vital! It is on file at the Ministry of Health and can be used by both the APF and the Ministry of Health to identify physicians and other healthcare professionals who are needed in Israel at the time of an urgency or emergency. It is vitally important that everyone on the EMV Registry update their profile, if they have not already done so, to keep our records accurate and complete. I urge all such individuals to do this promptly.

If you are not a volunteer, please consider becoming one. There are two tracks to be listed on the EMV Registry:

- First, individuals can complete the two APF forms, their biography and an indemnity statement, and they will be listed. These are available on our website (www.apfmed.org).
- The second process is more complicated and involves presenting documents in order to be pre-certified by the Ministry of Health. For further information regarding pre-certification, please call our office or visit our website.

For any physician contemplating going to Israel at a time of an emergency or urgency it would be important to have such documents available to take with you, as they will be required once one arrives in Israel to serve.

3. Hospital Visitation Program Dr. Amir Blumenfeld and Dr. Avi Goldberg are in the process of developing a program where interested U.S. physicians who want to spend time in Israel at a given hospital can do so. Several radiologists have already gone to Israel for 7 to 10 days. They are teaching and participating in activities, but with out direct patient-care responsibilities. It is anticipated that in essence such observerships will facilitate identification of physicians who would be known at a given hospital and would then be in an optimal position to return to said hospital in times of an emergency.

4. Fellowship Program This year 52 awards were made. These included the traditional $5,000 fellowship awards, plus named fellowships, including the Klitzberg Oncology Awards, a $25,000 Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Fellowship for training in oncology, the Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowships for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund, a $10,000 Kass Award and a $10,000 Knoll Award. Both of the latter are to support Israeli physician scientists to continue their work in Israel. This year we are particularly pleased to announce a joint agreement with the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) who have decided to support 10 fellowships each year. Such fellows will be designated joint APF/IMA fellows. This agreement will be in effect for the next 5 years.

5. Student Program In June 2007 Dr. Allen Menkin lead a group of 30 medical students on a second annual Taglit/birthright israel/APF medical student tour. In addition to the typical birthright activities, students spent time at the Ministry of Health, Israeli Defense Forces Headquarters, and the Simulation Center at Sheba Tel Hashomer Medical Center.

Dr. Allen Menkin and our student representative, Mr. Josh Gordon, of NYU School of Medicine, are very busy developing new chapters for Jewish medical students. There is considerable interest especially in forming these chapters in Cleveland, Pittsburg, and Washington DC. It should be emphasized that students can become members of the APF without having to pay dues and their participation is encouraged. For any APF physicians in the cities mentioned above who are interested in assisting in the formulation of a student chapter please contact either Dr. Allen Menkin or Mr. Josh Gordon.

This has been a most fruitful and exciting year for APF, but we need your continued support to sustain these activities and expand into new areas with our Israeli colleagues.

Norton J. Greenberger, M.D.
President
The American Physicians Fellowship is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of the Dr. Edward H. Kass and Dr. Isaac Knoll Research Awards. These annual grants are awarded to support the biomedical research of promising young physicians in Israel.

The 2007 – 2008 Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award for Medical Research has been awarded to Dr. Gal Markel of The Chaim Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer for his project "Role of Natural Killer (NK) Receptors and Ligands in Major Burn Patients".

Dr. Markel received his Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Immunology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2004, and his M.D. in 2006. It has been written about Dr. Markel that "his knowledge of immunology, his creative and critical thinking, his mastering of laboratory techniques, and his excellent interpersonal relations make him a candidate for leadership in both medicine and science."

This grant was established in memory of Edward H. Kass, M.D., a distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and past president of the APF (1986-1990). APF is grateful to Mrs. Amalie Kass, whose generosity and support has made the endowment for the Kass Award possible.

Dr. Isaac Knoll Research Award is granted in memory of Isaac Knoll, M.D., one of APF’s founding members, through the generosity of a fund established at APF by Dr. Knoll.

The Dr. Isaac Knoll Research Award for Medical Research in support of his research "Elucidating the Mechanism Involved in Systemic Recruitment of MSC for Skeletal Tissue Regeneration".

He is a graduate of the Hebrew University Medical School, and a resident in Orthopedic Surgery at the Hadassah Medical Center, where he has participated in a multidisciplinary program enabling him to connect the clinical world, with its different treatment modalities, to the science research world.

The Dr. Isaac Knoll Research Award is granted in memory of Isaac Knoll, M.D., one of APF’s founding members, through the generosity of a fund established at APF by Dr. Knoll.

Dr. Moshe Gatt Recipient of the Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Fellowship Award

APF is proud to announce that Dr. Moshe Gatt is the first recipient of the Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Fellowship Award. This special grant is for a post-doctoral Israeli fellow training in oncology at a leading U.S. or Canadian medical center.

Dr. Gatt is an outstanding young physician scientist, with a promising career in academic medicine. He completed his medical training at the Hadassah Medical Center – Hebrew University School of Medicine in Jerusalem, followed by a fellowship at Hadassah in Hematology-Oncology. He is presently a Research Fellow at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, focusing on Multiple Myeloma.

A letter from Dr. Moshe Gatt:

Dear American Physicians Fellowship For Medicine in Israel,

As the recipient of the Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt fellowship for post-graduate training of an Israeli oncologist, I would like to describe my personal and scientific outline.

Over the past several years, I have extended the Basic Sciences period of my Internal Medicine residency into my Hematology Fellowship, which I have just now completed. During this time, I have investigated the role of a distinct intracellular pathway (Wnt signaling) and its regulation of leukemia and other malignancies.

As of August 2007, I am continuing my Hematology Fellowship with a period of two years of research in Boston. I have been accepted to work in the laboratory of Dr. Kenneth Anderson, who is the Director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The laboratory specializes in advanced Genomics and Proteomics in Multiple Myeloma. It is considered one of the leading laboratories in its field. Its main goal is in identifying novel therapeutic targets, and providing the scientific rationale for combining targeted therapies.

The object of this basic research training is to gain knowledge of the most advanced scientific methods, some of which are not available in Israel. It is my objective to transfer some of these methods upon my return to Israel and to continue this line of work towards understanding basic mechanisms of Myeloma and other hematological cancers. The laboratory is also developing new methods to identify mechanisms of sensitivity and resistance, for selection of patients most likely to respond to treatment, through the combination of clinical and basic sciences data. I hope to be able to import some of these practices as well. I look forward to my fellowship and expect to come back to Israel with a thorough understanding of sophisticated research as well as new methods and concepts.

I am married with three young children. They have just started school and kindergarten, and these are very difficult. I believe it will be a very interesting and unique experience for my family to live in a new country and appreciate a different culture. Thus, receiving the fellowship award is of extreme help, especially as everyday living in a big city like Boston is very expensive. I am very thankful for the special opportunity it offers my family and my family to come over, live and study here.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Moshe Gatt, M.D.
Hematology Dept.
Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center
Jerusalem, Israel

2007 - YEAR END GIFTS

As you start to think about your year-end tax planning, we hope you will consider making good use of the income tax charitable deduction. No matter what your income, if you itemize, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving.

And consider the APF in your estate plans. It is a wonderful way of helping a great cause in the future. In addition to gifts of cash or stock, also please consider a charitable bequest in your will.

Please contact the APF Office for more information. Such acts of tzedakah are much appreciated.
Physicians Helping Israel Prepare for Medical Emergencies

While U.S., Israeli and Palestinian leaders were talking peace, a delegation of 34 American and Canadian physicians and other health professionals traveled to Israel to participate in a grueling, five-day, state-of-the-art training program in medical emergency and disaster preparedness, organized jointly by the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel (APF), the Israeli Ministry of Health, and the Israeli Defense Forces Medical Corps.

The 10th biannual APF Emergency and Disaster Management Course provided physicians and other medical personnel from all specialties advanced training in emergency and disaster management, which benefits patients in their home countries. Israel benefits as well, since many of the foreign physicians volunteer to return to Israel in case of emergencies that strain the Israeli civilian and military health systems and human resources.

Visiting doctors trained alongside their Israeli colleagues in several civilian and military settings, exchanging expertise in how to respond to emergency scenarios involving conventional military/terrorist attacks and non-conventional threats from infectious, toxicological, chemical and radiologic agents.

"Israel has earned global respect for its emergency medical care," said APF Vice President Dr. Michael Frogel, Chief of General Pediatrics at Schneider's Children's Hospital in New York, who headed the delegation. "If we can help alleviate the strains of wartime or natural disaster health needs through this remarkable partnership with our Israeli colleagues, then we stand to both help the people of Israel in a critical way and also draw immense satisfaction from our personal commitment. This invaluable experience is also directly applicable to emergency preparedness planning back home."

As guests of the Israeli Ministry of Health and the IDF Medical Corps, participants were granted unique access and insight into the local, regional and national preparedness plans of the military and civilian health systems in Israel. Among the highlights of the visit were a toxicological drill at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Zerifin, hands-on emergency and trauma simulations at Sheba Medical Center's MSR Simulation Center in Tel Hashomer, and review of military/civilian disaster preparedness arrangements with the IDF Medical Corps, the Israeli Home Front Command, and Magen David Adom (the Israeli equivalent of the American Red Cross).

As part of their working tour of communities under stress, the group traveled to the southern Israeli city of Sderot, which has been bombarded by Kassam rockets from the Gaza Strip on a regular basis over the past few years (4 - 40/day). The group experienced first hand the dangers to the community, but more importantly they met the role model volunteers of Magen David Adom, the mental health workers, the teachers and countless others who risk their lives on a daily basis to care for their fellow citizens.

After participating in the program, Dr. Daniel Steinberg observed, "The stresses placed on all segments of the Israeli population and healthcare system on a daily basis as well as in emergencies are substantial. What is most impressive is how everyone from individuals, families, communities, the military and government coordinate their collective resources, particularly in times of crisis. Any assistance we can provide in this area is most appreciated. The cooperative spirit and teamwork embodied by the Israeli experience is something Americans and our health system could benefit from implementing in facing similar challenges."

For more information about APF's Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course, contact the APF office at 617-232-5382, visit our website at www.apfmed.org, or e-mail: info@apfmed.org

Israel Medical Student Exchange Program

American and Canadian medical students who have completed their pre-clinical years are eligible to take part in the APF/Federation of Israeli Medical Students Exchange Program.

Four-week summer rotations, in all specialties, in major Israeli hospitals, are available beginning in 2008.

Students taking these electives are responsible for transportation costs. Room and board will be supplemented by the host hospital.

For contact information e-mail: sarah@apfmed.org

Taglit/birthright - APF Israel Tour

Twenty eight American and Canadian medical students, dental students, and nurses danced with their Israeli hosts at Ben Gurion Airport, studied ethics at Rambam's tomb in Tiberias, toured the ancient city of S'fat, climbed Mount Arbel, and began a search for their Jewish identities......and that was just the first day! The pace picked up after that.

We are doing it again this coming summer. If you want to see Israel up close and if you want to spend the most exhausting, inspiring, rewarding ten days of your life, join our 2008 Taglit/birthright - APF Tour. It is free, but the memories will be priceless.

We will not have a reserved date until later this year, but we are aiming for a mid-June departure. Jewish medical, dental and nursing students, younger than 26 years of age who have not been on an organized trip to Israel and pre-meds, with a medical school acceptance, are eligible. Space is limited.

You can pre-register by contacting Sarah Rosenfeld-Mahoney at: sarah@apfmed.org or 617-232-5382
Amos Adler - from the Department of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in the Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Chicago in Illinois. He is also a fellow in the field of Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant (Staphylococcus aureus) (CA-MRSA). He plans to return to Israel in order to work at a state-mandated infectious hospital, in collaboration with clinical practice as an Infectious Disease specialist. Dr. Adler's wife, also a physician, and their young daughter join him. Dr. Adler is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Hagai Amsalem - an obstetrician-gynecologist from Hadassah Medical Center, Hospital in Toronto, he hopes to continue his perinatology research, exploring the immunological interaction between the pregnant woman and her fetus. Dr. Amsalem is accompanied by his wife and their two young children. He is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Adi Bachar-Rubinstein - a physician in the Department of Vascular Surgery at Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center in Haifa is a Research Fellow in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She intends to focus on the vasculo-vasum - the vessels that supply the blood vessels. After completing this fellowship, and returning to Israel, she will try to implement her new skills and knowledge at her hospital. She is accompanied by her husband, who is participating in a Cardiac Imaging Fellowship, also at the Mayo Clinic, and their three children. Dr. Bachar-Rubinstein is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Shulamit Bar-Zemer - a family physician attached to Sheinley Britz Clall Health care clinic in Modin is a Fellow in the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine in Toronto. Canada. Her fellowship will focus on the care of the elderly, supportive and palliative. She is accompanied by her husband and their three children. Dr. Bar-Zemer is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Alexander Becker - an attending surgeon in Training Program at the McGill University in Montreal, he is also a fellow in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His fellowship will focus on the care of the elderly, supportive and palliative. He is accompanied by his wife and their three children. Dr. Becker is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Nathalie Bentov - a rural family physician in the Department of Family Medicine at the Clall Health Care Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Her goals for this fellowship are to augment her knowledge, both qualitative and quantitative approaches for future research, and to better understand the psychosocial implications of this condition and its role in disease prevention. Her husband, an anesthesiologist, and their 3 children join Dr. Bentov. She is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Moshe Ben-Shoshan - a senior physician in the Pediatric Department of Soroka Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow in the Department of Allergy and Immunology at Montreal Children's Hospital in Montreal, Canada. He will be involved in a study focused on food allergies, including peanut allergy, as well participating in basic research of the molecular mechanisms underlying allergy and immunodeficiency. Dr. Ben-Shoshan is joined by his wife and their two children.

Nathan Bruck - an orthopaedic physiciin from Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer is a Fellow at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, focusing on foot and ankle surgery. He hopes upon his return to continue research in foot and ankle sport injuries, and continue collaborative studies between his home hospital and Baylor's program. He is accompanied by his wife, an attorney, and their young child.

Saleem Dabbah - a physician in the Electrophysiology Department of Rambam Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University, Division of Cardiology in Baltimore, Maryland. He hopes to learn the latest techniques in clinical and research aspects of echocardiography, cardiac CT and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. Dr. Dabbah is accompanied by his wife and young son.

Lior Edor - from the Department of Internal Medicine at Carmel Medical Center in Haifa is a Rheumatology Fellow at the Mayo Western Hospital in Toronto, Canada. Her main interest is in psoriatic arthritides, and she intends to concentrate on clinical work in the psoriatic arthritis clinic, as well as focus on research in the genetic epidemiology of psoriatic arthritis. Upon her return to Israel she hopes to establish a center for the treatment and research of psoriatic arthritides. Dr. Edor is accompanied by her husband and young daughter. She is the recipient of a JAFP/AMA Fellowship Grant.

Zvi Fridlander - a senior physician in the Department of Medicine, Institute of Pulmonology at Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Research Fellow in the Pulmonary Allergy and Critical Care Division of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Fridlander will focus on translational approaches to the design of new strategies for lung cancer. He is accompanied by his three sons. Dr. Fridlander is the recipient of a JAFP/AMA Fellowship Grant.

Tal Friedman - a clinical professor in the Plastic Surgery Division at Tel Aviv University, Ramat Gan, and a senior plastic sur- geon at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Zerifin, is a Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Surgery in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His focus will be in the field of body contouring surgery, including recon- structive surgery. Dr. Friedman is joined by her husband, a physician, and their three children. She is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Yohosha Gidov - an attending urologist and surgeon at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in Urology at the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He hopes to enrich his surgical and academic skills by being at a center known as one of the best in the field in the number and variety of operations it performs. He is a wife, a physician, and their two young sons join Dr. Gidov. He is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Arie Gordin - a senior physician in the Department of Otolaryngology at Ramot Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Canada focusing on pedi- atric oncology. His special interests are the knowledge and skills during this fellowship, to participate in a variety of complex pediatric otolaryngology surgeries, and to become involved in the management of a variety of medical patients. In his free time, he is interested in becoming an otolaryngologist at his hospital. Dr. Gordin is accompanied by his wife and their two children. He is the recipient of a JAFP/AMA Fellowship Grant.

Izthak Gur - a family physician with Clall Health Services in the Jordan Valley is a Fellow in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Gur hopes to gain the tools needed to perform two research projects he would like to under- take in the future: Thai Workers Population in the Jordan Valley Area: A Population at Risk or A Risky Population? and The Differences in the Delivery of Certain Medical Services in Rural Areas of Israel. He is accompanied by his wife and four children. Dr. Gur is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Aharon Hamani - a senior physi- cian in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Hadasah University Hospital in Jerusalem is a Research Fellow in Endoscopic Surgery at the Sydney Women's Endosurgery Centre in Sydney, Australia. He hopes to gain expertise in order to return to Israel to apply his experiences towards furthering this field in his department at Hadassah Hospital. Dr. Hamani is accompanied by his wife and their two young children. He is the recipient of a JAFP/AMA Fellowship Grant.

Ophir Handzel - an orthopedic physiciin at Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot in the Department of Otolaryngology, and Clinical Institute at Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in the Department of Otolaryngology Neurotology, and Otolaryngology Fellowship at the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He plans to combine clinical care of patients suffering from neurotological disor- ders, as well as continuing research on these diseases. He is accompanied by his wife, a physician, and their three children. Dr. Handzel is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Yair Herishanu - also a physician in the Department of Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System in Bethesda, Maryland. He is conducting basic research on chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and more specifically the interactions between malignant cells and their micro-environment. Upon his return to Israel, Dr. Herishanu plans to com- bine clinical care of patients suffering from lymphoprolif- erative disorders, as well as continuing research on these diseases. He is accompanied by his wife, a physician, and their three children. Dr. Herishanu is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Alon Herskho - a senior physician in the Department of Medicine at Hadasah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland focusing on the biology of Mast Cells. He plans to learn new technology and lab- oratory methods, enabling him, upon his return, to con- duct new research activities. He is accompanied by his wife, also a physician, and their four children accompany him. Dr. Herskho is the recipient of a JAFP/AMA Fellowship Grant.
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel for contributing to this endeavor by awarding me this fellowship and my support, both monetary and moral, has been indispensable.

Romem Ben-Ami, M.D. – APF Fellow 2007 - 2008

Mahmoud Suleiman – a cardiologist from Bnai-Zion Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow in the Department of Cardiology at the Mayos Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He hopes that his fellowship program in Cardiac Electrophysiology will provide him with in-depth understanding of many complex processes directly applicable to research and to patient management. Dr. Suleiman is accompanied by his wife and their young son. He is the recipient of the annual Mayo Clinic - Israel Heart Society Fellowship for 2007.

Tamar Tadmor – a hematologist/oncologist from Bnai-Zion Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is participating in a project involving the use of B-cell depletion to augment T-cell response to tumors. Her husband, a veterinarian, and their three children accompany her. Dr. Tadmor is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Nir Urel – a senior physician in the ICU Department of Ziv Medical Center in Zerifin is a Fellow in the Center for Advanced Cardiac Care at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. He hopes to enhance his knowledge through exposure to innovative technologies, treatments, faculty, and research. At the end of his fellowship, he looks forward to bringing his newly acquired knowledge back to Israel to help improve the treatments available to those suffering from heart failure related diseases. Dr. Urel is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Edi Vaisbuch – a senior physician in the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department of Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot is a Fellow in the Perinatal Research Branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He hopes that his research fellowship will improve his academic capabilities, both in clinical and basic research, in addition to his special interest in perinatal medicine and 3D sono- graphy, and his three children join him. Dr. Vaisbuch is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.

Talya Wolak – an attending physician, specializes in Cardiology and Nephrology in the Department of Medicine, and a member of the Hypertension Unit at Sourasky Medical Center in Beersheba is a Fellow in the Division of Endocrinology, Hypertension and Diabetes at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Wolak is accompanied by her three children. She anticipates being involved with research to explore the mechanisms involved in the development of diabetic renal damage and hypertension. Her husband, who is doing a Fellowship in Cardiac Imaging, and their three children accompanied her. Dr. Wolak is the recipient of a Harry and Bella Wexner Senior Fellowship for Medical Education and Research of the Legacy Heritage Fund.
APF Facilitates Special Grants for Physicians

Under the auspices of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel several physicians and administrators attended Courses and Conferences in 2007.

Dr. Leon Poles, a senior Cardiologist at Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot and consultant in Emergency Medicine attended the Health Protection Agency Conference held in London in March 2007 where the experience of the Polonium-210 incident was discussed. Dr. Poles shared the information on preparedness for a radiological incident with his colleagues in Israel.

Dr. Ophir Schein, the Deputy Head of the Chemical Section, CBRN Medical Branch of the IDF, attended the Scientific Conference on Chemical & Biological Defense Research in Baltimore, Maryland. Among the subjects discussed were medical countermeasures, toxicology, decontamination, advances in fabrics and barrier materials, and advanced air purification. Dr. Schein writes that "the cooperation with his American colleagues was improved and the lessons learned will help Israel maintain and improve their preparedness to a chemical event of terror or war."

Dr. Meir Oren, the CEO and Medical Director of the Hillel-Yaffe Medical Center and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Hospital Preparedness for Bioterrorism and Extraordinary Biological Events to the Ministry of the Health, attended the Ninth International Symposium on Protection against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents in Gothenburg, Sweden during May 2007. The CBW Symposium is the leading conference on the topic of CBRN, and takes place once every three years in Sweden. Sessions were held on disarmament and demilitarization, bioterrorism, detection of chemical and biological agents, medical countermeasures against chemical and biological agents, and threat assessment. Dr. Oren notes that participation in the

Conference will contribute to improving the preparedness of Israel and the hospitals in these scenarios.

Mrs. Bruria Adini, a Senior Consultant in the Emergency and Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Health, participated in the 17th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) in Toronto, Canada during July 2007. More than 1,800 disaster management professionals from 42 countries attended (only two from Israel). The conference focused on various topics of emergency preparedness. Mrs. Adini writes, "participation in the conference enriched my knowledge in disaster preparedness, and I am now utilizing this procured knowledge to enhance the preparedness of the Israeli healthcare system for emergencies."

Dr. Yotam Barneis, a Chief Instructor in the IDF Military Medical School, received a travel grant to attend and participate in key conferences and meetings held in Texas and Washington, DC, during April and May 2007, including a visit at the Army Combat Medic Training Program in San Antonio. Additionally, learning different methods and approaches to medical simulation, and exploring developments in this field were a key element of his objectives.

Grants were also given to:

Nahariya Hospital to facilitate the sending of staff (2 fellows, 4 nurses and 4 senior physicians) to a course in orthopedic surgery and also sending a physician to the Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis.

Maccabi Healthcare Services to enhance the participation of a physician at the Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society Conference.

Poriya Hospital for an Emergency Trauma Training Course for nurses and to support Dr. Milad Qyrawani short-term fellowship in trauma care at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nurse Education Fund

In 1988, Dr. Richard Hirsh established the Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nurse Education Fund at the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel in memory of his father. The Fund sponsors Israeli nurses for short-term specialized training at leading medical centers in North America. Nurses have the opportunity to learn the most up-to-date techniques and to expand their knowledge and clinical expertise. Over fifty nurses have been sponsored since the Fund's inception. Some of our most recent recipients of this grant are:

Masha Bozhi – is the Head Nurse of the Cardiac Surgery Ward at the Rambam Health Care Campus of Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. She participated in the Nurse Visitor Program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Through this program, Masha was able to expand her theoretical knowledge base and enrich her clinical expertise in the field of cardiac surgery, as well as expand her managerial skills. She had the opportunity to meet and exchange information with experienced staff nurses and nurse managers on subjects concerning the day-to-day management and operation of nursing units, including risk management, computerization of nursing data, building new roles in nursing, and the organization of patient and staff education.

Miri Vizei – is the Head Nurse in the Hematology Department of the Edith Wolfson Medical Center in Holon. She visited the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. This Center is one of the leading cancer centers in the U.S., and was recently reported to see the third highest volume of cancer patients per year. Each week of her visit was focused on a specific area: nursing care management; the infusion center (chemo & biotherapy) and the outpatient clinic; the inpatient departments; and palliative care and patient/family education. Miri noted that the nursing administration was very welcoming and willing to share their knowledge and experience in order to make her visit beneficial.

Amer Sakran – is a Registered Nurse at the Holy Family Hospital in Nazareth. He participated in a professional observational experience in the Operating Rooms of St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Amer commented that through this experience he gained a great deal of knowledge. He noted that the OR system in the USA is very different from the small hospital where he is a nurse, and he hopes that some of this will be incorporated into new modern operating rooms planned for Holy Family Hospital in Israel. In addition to the operating rooms, he visited the Holding Area, the PACU and the Sterilization Unit. Amer also had the opportunity to observe these same departments in the new South Baptist Medical Center, also in Jacksonville.
New Board Members

The following were elected Board Members in September 2007. The brief sketches here omit much of their distinguished work and scholarship. We appreciate their interest in the development of medicine in Israel and their commitment to APF.

Sherwood L. Gorbach, M.D., a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine, where he now holds professorships in the Department of Public Health, Medicine, and Molecular Biology and Microbiology. He is also a professor in the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. In 2007, the Infectious Diseases Society of America presented him the Alexander Fleming Award of Lifetime Achievement "in recognition of a career that reflects major contributions to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about infectious diseases." Dr. Gorbach is a past-president of APF.

Anne Matlow, MD, FRCPC, is the Director of Patient Safety at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada and Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. She welcomes the opportunity to be a member of the Board of APF, and hopes through her involvement to increase the profile of APF in Canada.

Paul R. Scherer, D.P.M., a graduate of the California College of Podiatric Medicine, is the Chairperson of the Department of Applied Biomechanics at Samuel Merritt College and CEO of ProLab Orthotics. In 1986, Dr. Scherer planned and implemented the first podiatry clinic in Israel at Hadassah Hospital’s Department of Orthopedics, which continues today, training many of the Israel's podiatrists. Dr. Scherer is a past Board Member of APF.

APF's New Israeli Representative
Dr. Amir Blumenfeld

The American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel is pleased to announce its new Israeli Representative. Dr. Blumenfeld joins APF after a long and distinguished career in the IDF Medical Corps, most recently as the Chief of the Trauma Unit. In this position, Dr. Blumenfeld dealt with clinical and educational issues. He was deeply involved in the formulation and implementation of national programs for mass casualty incidents, and took an active role in some of the major events during this period.

In 2007, Dr. Blumenfeld retired from the army, and joined a biotech company dealing with advanced cardiac imaging. Dr. Blumenfeld is a member of the Israel National Trauma Committee, as well as several other national sub-committees of the Ministry of Health.

All gifts of $500 or more will receive a copy while quantities last!

This book traces significant points in the history of the Jewish People and in the history of Medicine. Two significant questions are reviewed: Does Judaism foster a special attitude toward medicine? And to what extent did life in the Diaspora influence the Jewish contribution to medicine? There are beautifully colored plates of posters, photographs, and manuscripts throughout the book.

Keep for yourself or give as a gift!

Emergency and Disaster Training Courses in Israel

2008 Course Dates

May 10th* - 15th, 2008
*after Shabbat
November 8th* - 13th, 2008
*after Shabbat

Spaces are limited and do go fast, so please sign up early!
If you are interested in registering or would like further information please visit our website www.apfmed.org or contact Sarah Rosenfeld-Mahoney at the APF Office (617) 232-5382 or via e-mail at sarah@apfmed.org
Our Organization in Action

1950 — APF begins its mission to build bridges between Israel and North American medicine

1956-1957 — Under the auspices of the APF 64 Men and Women attended the Third Annual World Medical Congress in Israel

1967 — Over 300 physicians crowded the auditorium in Beth Israel Hospital, Boston to hear a report about the medical situation in Israel, in an emergency meeting of the APF. The overwhelming response showed that whatever medical aid is asked for by Israel, will be forthcoming

1977 — APF received accolades from Professor Ephraim Katzir, President of State of Israel, for APF’s work in the creation of the Israel Institute of the History of Medicine

1987 — Dr. Richard Hirsh, M.D. creates the Solomon Hirsh Memorial Education Fund to assist nurses for advanced training in North America

1997 — APF Grants 1st Jewish Genetics Research Award

2007 — Your annual appeal donation will write our Future History!

In Memoriam

The American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel sadly mourns the loss of the following members, including an APF Board Member and past President. Their contributions to society and this organization will be missed, but not forgotten.

Dr. Leonard Arnold
Highland Park, IL

Dr. George Greenstein
Baltimore, MD

Dr. Perry Berg
Billings, MT

Dr. Paul Liebman
APF Board Member
West Palm Beach, FL

Dr. Stanley Biber
Trinidad, CO

Dr. Harold Schnaper
Birmingham, AL

Dr. Jacob Bookstein
Chestnut Hill, MA

Dr. Saul Stein
Southfield, MI

Dr. Gilbert Cogan
Westford, MA

Dr. Thomas Stern
Memphis, TN

Dr. Michael Goldman
Northbrook, IL

Dr. C. Richard Weinberg
Delray Beach, FL

Dr. Leonard S. Gottlieb
APF Past President
Brookline, MA

Board of Trustees

President
*Norton J. Greenberger, M.D.
Boston, MA

Vice President
*Michael Frogel, M.D.
New Hyde Park, NY

Treasurer
*Mr. Ivan R. Sabel
Bethesda, MD

Secretary/Student Development Chair
*Allen Menkin, M.D.
Hackettstown, NJ

Neri Cohen, M.D., PhD
Baltimore, MD

Anne Kathryn Goodman, M.D.
Boston, MA

Sherwood Gorbach, M.D.
Boston, MA

Student Representative
Mr. Josh Gordon
New York, NY

Charles M. Kurtzer, DPM, FACFAS
Livingston, NJ

E. Josheph LeBauer, M.D.
Greensboro, NC

Westchester Chapter Representative
Hilton Mirels, M.D., FACS
Purchase, NY

Westchester Chapter Representative
Dan Moskowitz, M.D.
Rye, NY

Anne Matlow, M.D.
Toronto, Canada

Paul Scherer, DPM
San Francisco, CA

Boaz Tadmor, M.D.
Hod Hasharon, Israel

Membership Chair
*Steven J. Tenenbaum, M.D.
New York, NY

*Executive Board

APF NEWS is a publication of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel (APF), an organization committed to advancing the state of medical education, research and care in Israel, and to forging links between the North American and Israeli medical communities.