

News

A Newsletter of the
American Healthcare Professionals
and Friends for Medicine in Israel



Dr. Michael Frogel, M.D.

President's Message

Dear APF Supporter:

I write from Israel during our 2014 Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course. We U.S. healthcare providers are experiencing, hands-on, the Israeli medical system's response to the Gaza war, Ebola threats and terrorism.

This includes hospital-, first responder- and community-based operations. The 2,000-bed underground hospital and national Ebola center at Rambam Health Care Campus, as well as the resiliency of Soroka Hospital and the City of Sderot (under fire for 50 days) are amazing! We remain in awe at the expertise and dedication of Israeli healthcare providers. They cope with mass casualties as well as mental health consequences of relentless attack.

APF is proud to be have been directly involved with these valiant care givers for more than 64 years. We operate Israel's Ministry of Health (MOH) Designated Emergency Medical Volunteer (EMV) program during critical emergencies. APF has and continues to prepare logistics to help the Israeli medical system cope with, G-d forbid, a worsening of the current situation. The MOH Director of Emergency Preparedness sent a thank-you letter to APF and volunteers ready to deploy immediately (see the letter on our website).

I would like to thank: Paul Scherer and Norton Greenberger, our previous Presidents; the Board; Ben Shamir, Executive Director; Amir Goldshtein, Director of Development; and Amir Blumenfeld, our Israel Representative for their tireless work in support of APF operations including: the new speakers program, corporate sponsorships and chapter development. Our organization has now expanded to include all healthcare professionals (e.g. nurses, EMT's, mental healthcare providers).

At this crucial time we ask support for these APF endeavors:

- The first and only Emergency Medical Volunteer (EMV) program with the Israel MOH to respond to catastrophic events
- Fellowship Grants for top Israeli physicians to study at the finest US and Canadian institutions.
- The APF/Birthright program that takes Jewish American medical students to Israel
- Research Grants that advance essential medical research in Israel
- Israeli nurses' Intensive Trauma Course in Israel and advanced study in the US
- The annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel
- Bringing Israeli experts/leaders to the US for interactive meetings and seminars
- The new ambulance for Sderot project.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity; please tell your friends and colleagues to join us. Let's strengthen aid to Israel's healthcare system during these especially difficult times.

May we receive G-d's Blessing for lasting peace, health and prosperity.

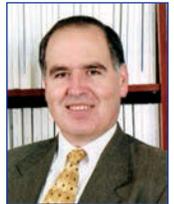
Sincerely,

Michael Frogel M.D.

Michael Frogel MD
President APF

Welcome APF's Newest Board Members

David Barone, of Sharon, MA has more than 30 years' experience in the healthcare industry, including operations and business development. He is a principal of Boston's MedTech Advisors, an international consulting company. A Technion (Israel) alumnus, with many years of non-profit consulting, Barone wants to foster personal relationships between US and Israeli healthcare professionals.



Dr. Sherwood L. Gorbach is back on the board. He's been a world renowned and pioneering force in the field of infectious disease for nearly a half-century. Gorbach has published hundreds of scientific papers and received many prestigious awards and academic appointments. An antibiotic he helped develop to treat the diarrhea caused by an emerging superbug received FDA approval and saves the lives of HIV/AIDS patients and many others.



Richard Klitzberg, of West Palm Beach and New Jersey, is a lawyer and hedge fund consultant who has spent more than 40 years advising institutional investors and high net worth families in all matters relating to the professional management of their assets.



Jerome B. Tichner is a Boston attorney who maintains a general health law practice, focusing on the representation of hospitals, health systems and other healthcare companies. Tichner looks forward to helping grow APF's mission to foster ties between the US's and Israel's healthcare systems. He is particularly interested in APF's efforts toward emergency preparedness.



APF Fellows for 2014 – 2015

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.



Maj. Avi Benov, M.D.
Research Branch
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Vitreoretinal Surgery
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Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston
Rabin Medical Center



Michael Kinori, M.D.
Pediatric Ophthalmology
University of California/Shiley Eye Center
San Diego
Chaim Sheba Medical Center



Gali Pariente, M.D.
Motherisk Program - Placenta
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada
Soroka University Medical Center



Shani Golan, M.D.
Ophthalmology – International
Research Program
University of California/Jules Stein Eye Institute
Los Angeles
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center



Hagai Levine, M.D.
Environmental and Reproductive
Epidemiology
Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York
Hadassah Medical Center

*"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*

Every year dozens of Israeli physicians apply for our Fellowship grants. Please help us keep this prestigious and beneficial program vital and growing by sending your contribution today.

2014 Solomon Hirsh Nurses Education Fund

Since its inception more than a quarter of a century ago, the Solomon Hirsh Nurses Education Fund has sponsored 84 Israeli nurses who come for short-term, intensive specialty training at leading North American medical centers.



The fund was established through the generosity of former APF Board of Trustees member Dr. Richard N. Hirsh, in memory of his father. Dr. Hirsh met with this year's award-winning nurses on November 4.

Four Israeli master's degree-level senior nurses, who also make policy, visited the Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio to "shadow" nurse practitioners for two weeks on adult surgical units. The nurses took special note of protocols including: requesting consultations, ordering diagnostics and medication management. Hirsh nurses also met with the College of Nursing faculty for Advanced Practice and Wexner's Advanced Practice Director.



The Nursing Division at Israel's Ministry of Health is in the process of developing the role of Nurse Practitioner in adult surgical care.

In addition to their clinical work, Hirsh nurses also learned about the training and licensing of Nurse Practitioners, their scope of authority and their interaction with physicians.

Nurses participating in the program represented: Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, Assuta Medical Center in Tel-Aviv, Sheba Medical Center in Ramat-Gan and Baruch Padeh Medical Center in Poriya.

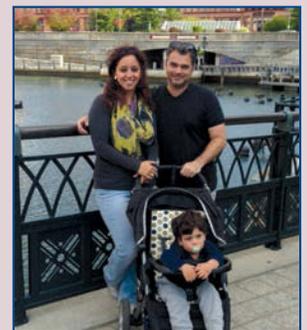
Dr. Eran Brauner from Rambam Medical Center in Haifa Awarded the Rosenblatt Foundation Grant

The Claire and Emmanuel G. Rosenblatt Foundation Fellowship grant provides support in the amount of \$25,000 to first-class Israeli oncologists receiving post-doctoral fellowship training in North America.

The Rosenblatt grant is awarded only after several months of rigorous scrutiny by both Israeli and North American medical institutions. All candidates must also have excellent English language skills.

This year's recipient is Dr. Eran Brauner, an attending surgeon in oncology, from Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. He is doing his fellowship in endocrine cancer research at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital. Brauner bested five competitors for the award.

Brauner says he's working 12-hour days, but getting training unavailable to him in Israel that will help his work upon his return in two years. Thanks to the grant he is "exposed to conferences and the most experienced surgical oncologists and endocrinologists from the US and abroad.



"And we video conference with the world. There is so much going on at a top-notch level, the experience is very intense, but it has exceeded my expectations."

Israel Provides Battle-Born Emergency Disaster Preparedness Expertise

Dozens of U.S. healthcare professionals participated recently in APF's 16th annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel. The course included fascinating lectures and hands-on drills. Attendees toured the country and visited several Israeli medical institutions including: the Israel Ministry of Health (MOH) war room in Tel-Aviv, Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheva, Sha'arey Tzedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, Rambam emergency underground Hospital in Haifa, and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Medical Corps Training Base.



This five-day, state-of-the-art training program is coordinated jointly by APF, the Israel MOH and the IDF Medical Corps. It provides 27 Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

During the course's 12 years of existence, 300 US and Canadian healthcare professionals have participated in this very important emergency and preparedness training while visiting Israel. Thanks to APF, Israel's vast knowledge in the area of emergency preparedness is joining North American mainstream medicine.

"You challenged me – you taught me things about which I knew nothing – you made me think. I am very happy that I took the course." - 2014 Course Participant

The next Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course will be held in Israel November 7-12, 2015. For more information please contact the APF office at 617-232-5382; email: info@apfmed.org; or visit our website at www.apfmed.org



American Medical Students Bond with Israel at APF/Birthright

"It is hard to pick out a specific activity or find words adequate enough to summarize what going to Israel on Birthright meant to me. And I did not expect much going in. But it was profound in every way. Each part was its own gem. Our group connected immediately, and we experienced a sense of comfort and depth I have not experienced elsewhere. I am beginning to understand what it means to be a Jew in ways that I had not conceived of before I went on this trip. The Israeli medical students who joined our group have fundamentally changed my notions of medicine and my life as a fellow 20- something human being. Immersion in Israel's culture with so many of my Jewish peers has broadened my perspectives and taught me things that I am still unraveling. It is all very subtle, but this trip was, in fact, life-changing. And I am deeply grateful to every person I met and every person who made Birthright for us possible."
2014 APF/Birthright Participant

APF Events

Over 100 friends and members of APF gathered for awe-inspiring APF Midwest Events

In April this year Maj. Jacob Chen, MD, an IDF Airborne Medical Doctor and a 2013-2014 APF Fellowship recipient, spoke about being a military physician since 2001. He talked about the realities of treating the wounded, including the enemy, under fire. Chen's presentations took place in Detroit, the Detroit suburb of Farmington Hills and Chicago.



APF co-sponsored the keynote speaker at The Maimonides Club of Springfield, Massachusetts, celebrating its 90th Anniversary. "A Slice of Peace: The Intersection Between Conflict and Medicine" – was the talk given by Keynote speaker Dr. Sigmund Kharasch, an attending physician in Massachusetts General Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department. Dr. Kharasch spoke in June on behalf of APF about his work as an ER physician at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Kharasch is also an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Upcoming Events/Conferences

17th Annual Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel, November 7-12, 2015

APF's third Podiatry conference in Israel will take place November 15-24, 2015

A once-in-a-lifetime experience is planned for all participants, says Dr. Paul Scherer, DPM, event seminar co-chair and APF Past President. "We estimate that 70 percent of the people who sign up have never been to Israel. And the remaining 30 percent have been there but haven't been to the special medical facilities we hope to visit."

Included in the conference are seminars by Israeli and US experts, trips to special medical sites and tourist destinations across Israel.

Seminar co-chair: Dr. Marlene Reid, DPM

For more information please contact APF at: 617-232-5382 or info@apfmed.org



For further information about the July 2015 trip, please e-mail the APF offices: info@apfmed.org or call 617-232-5382

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APF Helps Restore Historic Jaffa Cemetery

Few Jaffa visitors know of the old Protestant cemetery on Yeffet Street. This small plot is next to the Tabeetha School, the oldest school in Israel, founded in 1863.



Buried in this cemetery, among historical figures with local ties, is Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, best known for the first description of Hodgkin's disease, a form of lymphoma and blood disease. Hodgkin was the personal physician of Sir Moses Haim Montefiore, a British financier, activist and philanthropist. Born to an Italian Jewish family, Montefiore donated large sums of money to promote economic development, education and public health in the Jewish community of the Levant (modern-day Israel).

The cemetery has fallen into disrepair. The historian Mrs. Amalie Kass (with her late husband Dr. Edward Kass, past APF President) has been generously invested in repairing the cemetery, especially Hodgkin's gravesite.

Following APF leadership, Jaffa architect and Tel-Aviv historian Shmuel Giller and two Wolfson Hospital physicians, Dr. Yehuda Roth and Dr. Asher Winder, are also involved in fulfilling Mrs. Kass's dream of creating a vibrant, public historical site. The Tel-Aviv municipality has enthusiastically endorsed the project.

A garden and a visitor's center are planned as a nucleus for annual Hodgkin's seminars on medical and social topics.



More Than Ever, Israel Needs Ambulances

After months of missiles, rockets and shells, Magen David Adom trauma ambulances are in critical condition and need to be replaced.

Ambulances run about \$100,000, fully equipped, and so far APF donors have generously raised \$4,000. The Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts estimate an ambulance-grade defibrillator costs between \$5,000 and \$6,000.



Help us send an entire ambulance to Israel.

Your donation raises the odds that when emergencies strike, properly-outfitted MDA paramedics can rush to the scenes.

Ambulances wear out; our spirits mustn't.

Thank you.



Thank
you

to Our Donors

APF would like to extend much gratitude to our many benefactors who, for over 64 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.

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