Winter 2006-2007

APF News

A Newsletter of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel

From The President

I would like to share with our members and donors the important APF activities of the past 6 months.

1. **APF ISRAEL CRISIS FUND REPORT** After placing on our website and sending a special crisis appeal from Dr. Danny Laor, the Deputy Minister for Emergency Preparedness, on the critical needs of the Northern hospitals, it was very gratifying indeed that over **$100,000** was received for our Crisis Fund. All of this will be distributed to hospitals such as Sieff Hospital in Safed, Poriya in Tiberias, Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, and Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, with the hospital CEO's given the discretion as to how best to utilize these funds to help their hospital in light of the recent crisis.

2. **MISSION TO ISRAEL** Three APF Board members, Drs. Paul Liebman, Michael Frogel, and Charles Kurtzer, in addition to APF member Dr. Dan Moskowitz, spent 5 days in Israel in August in discussions with the Ministry of Health, hospital CEO's, Israel Defense Forces Medical Corps, and the Surgeon General. They conferred as to how the APF Emergency Medical Volunteers (EMV Program) could function in any forthcoming conflicts. APF conducted a mock call up drill in May 2006 which was quite successful and has generated a list of over 400 physicians, nurses and other health care professionals ready and willing to go to Israel on short notice if needed. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor was very grateful for APF's effort and their letter of appreciation is included in this newsletter (pg. 2). We are looking for ways to expand this program if lower level activity conflicts occur in the future and physicians and other healthcare professionals are needed.

3. **THE EMV PROGRAM** Included in this mailing is an announcement of the upcoming Courses sponsored by APF, in conjunction with the Israel Defense Forces Medical Corps and the Ministry of Health. We hope that you will take the opportunity to be part of this important and state-of-the-art training.

4. **APF STUDENT PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL** A 10 day mission, in conjunction with the Taglit/birthright israel program, took place in June 2006, and there are plans for another this summer. We clearly need additional funds to expand the student APF initiatives.

5. **APF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS** APF was able to fund 50 fellowship awards for the academic year July 2006-June 2007. Much of this funding comes directly from your membership dues. The insert provides details on the awardees.

All of the above clearly indicates the scope and importance of our activities and underscores the need for all APF members and donors to respond to this Appeal with a generous donation. The events of July and August 2006 emphasize how vital it is to provide continued support for Israel, and APF is a logical conduit for such support.

Once again, I appeal to all of you to give generously!

Norton J. Greenberger M.D.

Norton J. Greenberger, M.D.

Israel in Crisis Mission August 2006

by Dr. Dan Moskowitz

This past August, I had the privilege of being invited to participate in an Emergency APF Mission to Israel with APF Board members Drs. Mike Frogel, Paul Liebman and Charles Kurtzer. Dr. Boaz Tadmor organized an incredible, whirlwind tour for us, only two days after the cessation of hostilities in Israel. We were provided with a unique glimpse of the Israeli healthcare system under stress, including face-to-face meetings with top healthcare officials, as well as visits to the traumatized hospitals in northern Israel. Perhaps most importantly, we visited with injured soldiers at Rambam Hospital who had just returned from their tours of duty in Lebanon.

APF Physicians at Shieff Hospital with Drs. Embron and Hadari

Several themes emerged from this trip. Most prominent was the apparent paradigm shift in thinking among Israeli healthcare leaders concerning the need for volunteers in times of crisis. Dr. Mor-Yossef, Director General of Hadassah Hospital, articulated this perceptual change most clearly. He admitted that prior to the conflict, he thought of the APF as primarily an organization which provided fellowship opportunities for Israeli medical professionals. However, when fifty medical residents were called up for reserve duty, he recognized how volunteers could have filled the vacuum created by their absence. The call up left the medical staff and clinics severely strained.

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Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Courses In Israel

May 12* - 17, 2007
*after Shabbat
November 3* - 8, 2007
*after Shabbat

For registration information please call the office.

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One of the challenges in using medical volunteers is that there is often not sufficient time to train these people. Therefore, it is critically important that such volunteers be familiar with hospital procedures in advance. Our trip to Safed underscored the need to have volunteers who had previously trained at the facility with Israeli staff. Dr. Oscar Embon, CEO of Rebecca Sieff Medical Center in Safed, noted the critical role played by Dr. Bill Schecter during the hostilities. Dr. Schecter, a US trained trauma surgeon from San Francisco, happened to be at a medical conference in Israel at the outbreak of hostilities. He had previously spent time at the Medical Center and therefore, was able to easily transition into the critical care operations and helped to save many lives.

Finally, all hospital directors in the North, as well as, the Surgeon General of Israel, Dr. Chezi Levi, emphasized the need to "harden" the hospitals in the North. This necessity was visually reinforced to us by the shocking damage we witnessed to Safed Hospital. A katusha rocket landed on the roof of the hospital, its ball bearings causing extensive damage not only to the roof, but also to the wall of an adjacent hospital wing. Implicit in the concept of "hardening" is the construction of underground hospital facilities, as seen at Nahariya Hospital, which would make the hospital less susceptible to damage.

Practical solutions to the above problems were discussed. One suggestion was the creation of a "matching" program where volunteers would be matched with an Israeli hospital. The basis for "matching" would be hospital need and volunteer skills and preferences. The volunteers would then agree to spend time, once a year, in the "matched" hospital to facilitate their ability to help out in time of emergency. The reconstruction and upgrading of northern hospitals, including the construction of underground facilities, is an expensive proposition (estimated to cost $3 billion by Dr. Danny Laor of the Ministry of Health), and a long term project that would welcome the assistance of fund raising efforts by the APF. The APF could partner with Israeli hospitals which already have fund raising organizations outside Israel.

Our trip was made all the more worthwhile by our visits with soldiers who were wounded during this last conflict. Their stories put a human face on the importance of a well-prepared and adequately staffed medical system. I would once again like to thank Paul, Mike and Charles for inviting me on this unforgettable trip. Also, my great appreciation to Boaz for his selfless and tireless dedication to the APF. Lastly, I am grateful to all the medical personnel, the unsung heroes, who worked non-stop for weeks saving the lives of our Israeli soldiers and civilians.

First-Hand Account from Haifa During Recent Crisis

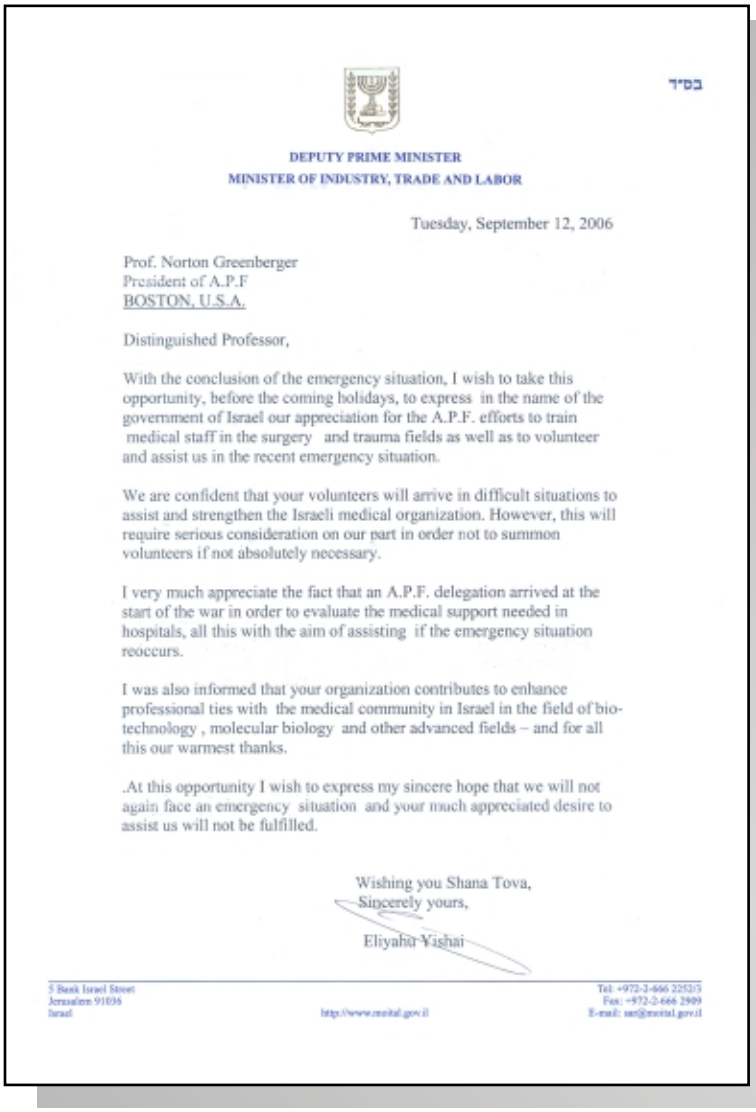
Written by APF Alumni Fellow and Spouse - Dr. Yaron and Mrs. Iris Denekamp

I am an Internist at Carmel Medical Center in Haifa which is located on one of the hills of Mount Carmel. During the war the routine work at the Department of Medicine continued as usual, in addition to the on going preparedness for admitting casualties. In many days the sirens broke the routine several times. Sometimes the falls of the rockets were heard loudly and one rocket fell quite close to the hospital.

Some clinical departments, which are in the higher floors or facing the north, were moved to lower parts of the building. In addition, the windows were covered by a material that is supposed to prevent glass from being broken to pieces. Gladly, this was not tested in reality. Despite this sitution, after a short "adjustment period" the staff behaved calmly and professionally during that period.

Following is the point of view of Iris, Yaron's wife: I was also expected to continue working as a project manager in a software company. We are parents to a 3 year old boy and a 1 year old baby, and it wasn't easy keeping them at a sheltered room all day for such a long period. So we decided to keep them away from the war zone and moved to our relatives in Tel-Aviv. Our parents came from Haifa to baby-sit while we were doing our best to continue our routine work. After a while my company, which has a branch in Tel-Aviv, as well as in Haifa, decided to fund a hotel for the "Northern" employees; thus, employees could continue their work from the Tel-Aviv branch. As the war continued we moved to a hotel in Caesarea (half an hour drive from Haifa) to where our nanny came to take care of the baby. Also, our son's kindergarten reopened at a nearby location. Unfortunately two days later a rocket that probably targeted a nearby big power plant fell close to where we were staying. We then decided to pack again and moved to a seashore guest house in Kibbutz Nachsholim, which is a 20 minute drive from Haifa. It was a small place, a bit sandy, but far enough from any strategic point that could be of interest to the Hezbollah.

Finally, after 4 weeks of war we were thrilled to return to our home and normal life.



בס"ד

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND LABOR

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Prof. Norton Greenberger
President of A.P.F
BOSTON, U.S.A.

Distinguished Professor,

With the conclusion of the emergency situation, I wish to take this opportunity, before the coming holidays, to express in the name of the government of Israel our appreciation for the A.P.F. efforts to train medical staff in the surgery and trauma fields as well as to volunteer and assist us in the recent emergency situation.

We are confident that your volunteers will arrive in difficult situations to assist and strengthen the Israeli medical organization. However, this will require serious consideration on our part in order not to summon volunteers if not absolutely necessary.

I very much appreciate the fact that an A.P.F. delegation arrived at the start of the war in order to evaluate the medical support needed in hospitals, all this with the aim of assisting if the emergency situation reoccurs.

I was also informed that your organization contributes to enhance professional ties with the medical community in Israel in the field of biotechnology , molecular biology and other advanced fields – and for all this our warmest thanks.

.At this opportunity I wish to express my sincere hope that we will not again face an emergency situation and your much appreciated desire to assist us will not be fulfilled.

Wishing you Shana Tova,
Sincerely yours,

Eliyahu Yishai

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Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nurse Education Fund

The ***Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nurse Education Fund*** was established in 1988 at the American Physicians Fellowship by Dr. Richard Hirsh in memory of his father. The Fund sponsors Israeli nurses for short-term specialized training at leading medical centers in North America, granting them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and clinical expertise. Over fifty nurses have been sponsored since the Fund's inception.

Yakov Berman — the Deputy Chief Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit of the Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer participated in a program in the I.C.U. at Shands Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida. Mr. Berman is a role model for students and peers at his home institution, and hopes to develop and implement new professional projects based on his visit.

Photo of Nurit Zusman (third from right) taken in the CCAC with the CareCoordinators

Nurit Zusman — is the Head Nurse in the Pediatrics "A" Department of Schneider Children's Medical Center in Tel Aviv. She participated in a program at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Canada. Her specialty pertains to the connection between the hospital and the community, with emphasis for children with special needs. During Ms. Zusman's visit she met with the Discharge Planner Unit and the CCAS (Community Center Access Center) which helps patients and their families plan and make informed choices about managing health care needs when discharged. She writes that collaboration between the community and the hospital is necessary for client health,especially for children.

Ruth Ifargan — is the only Stoma Nurse Coordinator at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. She is also a Clinical Instructor in Advanced and Continuous Education programs. Ms. Ifargan participated in the Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Course at The Cleveland Clinic. The program consisted of four weeks of didactic and four weeks of clinical training involving the care of patients with abdominal stomas, dermal wounds, and pressure ulcers. Upon her return she notes that she has been able to incorporate quite a lot of the information learned during her time at the Course into her daily routine at Rambam.

APF Sends Two Israeli Physicians and An Israeli Nurse to Medical Conferences

Moshe Michaelson, M.D., Director of the Trauma Unit/Emergency Department at Rambam Medical Center, a member of the National Trauma Council, and Head of the Committee of Mass Casualty Situations in Israel, attended the Pan American Conference (International Trauma Conference 2006) in Canada. The Conference focused on multidisciplinary approaches to issues and controversies of public health, disaster preparedness, trauma system development, and delivery of complex trauma care. Dr. Michaelson greatly appreciated APF's help to attend this Conference, and specifically the lectures on mass casualty incidences, about which he writes "were very interesting and added a lot to my knowledge".

Ariel Tessona, M.D. and **Yacov Barda, RN**, both from the Chaim Sheba Medical Center were awarded grants to attend the American Burn Association Meeting in Las Vegas, NV in April, 2006. The Conference focused on civilian and military burns issues and burn disasters, medicine and relief, children in disaster, rural emergency medical services, and other topics of importance.

Dr. Tessona is a first year resident in plastic surgery in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery & Burn Unit. He is taking part in studies on tissue engineering and angiogenesis, part of the future for the medical care for burn casualties.

Yacov Barda, RN is the chief nurse of the Burn Unit at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center, and a member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the hospital. He also serves as a member of the Burn Advisory Committee operated by the Emergency and Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Josef Haik, Director of the Burn Unit writes to APF:

"Care, teaching, research, prevention and rehabilitation are our goals trying to reach the best outcomes in the present setting. Planning for time of peace as well as for time of disaster are our concern. Keeping our team updated and trained are of first importance. Your gift made it possible for our team to carry out that mission at the high professional level our patients deserve and to influence countless lives."

APF is pleased that it was able to help facilitate these special grants.

APF Facilitates Special Grant for IDF Veterinarian to Attend Course

Under the auspices of APF, **Dr. Ilan Frank**, of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Special Forces K-9 Unit, recently attended the Military Veterinary Clinical Proficiency Course and Clinical Pathology for Veterinarians Course at the Department of Defense Military Working Dogs Veterinary Center in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Frank is a military veterinarian, in charge of the dogs that participate in daily security activities in Israel. These animals have saved the lives of many soldiers. As the only veterinary clinician in the IDF, these Courses helped Dr. Frank improve his skills, knowledge and clinical ability in military working dogs' veterinary medicine.

AMERICAN PHYSICIANS FELLOWSHIP FOR MEDICINE IN ISRAEL

Is Proud To Welcome Its 2006 - 2007 Fellows

Zina Almer —an ophthalmologist from Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Zerifin is a Fellow in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Accompanied by her husband and two young children, she plans to acquire clinical and surgical skills in the treatment of complicated strabismus cases, along with experience in the management of a wide range of Pediatric Ophthalmology cases, to be followed by additional training in neuro-ophthalmology.

Guy Amit — a cardiologist from Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheva is a Fellow in Electrophysiology at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. He has two main goals for his fellowship: to gain expertise and knowledge that would allow him to become an independent electrophysiologist, with comprehensive, state of the art capabilities in mapping and ablation techniques; and to enhance and to expand his research interests in both clinical and basic electrophysiology. He is accompanied by his wife, a psychologist, and two children.

Hagai Amsalem — an obstetrician-gynecologist from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is doing a Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship, with a research year in Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Canada; followed by two years of clinical practice in the Obstetric Department of Mt. Sinai Hospital/University of Toronto, Canada. He hopes to explore the immunological interaction between the pregnant woman and her fetus. Dr. Amsalem is accompanied by his wife and two young children.

Adi Bachar-Rubinstein — from the Vascular Surgery Department of the Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in the Cardiovascular Medicine Department, with a special focus in atherosclerosis and vascular physiology. Additionally, Dr. Bachar-Rubinstein hopes to develop new technologies and to conduct independent research through a more sophisticated and thorough understanding of the atherosclerotic process in peripheral vessels. Her husband, also a Fellow at the Mayo Clinic, and their three children, join her.

"Let me assure you that this personal achievement will be translated into a public achievement as we carry the great knowledge we have acquired with your support back to our patients in Israel."

Eliad Karin, M.D. — APF Fellow 2006 - 2007

Eran Bar-Meir — from the Plastic Surgery Department of The Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer is a Fellow in Reconstructive Hand and Microsurgery at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He hopes that the cutting-edge research, top staff and huge base of patient cases will provide him with the very best professional expertise and a starting point for his career in the area of reconstructive surgery. Dr. Bar-Meir is the recipient of the "Medal of Honor" for his courage in rescuing and treating wounded soldiers, and a special honor from the President of Israel for treating injured people during the Sinai terror attack in 2004. He is accompanied by his wife and three children.

Daphna Barsuk — a staff surgeon in the General Surgery Department of The Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer is pursuing a two year fellowship in Surgical Breast Oncology at the University of Toronto in Canada. Upon her return, she hopes to continue in the area of surgical oncology, particularly in breast cancer, which affects one of 8 or 9 women in Israel. Dr. Barsuk was the Director of the Surgical and Trauma Educational Programs at the Israeli Center of Medical Simulation at the Sheba Medical Center. While there she initiated a program for simulative instruction for improving the trauma treating capabilities of civilian and military medical teams. She is accompanied by her husband, an engineer, and two children.

Yakov Bentov — from the IVF Department of Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheba is studying Reproductive Endocrinology during a fellowship at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Center at the University of Toronto in Canada. During his fellowship, Dr. Bentov hopes 1.) to gain more knowledge on new treatment protocols in clinical reproductive endocrinology, 2.) to enhance his expertise with endoscopic surgery for the treatment of infertility, and 3.) to upgrade his capabilities in both clinical and basic research, and specifically become acquainted with stem cell research and its possible implementation in this field. Dr. Bentov is joined by his wife, a molecular biologist, and three children.

Itay Ben-Zion — an ophthalmologist from B'nai Zion Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to improving his skills in accurate diagnosis and correct treatment of pediatric ophthalmology, Dr. Ben-Zion hopes to learn the latest advances in pediatric ophthalmology surgeries -- strabismus, cataract and glaucoma, and to be able to use this to serve the pediatric population of northern Israel. In 2004 Dr. Ben-Zion joined the Israeli Foreign Ministry Cataract Operation Team, which operated on over 200 Indians in the Andes of Peru. Most recently he was one of 3 Israeli eye surgeons who traveled to Zambia, also under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. His wife and four young children accompany him.

Nirit Bourla — an ophthalmologist from the Goldschleger Eye Institute at Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer is a Fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology, Cornea Division, of the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA in Los Angeles, California. Her specific field of study is clinical cornea research and human genetics, and she is currently conducting research on the topic of human genetics in relation to inherited corneal disease. Dr. Bourla is accompanied by her husband, also participating in a fellowship at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and two children.

Yonatan Butbul — a pediatric rheumatologist from HaEmek Medical Center in Afula is a Fellow in the Division of Rheumatology, Department of Pediatrics, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. Additionally, Dr. Butbul has begun several research projects which he hopes to continue upon his return to Israel — specifically on juvenile psoriatic arthritis and sleep disturbance in different rheumatologic diseases. He is accompanied by his wife, a psychologist, and two children.

Rakefet Czerninski — a dentist from Hebrew University — Hadassah School of Medicine in Jerusalem is a Fellow at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. She hopes that the research she will be involved with at NIDCR-NIH will expose her to new approaches for the study of oral cancer, as well as factors in the early diagnosis and treatment of carcinomas of the oral cavity. As the Director of the Oral Diseases Clinic at Hadassah she expects that her research and clinical experiences will be transferred to help patients in Israel. Dr. Czerninski is also a recipient of APF's Klitzberg Award. Her husband and two children have accompanied her.

Gad Dotan — a pediatric ophthalmologist from Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva is a Fellow in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, Michigan. He has already completed a year's fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and feels that these two sub-specialty areas are very much related and complementary to each other. He plans to combine an academic practice with community service upon his return to Israel. Dr. Dotan is accompanied by his wife, an attorney, and two young daughters.

"Let me thank your wonderful organization for providing me and many other Israeli physicians this extremely valuable and needed scholarship. Upon returning to Israel I will make every effort to translate your help into better cardiology service for the people of Northern Israel."

Alexander Goldberg, M.D. — APF Fellow 2006 - 2007

Ronen Durst — a senior physician in the Heart Institute at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in Clinical Echocardiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He hopes to become proficient with all the most innovative techniques available, and use this knowledge to help with the establishment of a complete Imaging Unit (CT, MRI, and ECHO) within the Heart Institute at Hadassah. While serving in the Israeli army Dr. Durst was awarded the Israel Defense Award, the highest award given in Israel for innovations related to national security. Dr. Durst's wife and two young children accompanied him.

Shimon Ginath — a senior physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Edith Wolfson Medical Center in Holon is a Fellow at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, focusing on female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. He will participate both in clinical and basic science research, as well as clinical management of patients. Upon his return to Israel, Dr. Ginath will join the Urogynecology and Pelvic Floor Division of his hospital. Dr. Ginath is accompanied by his wife and three children.

Alexander Goldberg — a cardiologist from Sieff Hospital in Safed is a Fellow in Interventional Cardiology at Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Canada. He is receiving training in both the clinical and research aspects of interventional cardiology, particularly in coronary physiology and its outcomes, and presently is involved in three different research projects. Dr. Goldberg hopes to be able to publish his research based on these projects, and to share what he has learned for the benefit of his patients and his colleagues in Israel. Dr. Goldberg is the recipient of the APF's Tanger Award. He is joined by his wife, and three children.

Nimrod Goldschmid — a senior physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera is a Fellow at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York in The Center for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction and Reconstructive Surgery. He will be learning a multi-disciplinary approach to combine both urogynecology and colo-rectal surgery. He hopes to take back to Israel the knowledge and practice learned in order to create a similar unit for his hospital which serves a large, multi-cultural population. Dr. Goldschmid is accompanied by his wife, also a physician, and two children.

Arie Gordin — a senior physician in the Department of Otolaryngology at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York studying otology. He hopes to gain knowledge and skills during his fellowship, to participate in a variety of complex ear surgeries, and to be involved in the management of otologic patients. Additionally, he will be involved in a basic research project. Upon his return to Israel he hopes to establish an otologic service at Rambam. Dr. Gordin is accompanied by his wife and two children.

David Goren — an orthopedic surgeon at Meir Hospital — Sapir Medical Center in Kfar Saba is a Fellow in the Department of Hand Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. His fellowship will expose him not only to congenital orthopedic issues, but also upper limb trauma and arthritic syndromes. By learning the most current techniques used during his fellowship, he hopes to bring this knowledge back to Israel and to his medical institution. Dr. Goren is joined by his wife, an optometrist.

Ariel Gutstein — a senior cardiologist from The Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer is a Fellow in the Department of Cardiac Imaging at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (Save-A-Heart) in Los Angeles, California. Upon his return to Israel, Dr. Gutstein, with the knowledge he has gained, hopes to take part in the development of a self-contained Cardiac Imaging Center at Sheba Medical Center. Dr. Gutstein is accompanied by his wife, also a physician, and two children.

Eyal Itshayek — an attending physician in the Department of Neurosurgery at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in the Department of Orthopedics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. His specific focus is spine surgery. In addition to exposure to surgeries along the entire length of the spinal column, he hopes to do research on biomechanics of the spine. Dr. Itshayek is joined by his wife, a teacher, and four children.

Benzion Joshua — An otolaryngologist at Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva is a Fellow at Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Otolaryngology — Head & Neck Surgery, where he will be joining the head & neck and skull base oncology team. He hopes to learn the most up-to-date therapies, especially with the introduction of chemoradiotherapy for head and neck tumors. Upon his return to Israel, he plans to implement this specialized knowledge in his home institution. Dr. Joshua is accompanied by his wife and three children.

Igor Kaiserman — an ophthalmologist from Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon is a Fellow in Corneal and External Eye Disease at the University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital in Canada. During this fellowship, Dr. Kaiserman hopes to learn new technologies not yet available in Israel, including new types of surgeries; and upon his return to Israel to help spread their use among Israeli ophthalmologists. Dr. Kaiserman is accompanied by his wife.

Ilia Kakiashvili — a senior surgeon from Rambam Medical Center in Haifa is a Research Fellow in Surgical Oncology at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada. In Israel he spent time in the examination of the alteration in cell cycle regulatory protein in breast cancer. Upon his return from his fellowship, Dr. Kakiashvili wishes to pursue an academic career, joining the colo-rectal team at his institution. Dr. Kakiashvili is the recipient of the APF's Klitzberg Award. He is accompanied by his wife and young son.

Eliad Karin — a senior surgeon at the Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow at the University of California, San Diego, California in the Department of Pharmacology, with a specific focus on colon cancer research and the interconnection between inflammation and cancer. Accompanied by his wife and daughter, he plans to continue his research upon his return to Israel, bringing back the scientific tools he is learning for further application with his patients. Dr. Karin is the recipient of the APF's Klitzberg Award.

Adi Klein-Kremer — the Deputy Head of the Pediatric Department of Hillel-Yaffe Medical Center, and responsible for the Emergency and Trauma Pediatric Departments, is a Fellow in the Pediatric Emergency Department of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. She is taking part in a research program including injury control, prevention and epidemiology. Upon her return to Israel, she hopes to upgrade and improve the pediatric emergency services at Hillel-Yaffe Medical Center and contribute to the academic activity in the Pediatric Department. She is accompanied by her husband, a physician participating in a Thoracic Surgery (Liver Transplant) Fellowship, and their three children.

Yona Kosashvili — a senior orthopedic surgeon in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Zerifin is a Fellow in the Division of Orthopedic Surgery, in the field of arthroplasty, at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada. He hopes to improve his skills and broaden his knowledge in the field of hip arthroplasty, and dedicate himself to his patients as well as teaching the up-coming generation of orthopedic surgeons. Accompanied by his wife and two young children, Dr. Kosashvili is an International Chess Grandmaster.

Gennady Landa — an attending ophthalmologist at Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot is a Vitreoretinal Fellow at the Beetham Eye Institute of the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He is planning on participating in extensive research investigating changes in the diabetic eye, followed by the clinical portion of his fellowship dealing with medical and surgical management of vitreoretinal diseases. He hopes that the skills acquired during the fellowship will enable him to help promote the field of posterior segment in his hospital in Israel.

Ronit Lavi — from the Anesthesiology Department of Rambam Hospital is a Research Fellow in the Smooth Muscle Laboratory of the Anesthesia Research Division of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her specific project focuses on determining the influence of anesthetic drugs on certain receptors in the tracheal smooth muscles. Additionally, she will be involved in clinical research. At the completion of her fellowship, in addition to her continued research, she intends to focus on teaching military physicians, internists and residents in Israel. Dr. Lavi is accompanied by her husband, a Cardiology Fellow and former APF Fellow, and their two children.

Eyal Leibovitz — a senior attending in the Medicine Department of Wolfson Medical Center in Holon is a Fellow in the Vascular and Hypertension Research Unit at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish Hospital in Montreal, Canada. Accompanied by his wife, a Registered Nurse, and two young children, Dr. Leibovitz hopes to acquire knowledge regarding new techniques in the research field of vascular remodeling and become a leader in hypertension research in Israel.

Guy Lin — a former Chief Medical Officer, Northern Command, in the Israeli Defense Forces is a Fellow in Surgical Critical Care and Trauma Surgery at the Reider Trauma Center of Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, FL. He hopes that being a member of the staff of this busy trauma service will increase his ability to prepare any Israeli hospital to cope with complicated trauma victims and/or a multi-causalities event. Additionally, he will help in preparing the IDF medical teams for their missions. Dr. Lin is accompanied by his wife, an educational psychologist, and four children.

Tali Lowenstein — a family practice physician from the Department of Family Medicine, Clalit Health Services in Haifa is a Research Fellow in the Department of Medical Education at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Illinois. Upon completion of her fellowship, she intends to return to Israel and join the Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion — Israel Institute of Technology Medical Education Department. She is joined by her husband, a Fellow in Pelvic Surgery, and two children.

Alexander Lustman — a family practice physician with Clalit Health Services in Ramle is a Research Fellow in Continuing Medical Education in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Lustman hopes to learn methods and acquire skills that will make his teaching more effective and enjoyable. Furthermore, he hopes to bring the experience and knowledge that he gains back to Israel in order to raise the level of research in his department, enrich other medical professionals and the community in general. He is accompanied by his wife and three children.

Sharon Maslovitz — an obstetrician - gynecologist from Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada in Maternal and Fetal Medicine. His specific interest is in intrauterine intervention for fetal complications. He hopes to gain clinical skills and to expand his research capabilities with exposure to different ways of thinking, diversity of views and management protocols. Dr. Maslovitz is accompanied by his wife.

Doron Merims — a senior neurologist in the Movement Disorder Clinic of Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow in Behavioral Neurology at Baycrest Hospital and the University of Toronto in Canada. Having studied the motor aspects of neurodegenerative diseases, he hopes his fellowship will help in the treatment of patients, and in the research of interrelated disease aspects. Dr. Merims is joined by his wife, a physician doing a Fellowship in Cancer Immunology, and their four children.

Nachum Nesher — a senior cardiothoracic surgeon from Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Fellow at Sunnybrook & Women's Health and Science Center in Toronto, Canada in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. He is doing advanced training in repair and replacement of mitral valves and in surgery and plastic repair of the aortic valve. He hopes to be able to implement these complicated surgical techniques in Israel. Dr. Nesher is Commander of the Medical Corps of the National Search and Rescue Unit of the Israel Home Front Command. He is joined by his wife, a nurse, and their three children. Dr. Nesher is the recipient of APF's Kline/Merkis Award.

Tamar Perri -- a gynecological oncologist at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan is doing a Fellowship in the OB/GYN Department of McGill University and Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Canada. She hopes to be trained in the full range of surgical procedures for the treatment of gynecological cancer, preoperative assessment of high risk patients, and in post operative care. Additionally she hopes to gain experience in the multidisciplinary approach of radiation treatment. Dr. Perri is accompanied by her husband and three children.

Addie Ron — a family physician in the Clalit Health Services of the Tel Aviv/Jaffa District is a Fellow at Boston Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts in the Department of Geriatrics. Dr. Ron hopes to learn more about community and outpatient geriatrics, taking into account all the social, management and psychological aspects of aging. Dr. Ron is accompanied by his wife, a physician doing a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology, and their two children.

Ohad Ronen — from the ENT/Head and Neck Surgery Department of the Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center in Haifa is a Fellow in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. During this fellowship, Dr. Ronen also will be part of the translational research program at SimmonsCooper. He hopes to bring back to Israel knowledge which he can apply to patients in his medical center as well as share with other centers and physicians. Dr Ronen is accompanied by his wife and three children.

Ronen Rubinshtein — a staff cardiologist at the Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center in Haifa is a Cardiology Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, with focus on cardiac CT and MRI. Dr. Rubinshtein hopes to learn new diagnostic modalities, and with this new knowledge return to Israel and apply them in his clinical practice. He is accompanied by his wife, a physician participating in a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and their three children.

Erez Scapa — a physician in the Department of Medicine at Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endoscopy at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He is participating in a research study on hepatic lipid metabolism, with implications for understanding non-alcoholic liver disease and the metabolic syndrome. Dr. Scapa will return to the Department of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases at Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv, where he hopes to integrate basic research with his clinical training. He is joined by his wife and two children.

Tal Schechter-Finkelstein — a staff physician in the Department of Oncology at Schneider Children's Medical Center in Tel Aviv is a Clinical Fellow in the Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Division at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Canada, training in bone marrow transplantation. She hopes the knowledge which she will bring back will enable the Israeli healthcare system to provide the same chances for cure and survival for Israeli children as compared with those who live in North America. Additionally, she hopes to mentor other Israeli physicians in this growing field in oncology. Dr. Schechter-Finkelstein is accompanied by her husband, a physician and past APF Fellow, and their two children. She is also the recipient of the APF's Klitzberg Award.

Ron Schey — a senior staff physician in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Departments at Meir Medical Center in Kfar Saba is a Research Fellow at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, Arizona. During his fellowship Dr. Schey will pursue several research projects in the field of neuro-gastroenterology. With this new knowledge and techniques, he hopes to develop a similar unit in his hospital in Israel. Dr. Schey is joined by his wife and three children.

Rachel Schor-Bardach — a radiologist from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Research Fellow at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. She will be working in the Minimally Invasive Therapies Laboratory of the Department of Radiology, specifically in the field of CT intervention and tumor ablation. Dr. Schor-Bardach is accompanied by her husband and two young children.

By awarding me the APF grant, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspects of the fellowship. Your generosity has inspired me to help others.

Addie Ron, M.D. — APF Fellow 2006 — 2007

Dan Turner — a pediatric gastroenterologist from Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Canada. His specific research focus is in chronic ulcerative colitis. Upon his return to his medical institution in Israel, he hopes to establish a specialized IBD Clinic, including following children with intestinal failure requiring bowel transplantation. Dr. Turner is joined by his wife and three children.

Yoran Weil — an attending physician in the Orthopedics Department of Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is a Fellow in Orthopedic Surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, New York. He has both clinical and research goals, including mastering surgical techniques and management of complex muscular-skeletal trauma, with special emphasis on pelvic and acetabular fractures. Additionally, his research will be focused on computer assisted-surgery.

Ethan Yussim — an interventional radiologist from Rabin Medical Center (Beilinson) in Petah Tikva is a Fellow in Interventional and Vascular Radiology at Jackson Memorial Medical Center in Miami, Florida. In addition to trauma patients, Dr. Yussim notes that the procedures he is learning can also be used for non-trauma patients. Dr. Yussim is the recipient of the APF's Klitzberg Award, and is joined by his wife.

TOP TEN REASONS

Why You Should Support the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel (APF)

1. **APF** is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the state of medical education, research and healthcare in Israel.

2. **FELLOWSHIP GRANTS** annually provide supplemental grants to more than 50 young Israeli physicians coming to the US and Canada for post-doctoral fellowship training.

3. **APF's EMERGENCY MEDICAL VOLUNTEER REGISTRY (EMV Program)** is the official organization designated by the State of Israel to be called upon in the event of a national emergency in Israel. APF shall provide all the necessary manpower to civilian hospitals when doctors and healthcare professionals are called up by the IDF.

4. **HIRSH NURSING FUND** sponsors Israeli nurses for short periods of intensive specialty training in leading North American medical centers. Nurses have the opportunity to learn the most up-to-date techniques. Over fifty nurses have been sponsored since this program was initiated in 1988.

5. **MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION** assists students in fostering ties with the Israeli medical community early in their medical careers. This newly formed group has been organized to allow them to develop contacts with senior APF member physicians, to network with students at other schools and medical institutions, and to raise awareness regarding Israel as the leading medical center in the Middle East.

6. **MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS** have been given to young Israeli researchers since 1990. APF's Edward H. Kass Fund has sponsored an annual competitive biomedical research award for new and cutting edge research to an outstanding young Israeli physician. APF's Isaac Knoll Fund has also granted awards for medical research.

7. **APF** depends on the support of contributions from its own fundraising and from friends of APF through the United States and Canada.

8. The **KLITZBERG ONCOLOGY FUND FOR CANCER WORK AND RESEARCH** has been created to enable Israeli physicians to spend time at leading medical centers in North America doing cancer related clinical work or to engage in research of the highest caliber.

9. **EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COURSES** in Israel, in conjunction with the IDF Medical Corps and the Israeli Ministry of Health, are offered twice a year by APF for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. APF members receive a discounted cost.

10. **APF** is the only national organization in North America for Jewish physicians and healthcare professionals.

APF Grants Annual Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award for 2006 - 2007

The American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel is please to announce this year's recipient of the ***Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award for Medical Research***. This annual grant is awarded to support the biomedical research of a promising young physician in Israel.

The 2006 — 2007 ***Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award for Medical Research*** has been awarded to ***Dr. Izhak Kehat*** of the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa for his research project "The Role of Basic Leucine Zipper (bZIP) Protein Medicated Transcription in Atrial Hypertrophy and Dilatation".

Dr. Kehat received his M.D. from the Technion — Ruth & Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, and recently received a PhD from the Technion. His PhD thesis was on the "Electromechanical Assessment of Embryonic, Fetal and Adult Cardiomyocte Cultures: Possible Role in Regeneration of Functional Myocardium."

This grant was established in memory of Edward H. Kass, M.D., a distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a former 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.

Report of Taglit/birthright israel Tour June 2006

by Jonathan Wallach — student at NYU Medical School

Thirty eight exuberant medical students from across America (and one exhausted APF Board Member) participated in a very unique tour of Israel. They were accompanied by eight Israeli medical personnel under a special birthright grant designed to encourage peer contact between Americans and Israelis. The 10 day trip was a joint project of Taglit/ birthright israel and the **American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel.**

This was no ordinary trip; it was designed to be the journey of a lifetime. We kayaked on the upper Jordan, toured the Syrian frontier on the Golan, sampled wine in Katzrin, encamped with Bedouin near Dimona, hiked up Masada for sunrise, and splashed through Ein Gedi, the Dead Sea, the Mediterranean, the Hula Valley and Hezekiah's tunnel in the City of David. We celebrated Shabbat, played football, hiked through Neve Tsedek and old Jaffa, partied in Tel Aviv (and Jerusalem) and shopped on Ben Yehudah Street. We also prayed and sang at the Kotel, viewed the magnificent Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital, cried with our Israeli companions at the graves of their fallen comrades on Mt. Herzl, and cried some more at Yad Vashem. And that was just the beginning.

We learned about the politics of the Middle East from commentator Neal Lazarus, and the complicity of German physicians in the Shoah from Dr. Tessa Chelouche, an Israeli family practitioner. We debated Palestinian rights with our Israeli friends in a mock Knesset session.

At Hadassah Ein Kerem and Assaf HaRofeh Hospitals we learned how Israel deals with chemical attacks, medical injuries, and the psychiatric trauma of the recent intifada. We learned about military life and medicine, and cutting edge of Israeli battle field and rescue techniques at an Army Base and an Air Force Base. We finished the trip with a visit to the Messer Simulation Center at Tel Hashomer. That place was unbelievable! Just about every emergency and general medical situation and procedure is duplicated with dummies and actors, and we got to practice on them. There may not be any other place like this in the world.

We had the honor of meeting Mr. Charles Bronfman, the co-founder of Taglit/birthright israel while we were at Tel Hashomer. We knew that he was the major philanthropist behind the program, but we were surprised at how warm and approachable he was. I don't think we realized how important our trip was for us until he told us how important it was to him.

The reality of Israel came to the group in so many ways. Simply hiking the land gave us a perspective we could not get from a bus or a cable car. The sites and lectures, the falafel stands and spartan hostel in Tel Aviv, the "Great American vs. Israeli" football game (the Americans lost), all contributed. The Israeli doctors, medics and paramedics that accompanied us linked us to the place. Everyone remembers getting news of the attack and kidnapping near Gaza on text messages from the soldiers involved. We also remember that one of our new friends was not with us on the last day because her unit was mobilized for duty in Gaza. Events since then have driven the reality of our experience home with a force none of us could have imagined. The personal and professional growth the students underwent was amazing. Perhaps the most important thing they got from the tour was a new sense pride in themselves as American Jews with a homeland in Israel. Most of them can't wait to get back there.

Emergency Medical Volunteer Program

The recent war has again defined the importance of the Emergency Medical Volunteer Program. The Government did not declare a State of Emergency but interviews conducted by the APF Emergency Mission Team immediately following the war revealed a common conclusion. A State of Emergency should have been declared, and if the hostilities continued another week, marked medical manpower deficiencies would occur throughout the country.

Another lesson drawn from the war is the need for a more flexible EMV Program that can respond to Israel's medical needs in times of a conflict that is greater than ongoing terror bombings, yet less than conventional war. Plans are underway to better meet this need.

The EMV Registry has been transferred to a program that is internet accessible to the EMV Chairman as well as Board Members. The success of this new call up capabilities was clearly demonstrated this summer by the success of a call up drill coordinated with the Ministry of Health. During this "earthquake scenario" over a hundred volunteer contacts were made and availabilities confirmed within 48 hours.

The EMV Registry now numbers nearly 400 and is constantly being added to and updated. New volunteers are always welcomed.

The unfortunate reality is that the EMV Program is more important today than it has been since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Paul R. Liebman, MD, FACS
Chairman, Emergency Medical Volunteer Program

APF Attends APHA Annual Meeting

by Charles Kurtzer, D.P.M., FACFAS

The APF participated in the 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association in Boston, MA on November 4— 8, 2006. The focus of the meeting was "Public Health and Human Rights". The event, which drew 11,500 attendees from across the United States and world, featured hundreds of scientific and educational sessions, including roundtables, poster sessions and panel discussions on the latest public health issues.

The meeting was held at the new Boston Convention and Exposition Center at the Boston Harbor waterfront. There were 675 booths of information, including state of the art products and services geared toward public health professionals. The APF maintained a booth providing information on the organization with an emphasis on the Fellowship Programs and the Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Courses. Over 150 visitors to the booth received membership packets in response to their inquiries about programs of the APF.

Visitors to the booth included physicians, podiatrists, public health executives, nurses, and students. Membership enticements were offered for on-site membership registration. Printed materials supplemented the new APF CD/DVD which highlights the APF Emergency Disaster and Preparedness Course.

Dr. Charles Kurtzer, APF Board of Trustees member, Carol Ghatan, APF's Associate Director, and Sarah Rosenfeld-Mahoney, APF's Program Coordinator maintained the booth throughout the meeting.

APF Calendar

2006

November 4-8	APF at the American Public Health Associations 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition held in Boston, Massachusetts
November 5-9	***Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel*** in conjunction with the Israel Ministry of Health and the IDF Medical Corps
November 15	Fellowship and Research Application process begins

2007

March 15	Fellowship and Research Application deadline
March 18	APF Gala Dinner, Boston MA
April TBD	APF Board Meeting
April 11 - 15	18th Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship International Conference, Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel
May 12* - 17 (*after Shabbat)	***Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel*** in conjunction with the Israel Ministry of Health and the IDF Medical Corps
May TBD	Fellowship Committee Meeting in Israel
September TBD	APF Board Meeting
November 3*-8, 2007 (*after Shabbat)	***Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel*** in conjunction with the Israel Ministry of Health and the IDF Medical Corps

Save the Date

APF Gala Dinner

March 18, 2007

Boston, MA

In Memoriam

The Americans Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel sadly mourns the loss of the following members. Their contributions to society will be missed but not forgotten.

Dr. Donald Palay
Weston, FL
Dr. Ronald Rothstein
Reno, NV
Dr. Jerry Bloom
Woodmere, NY
Dr. Marcus Berman
Las Vegas, NV
Dr. Lawrence Cohen
Mundelein, IL
Dr. Isaac Weiszer
Rockville, MD
Dr. Abraham Golum
Long Beach, CA
Dr. Robert Brooks
Merion Station, PA

Mr. Harry Kaplan
Oceanside, CA
Dr. Samuel Tasker
Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Albert Sine
Boca Raton, FL
Dr. Philip Goldenberg
Bloomfield, CT
Dr. Robert Feldman
Braintree, MA
Dr. Aaron Sollod
Baltimore, MD
Dr. Arnold Statsinger
Manhasset, NY
Dr. Theodore Cohen
Jamaica, NY

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*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.

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