As my term as APF President draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity and privilege of serving in this capacity for the past two years. Thanks to the support, dedication and hard work of our members, donors and Board, we have been able to accomplish much and genuinely impact the health and well-being of all Israelis.

As I turn my post over to the incoming president, Nancy Schmidt, RN, I would like you to consider three areas that could use your tangible support.

**Access to Medical Care Across Israel**
There are many places in Israel where access to subspecialty services is hours away, causing unacceptably long wait times that can jeopardize health. Since its inception in 1950, APF has provided Fellowships for Israeli physicians to come to the finest medical institutions in the U.S. and Canada to learn advanced techniques and bring them back to Israel—often to remote regions previously lacking such expertise. Many of our Fellows have become leaders in Israeli medicine, including as department chairs and CEOs of leading hospitals.

**How can you help?** At a cost to you (or your group) of only $5,400, you can sponsor an Israeli Fellow in North America who’ll bring that advanced training back home for the benefit of Israelis for generations to come.

**Disaster Preparedness**
Every resident of Israel is now within range of missiles from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran, and remain potential targets of individual acts of terror. In light of that grim reality, APF sponsors an annual Emergency Preparedness Course in Israel; provides scholarships to train nurses from all over Israel in disaster preparedness; and has responded to special requests from Israel’s Home Front Command to provide all-terrain ambulances and even a bomb shelter. But our ability to contribute to Israel’s defense capabilities in these ways requires funding.

**How can you help?** (1) Establish or renew your membership to APF. (2) Add a special contribution to provide additional assistance as Israel prepares for what might come next. (3) Attend the 2020 Emergency Course in Israel.

**Medical Volunteering in Israel**
As a result of our unique connections with Israel’s Ministry of Health, Home Front Command and premier hospitals, we can assist American and Canadian physicians who would like to spend one to two months as a volunteer in Israel. This experience will enhance your knowledge and familiarize you with the Israeli healthcare system should you one day decide to volunteer for a longer duration or during a time of crisis.

**How can you help?** (1) Contact APF. We can help to match your specific interests and preferences with hospitals that would be happy to welcome you. (2) Join the Emergency Volunteer Registry of healthcare professionals who are willing to come to Israel at a moment’s notice to provide medical care during crises.

If we focus our efforts, energy and resources on these three areas over the coming years, we will undoubtedly see a continued improvement in the quality of life for all residents of Israel.

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*B’Shalom,*
Jeffrey M. Devries, MD, MPH
President
In March, APF sponsored three nursing-school directors and the head of the Nurse Licensure Department in the MDH Nursing Administration for a two-week observation course at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta. The purpose was to collect information for future adaptation and assimilation into the Israeli Nursing Education system.

In May, APF honored Past President Dr. Norton J. Greenberger for his 25 years of service on the Board. Dr. Bruria Adini, head of the Department of Disaster Management at Tel Aviv University, discussed preparing the public for light search and rescue while Colonel (Ret.) Dr. Erez Carmon, a former Israeli Air Force Surgeon General, spoke about aerial medical evacuation in Israel.

In September, the Michigan chapter made its third presentation to the Jewish Medical Student Association at Wayne State University’s School of Medicine in Detroit. Drs. Basse, Bernstein and Kelman were on hand to make the presentation, which outlined APF’s mission and programs. Several participating students, residents and attending physicians expressed interest in doing clinical rotations in Israel.

In 2019, we welcomed two new Board members. Dr. Richard G. Schmidt (left) is an orthopedic oncologic surgeon affiliated with some of the finest teaching hospitals and medical centers in the Philadelphia area. He will be joining his wife, Nancy E. Schmidt, RN, as co-chair of the APF Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

Dr. Jonathan Siegal (right) is an Emergency Medicine physician at NYU, a large academic hospital in New York City, and is currently the vice-chair for its Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Siegal had held various leadership roles in emergency department operations, including overseeing staffing, credentialing, quality assurance and patient flow and satisfaction.

In May, APF’s Third Podiatry Scientific Mission in Israel

May 17, 2020
APF’s 70th-Anniversary Gala in New York City

November 7-12, 2020*
APF’s Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel *After Shabbat

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I would like to recognize the hundreds of APF members and supporters across the U.S. and Canada. Your annual membership and generous support of our special campaigns are vital to our continued efforts in 2020.

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Farmington Hills, MI

President-Elect
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Bryn Mawr, PA

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APF MEMBERS’ IMPACT IN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

APF Board Members Nancy Schmidt, RN, and her husband, Dr. Richard Schmidt, hosted a great night for the Philadelphia chapter. Dr. Alex Zendel, a current APF Fellow in transplant surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, served as the guest speaker. He spoke of his time as a medical field officer and commander of an IDF surgical tactical team and at an emergency field hospital that the IDF had set up in Nepal for victims of the catastrophic earthquake.

This November, more than 20 healthcare professionals from North America and beyond (including South Korea) took part in APF’s annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel. Under the auspices of Israel’s Ministry of Health and the Israel Defense Forces, attendees toured the country, visited a number of medical institutions, attended information-packed lectures and participated in hand-on drills at the Wingate Institute and the Israel Center for Medical Simulation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2020

May 3-12, 2020
APF’s Third Podiatry Scientific Mission in Israel

May 17, 2020
APF’s 70th-Anniversary Gala in New York City

November 7-12, 2020*
APF’s Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel *After Shabbat
APF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1951, APF has been providing grants to help gifted doctors come to the U.S. and Canada to conduct research and receive advanced training that isn't available to them at home. When APF Fellows return, they enrich Israel's collective reservoir of medical knowledge. Many go on to become leaders in their fields, often as the only doctors with their particular skill set in their geographic area or even the country.

“We are in the final stages of establishing the new cancer center, and we plan to incorporate an adoptive cell therapy and cancer immunotherapy program [at Soroka]. I am sure that taking part in my planned Fellowship will lead the way for me to develop this program in the future, and I hope to live up to the tradition of the APF Fellows.”
- Dr. Uri Greenbaum APF Fellow

2019-2020 FELLOWS

Ofrat Beyar Katz, MD
Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Immunotherapy
University of Pennsylvania
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Lisa Cooper, MD
Geriatric Oncology
Harvard Medical School
Rabin Medical Center (Petah Tikva)

Uri Greenbaum, MD
Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Soroka University Medical Center (Beer Sheva)

Emad Matanes, MD
Gynecology-Oncology
McGill University
Rambam Medical Center (Haifa)

Yair Mina, MD
Neuroinfectious Diseases
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Eldar Priel, MD
Respiratory Medicine
McMaster University
Chaim Sheba Medical Center (Ramat Gan)

Gilad Rabina, MD
Ophthalmology/Retinal Diseases
Jules Stein Eye Institute UCLA
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Noa Shani Shrem, MD
Genitourinary
University of Ottawa
Soroka University Medical Center (Beer Sheva)

Liran Tiosano, MD
Doheny Eye Institute UCLA
Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center (Jerusalem)

“These two worlds—of clinician and scientist—that rarely unite in my everyday life in Israel are brought together in this Fellowship year. It has definitely been fruitful, stimulating and exciting. It is a true privilege for me, and I am thankful for your generous support in this unique and special year for my family and me.”
- Galit Livnat Levanon, Carmel Medical Center Haifa, Israel

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Farmington Hills, MI

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