

APF News

A Newsletter of the
American Physicians and Friends
for Medicine in Israel



Dr. Paul R. Scherer, D.P.M.

President's Message

Dear Friends:

This is the moment that each non-profit President must face, the passing off of the baton to the next elected President and write their last "Presidents Message." It has been a complete honor and privilege to hold this position for the

past two years and I am grateful to the Board for their encouragement and the members for their generosity.

I set out two years ago to change the direction of the organization and to strengthen it. We have appointed a new Executive Director, Ben Shamir, who will continue the reformation of the organization into the future. Our increased communication efforts have brought our members closer to the organization. We have added both gender and degree diversity to the Board by the election of Dr. Judith Kimchi-Woods. The endowment fund has been stabilized and our Tribute Program for the past High Holidays has given us some much needed operating funds. We have been able to maintain our Fellowship Program to bring Israeli physicians to North America for sophisticated training even after our financial relations with the IMA have ended.

Our new website has strengthened our image and position among Jewish non-profits and has played an important part in growing our membership. The data system has been updated along with our processing capabilities and we have achieved the highest degree of digitally connected members server.

Our relationship with the Surgeon General's Office and the Ministry of Health has never been stronger and we remain the only U.S. organization chartered to send physicians to Israel in time of peace and emergency. We are pursuing sources for funds to further update the credentialing process so that there is dual American and Israel secure access. The APF has been without a Development Position for much too long and last year the addition of Amir Goldshtein to our administrative family has rounded out our human resources and provided yet another asset which we can be very proud.

I wish to extend my best wishes to Dr. Mike Frogel who will be assuming the Presidency as of January 1, 2014 and to whom I bestow the position with expectations for continued growth and success.

I will happily return to the Board as a team member. I must specifically extend my gratitude for the efforts of my fellow Board Members, Drs. Greenberger, Wayne, and Kelman for their help over the last two plus years. I could not have done the job without them and would also like to thank Amir Blumenfeld in Israel and Cathy Lieberman our consultant in Chicago.

Paul R. Scherer, D.P.M.

Paul Scherer
APF President

Welcoming Our New Executive Director

Please welcome our new Executive Director, Ben Shamir.

An Israeli native, Ben has been living in the US for the last 25 years and has worked with businesses and nonprofit organizations in an effort to bridge the gap between Israel and the world. As a natural born networker, APF will benefit from Ben's proven track record of making long lasting connections with people.



Together with his familiarity with the North American Jewish Community and his abilities to handle the complexities of working on both continents, he is uniquely positioned to help us expand our reach and bring our organization into the 21st century.

Most recently, Ben worked with similar bi-national organizations such as JNF, Ben-Gurion University, and the National Institute for Psychobiology in Israel where he significantly expanded their support base in the US.

We are enthusiastically looking forward to working closely with Ben.

APF Fellows for 2013 – 2014

APF fellowships were established in 1950 to help train Israeli physicians in specialty care. The program continues today with the awarding of supplemental fellowship grants to gifted Israeli physicians to help in the advancement of their education at prestigious medical centers in the United States and Canada.



Pazit Beckerman, M.D.
Renal, Electrolyte, & Hypertension
Division
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia
Chaim Sheba Medical Center



Jacob Chen, M.D.
Research Branch
U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research
San Antonio
Rabin Medical Center/IDF Medical Corps



Rinat Gabbay-Ben Ziv, M.D.
Birth Defects in Diabetes
University of Maryland School of
Medicine
Baltimore
Rabin Medical Center – Belinson



Yakov Goldich, M.D.
Ophthalmology – Cornea, External
Diseases, and Refractive Surgery
Toronto Western Hospital, University of
Toronto – Canada
Asaf Harofeh Medical Center



Mogher Khamaisi, M.D.
Vascular Cell Biology
Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard Medical
School
Boston
Rambam Medical Center/Technion



Uri Kopylov, M.D.
Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research
McGill University Health Centre
Canada
Chaim Sheba Medical Center



Nidal Muhanna, M.D.
Otolaryngology/ Head & Neck Surgical
Oncology
University of Toronto/Mount Sinai
Hospital Canada
Shaare Zedek Medical Center



Asaf Vivante, M.D.
Pediatric Nephrology
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston
Safra Children's Hospital

"Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue absorption into American reality. Because of your gift my financial needs have been lessened. I am sincerely appreciative, and I hope that you know that I will continue to work towards earning good grades and future honors."
-Past APF Fellow

Dr. Talia Golan received APF's Annual Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award

APF is proud to announce Dr. Talia Golan as the 2013-2014 recipient of the Edward H. Kass Research Award. Each year the Edward H. Kass Fund champions a promising young Israeli physician conducting research at a medical institution, hospital, or university in Israel. 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 APF (1986-1990).



Dr. Golan received her M.D. from Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Israel. She is currently the Cofounder and Medical Director of the Early Phase Clinical Trials Program at Chaim Sheba Medical Centre while also serving as a Medical Oncologist. The award will help to fund Dr. Golan's project entitled *"Identification of predictive biomarkers to targeted treatment in PDAC"*.



to Our Donors

APF would like to extend much gratitude to our many benefactors who, for over 63 years, have supported medicine in Israel through our organization. As we make strides to move APF into the future we look to you, our dedicated supporters, to help make this possible. APF would like to thank each and every contributor for their generosity and for believing in our mission.

Dr. Tzahi Newman from Hadassah Medical Center in Israel Awarded the Rosenblatt Foundation Grant

The Claire and Emmanuel G. Rosenblatt Foundation Fellowship Grant provides support in the amount of \$10,000 to Israeli Oncologists receiving post-doctoral fellowship training. This year's recipient is Dr. Tzahi Neuman from Hadassah Medical Center's Pathology Department. Dr. Neuman is doing his fellowship training at the Fox Chase Cancer Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he will be focusing on Oncological Pathology.

Dr. Neuman applauded the award: *"The program is intensive and demanding but I am eager to work hard and make this training period as efficient and effective as possible. Thanks to your kind support I can devote full-time to practice and study."*



APF's 14th Annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course took place in Israel November 2013

From November 9, 2013 through November 14, 2013 around 20 physicians participated in APF's 14th annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel. The course included various lectures and the physicians were able to visit various medical locations in Israel such as the Ministry of Health in Tel-Aviv, Shaarey Tzedek in Jerusalem, Rambam Hospital in Haifa, and the IDF Medical Corps Training Base.



This five-day state-of-the-art training program is coordinated jointly by the APF, the Israeli Ministry of Health (MOH), and the Medical Corps of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Participants in the course receive Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

Throughout the years, over 300 physicians from US and Canada have participated in this very important emergency and preparedness training while visiting Israel. Thanks to APF's course, Israel's vast knowledge in the area of emergency preparedness has permeated into North America's medical system.



"This entire trip has been wonderful and exciting. The APF program has been fascinating. We went to Rambam today and saw the underground hospital. We went to Sderot yesterday. This is a tremendous program and I can't thank you enough for getting us involved." - 2013 Course Participant

The next Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course will be held in November of 2014. Exact dates have not yet been determined. For more information please contact the APF office at 617-232-5382; or email info@apfmed.org; or visit our website at www.apfmed.org



APF Events

Inspiring APF Event at the home of Dr. Sitnitskaya, Great Neck, NY

Dozens of friends and members of APF gathered on November 3, 2013 in Great Neck, NY for an awe-inspiring APF Event.

The guest speaker Maj. Jacob Chen, M.D., an IDF Airborne Medical Doctor and Officer and a 2013-2014 APF Fellowship Recipient spoke about his experience serving as a military physician in the IDF since 2001. He has completed a series of very challenging assignments, serving as an infantry battalion surgeon, a course commander at the IDF School of Military Medicine, a medical company commander, and an evacuation company commander in the Israeli Air Force Airborne Rescue & Evacuation Unit.



Maj. Jacob Chen, M.D

His presentation was accompanied by a few very intriguing action videos taken during combat and rescue (something you would not be able to see anywhere else). Major Dr. Chen spoke to the crowd following his participation in the NY Marathon a few hours earlier and was accompanied by his lovely wife and three beautiful children. We were certainly all in for a treat!

We extend our warm gratitude to Dr. Yekaterina Sitnitskaya for hosting the event at her beautiful home.

Upcoming Events

In 2014, APF will be holding events in Boston, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Chicago. Please subscribe to APF's email list to receive updates and event invitations!

APF – Birthright Program in Israel

"The APF - Birthright experience was an excellent way to combine the life-altering Birthright trip with my interest in expanding my medical perspectives. It was an opportunity to have fun while learning about my Jewish heritage and Israel. Just as importantly, it was a way to enjoy the company of other medical students who share similar interests, and form unique and lasting connections with colleagues from both the United States and Israel." - David Rahimian, Past Participant



For further information about the June 2014 trip, please e-mail the APF offices: info@apfmed.org or call 617-232-5382

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Welcome APF's Newest Board Member!



Dr. Judith
Kimchi-Woods

APF is pleased to announce, Judith Kimchi-Woods, PhD, RN, MBA, CPNP as a new addition to our board. Dr. Kimchi-Woods is currently the Campus President at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio. She is a graduate of Rambam University Hospital in Haifa, Israel. Dr. Kimchi-Woods has immense experience in the Clinical, Management, and Research aspects of the field of nursing. APF is greatly looking forward to her contributions that will better enable us to serve both our beneficiaries and supporters in the field of nursing.

Four Israeli Nurses Receive Intensive Training Thanks to the 2013 Solomon Hirsh Nurses Education Fund

The Solomon Hirsh Nurses Education Fund, established in 1988 through the generosity of a former Board of Trustee member Dr. Richard N. Hirsh, in memory of his father, sponsors intensive specialty training in leading North American medical centers for Israeli nurses.



This year four Israeli senior nurses, visited the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio to shadow the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to learn more about the structure of the neonatal APRN education program. The itinerary consisted of ten 8.5 hour days. Half of the days were spent shadowing on rounds with NICU APRN preceptors and the latter half of each day meeting with NICU APRN leadership and content experts. The nurses also benefited from attending Neonatal Grand Rounds on select afternoons. The Hirsh Nurses this year represented the NICU's at Sha'are Zedek Medical Center, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, and Soroka Medical Center.

IDF Doctors Received Special APF Grants



Dr. Elon
Glassberg

This year APF provided two IDF doctors with funding to attend the Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in August of 2013. The two IDF officers, Captain Roy Nadler, M.D. from the Trauma & Combat Medicine Branch and Lieutenant Colonel Elon Glassberg, M.D. M.H.A. from the Trauma & Combat Medicine Branch attended the conference.



Dr. Roy Nadler

The main objective of the conference was to improve the care for the wounded and those in need of medical care - from the point of injury, through the different echelons, hospital care, and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on new technologies and measures. The IDF officers commented, thanking the APF and stating that their continued involvement in such conferences will allow them "to continue to deliver state of the art, up to date and focused care for our sick and wounded."



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Please visit the APF Website at: www.apfmed.org for more information

AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND FRIENDS FOR MEDICINE IN ISRAEL (APF), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization of physicians and health care professionals, is committed to advancing the state of medical education, research, and care in Israel by assisting in the training of young Israeli physicians and health care professionals, and in fostering ties between the North American health care community and Israel's health care community.