

APF News

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



Dr. Paul R. Scherer

President's Message

Dear Friends:

We usually measure our value as a non-profit that supports medicine in Israel by how many Fellowships we give out, or how many physicians go on our Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel, but a few weeks ago we had an opportunity to truly see our value.

Israel routinely creates an emergency test scenario to evaluate their response to a disaster resulting from military action or a natural event. This year's test was a devastating earthquake that affected most of the densely populated areas of Israel. Because of the imagined magnitude of the disaster, the APF received a communication that North American doctors, nurses and medical personnel were required in Israel within 48 hours.

The APF, since 1950, has maintained the list of Emergency Medical Volunteers of all specialties and sub-specialties to be sent to Israel in times of need. This unique program was initiated to provide Israeli civilian hospitals with volunteer physicians and nurses during emergencies, which deplete Israeli physicians who must perform their military duty.



Israel's
Earthquake Drill
October 2012



Israel's
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The APF is the sole organization, designated by the State of Israel, to maintain this Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry.

I was very pleased to see our system of call-up work during the test. During the first round of communication, e-mails went out with a request to respond. Within 24 hours a sufficient number of physicians responded positively. The quick response was indicative of not only the preparation of the program but also the willingness of American physicians to respond to the needs of Israel.

We are honored the State of Israel has chosen the APF as the official Registry in North America to come to the aid of Israel in a time of crisis. I want to encourage physicians and nurses, as well as other health care professionals to join the Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry through our existing website (www.apfmed.org) or contact our national headquarters at 617-232-5382.

We responded in a time of need in the past, and now in the present, and we will be ready in the future! A special thank you, from myself, the organization, and the Ministry of Health, to those who rose to the occasion with a firm commitment to Israel.

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

APF Fellows for 2012 – 2013

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.



Tahel Altman, M.D.
BioDesign Program
Stanford University
Stanford
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center



Chezi Ganzel, M.D.
Leukemia Service
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York City
Shaare Zedek Medical Center



Gadi Lalazar, M.D.
Liver Disease – Hepatocyte Injury
and Steatosis
Albert Einstein College of Medicine,
Liver Research Center – New York City
Hadassah Medical Center



Eitan Auriel, M.D.
Neurology – Stroke Research Program
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center



Tamar Green, M.D.
Center for Interdisciplinary Brain
Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford
Beer Yaakov Mental Health Center



Alex Rabinovich, M.D.
Gynecologic Oncology
McGill University – Canada
Soroka Medical Center



Roy Beigel, M.D.
Intensive Cardiac Care
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles
Chaim Sheba Medical Center



Suhel Idrees, M.D.
Anesthesia and Chronic Pain
Management
McGill University Health Center – Canada
Montreal General Hospital – Canada
Hadassah Medical Center



Ofer Schiller, M.D.
Pediatric Cardiology
Children's National Medical Center
Washington, DC
Schneider Children's Medical Center



Yuval Cavari, M.D.
Pediatric Intensive Care
BC Children's Hospital
Vancouver
Soroka Medical Center



Elad Jacoby, M.D.
Pediatric Hemato – Oncology
Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore &
National Institute of Health – Bethesda
Safra Children's Hospital
Chaim Sheba Medical Center



Josh Schroeder, M.D.
Spine Surgery and Regenerative Spine
Research
Hospital for Special Surgery
New York City
Hadassah Medical Center



Roni Dodiuk-Gad, M.D.
Advanced Medical Dermatology
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center
Toronto
Ha'Emek Medical Center



Moshe Kassierer, M.D.
Neonatal – Perinatal Medicine
University of Toronto – Canada
Shaare Zedek Medical Center



Noam Shussman, M.D.
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Cleveland Clinic
Weston
Hadassah Medical Center



Ram Elazary, M.D.
Advanced Laparoscopic, Metabolic,
and Bariatric Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles
Hadassah Medical Center



Khaled Khazim, M.D.
Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetic
Nephropathy
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio
Western Galilee Hospital

"Moving to a new country, especially with one's family in tow, entails obvious financial challenges. These often make this intense period of clinical or research activity more difficult than it needs to be. At times, plans are cancelled all together on account of financial implausibility. I would like to thank you for supporting my fellowship."
APF Fellow 2012-2013

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 – Participant Summer, 2012

**For further information about the June 2013 trip
please e-mail the APF offices: info@apfmed.org or call 617-232-5382**

APF Grants Annual Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award

Liran Levy, M. D. is the recipient of APF's **Dr. Edward H. Kass Research Award** for 2012-2013. This annual award is granted to support the biomedical research of a promising young physician in Israel. The 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. Levy received his M.D. from the Faculty of Medicine at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. He is currently in the Pulmonary Residency/Fellowship Program at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, and will be conducting research on "the effect of splenectomy on tumor immunology and immunotherapy in lung cancer".

Strengthening the Relationship of APF and the Israel Defense Forces



Dr. Yitshak Kreiss and Dr. Paul Scherer

In May 2012 APF President Dr. Paul Scherer and the Surgeon General of the IDF Dr. Yitshak Kreiss met to discuss collaboration between APF and the IDF. This year APF funded the attendance of two senior officers of the IDF at The Military Health Symposium (MHSRS) held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Yitshak Kreiss thanked APF for the support stating "The APF has a sincere friendship and support for the IDF Medical Corps based on the great spirit of volunteering and financial support." Furthermore, Dr. Kreiss spoke of the Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry as an essential APF Program to help Israel in future challenges.

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel



In November 2012, a group of 19 physicians and healthcare professionals participated in APF's annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel. This five-day state-of-the-art training program is organized 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.

"Thank you for an outstanding week! You thoughtfully planned and organized it to ensure that each of us got what we need... and more. We all finished the conference with a more profound understanding and appreciation for the work that you and your colleagues do." 2012 Course Participant

The 2013 Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel will be held from November 9, 2013 (after Shabbat) through November 14, 2013

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



2012 Participants at Rambam Hospital

APF Events

Chicago

Thank you to our friends and members of APF who joined us on September 23, 2012 in Chicago for the APF Illinois Chapter Fall Networking Event. It was a pleasure to meet familiar and new faces. We hope you enjoyed learning about APF, eating some bagels and lox, and meeting our guest speakers Dr. Gidon Berger, an APF



Dr. Gidon Berger, Dr. Michael Frogel and Amir Goldshtein

Israeli fellow, and APF Board Member Dr. Michael Frogel. Dr. Berger, an internist in the Pulmonary Division of Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, talked about his recent research focusing on the mechanisms and pathophysiology of lung fibrosis. Dr. Frogel, an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, spoke about pre-hospital, hospital, and regional planning and preparedness for Pediatric Mass Casualty Events, related to the current situation of emergency and disaster preparedness in Israel.

Upcoming Events

Boston

On Sunday, December 16th APF will be holding a Health Professionals Winter Networking Event in Brookline, MA, featuring Lt. (reserve) Asael Lubotzky, M.D., a heroic Golani Brigade Officer who was inspired to practice medicine following life changing experiences during the 2006 Lebanon War.



Dr. Asael Lubotzky

Michigan Chapter

On Sunday, January 13, 2013 APF Michigan Chapter will be holding a meeting for members and supporters of APF at Adat Shalom Synagogue, featuring Lt. (reserve) Asael Lubotzky, M.D., and Michael Frogel, M.D., APF President-Elect who will give an update on APF and its vital role and support of Israel during this difficult period.

Would you like to hold local social events with expert speakers from the Ministry of Health, the Medical Corps of the Israel Defense Forces, and our Israeli fellows? Start an APF Chapter in your community!

For more details please email Amir Goldshtein, Development Specialist, at: developer@apfmed.org or call 617-232-5382

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to Our Donors

APF would like to extend much gratitude to our many donors who, for over 62 years, have supported medicine in Israel through our organization. With the support of our dedicated donors and members we are able to continue projects committed to enhancing medical education, research, and care in Israel. APF would like to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering belief in our mission.

Hirsh Nursing Recipients for 2012

The Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nurse Education Fund, established by Dr. Richard Hirsh in honor of his father, sponsors Israeli nurses for short-term specialized training at leading medical centers in North America.



Ilya Kagan, Sima Reicher, Anat Dobovi, Dorit Weiss

This year four senior nurses, representing policy makers, visited the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, Canada to learn the complete spectrum of the nurse practitioner profession in matters of policy, professional standards and practice, and how this can be translated into the Israeli system.



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Contact APF:

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Visit the APF Website on: www.apfmed.org and please continue to visit as we are in the process of launching a new and improved website!

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.