

IMA International Activities

At the World Medical Association conference in May, the IMA was represented by Dr. Yoram Blachar, President, Adv. Leah Wapner, Secretary-General and Adv. Malke Borow, Manager of the Legal & International Relations Departments. The conference dealt with, among other issues, medical assistance during air travel, obesity and the avian flu.

In addition, two proposals put forth by the IMA were accepted by the Council. The first discusses traffic accidents, ideas for prevention and ways to deal with them. The second proposal, a statement on patient advocacy, discusses the rights of the patient and the conflict between doing what is best for the patient as opposed to considering what is best for society. We expect both proposals to be formally adopted at the WMA General Assembly in October 2006.

The IMA has also joined a work group, responsible for suggesting changes to the International Code of Medical Ethics.



At the World Health Professionals Alliance Conference in May, which dealt largely with professional re-

sponsibility, Dr. Blachar, Chair of the WMA Council and President of the IMA, spoke on the topic of creating a blame-free, responsible healthcare environment. He discussed the need to look at the problem in a comprehensive way that addresses the two seemingly conflicting ideas of confidential reporting of events (adverse and near misses) while at the same time NOT condoning criminal behavior on the part of physicians.

A consensus was reached that the issue has to be dealt with differently in each country because of the variety of governments and healthcare systems that exist around the globe.



A topic currently being scrutinized around the world, the relationship between physicians and pharmaceutical companies, was presented by Adv. Malke Borow at the European Forum of Medical Associations meeting in Budapest.

In addition, Adv. Leah Wapner lectured on patients' medical records databases



Adv. Malke Borow, IMA's Legal & International Relations Departments Manager, speaking at the EFMA conference

and the IMA position was accepted as part of EFMA's formal position paper on the topic.

One of the main subjects discussed at the conference was EFMA's future, including their relationship with WHO. During the talks, the IMA presented a document proving the importance of ties between EFMA and the WHO, and it was decided that the IMA would prepare a list of suggested collaborative projects between the two organizations.



During the European Union of Medical Societies conference in March, Prof. Shai Ashkenazi, Chairman of the IMA Scientific Council, was asked to participate in a work group that will define guidelines for treating patients throughout Europe.



As part of its efforts to develop a framework for risk management in Croatia, the Croatian government invited leading experts from four European countries, Sweden, Denmark, France and Israel, to discuss their models on the issue at a conference held in Zagreb in June. Israel was



At the WMA conference, left to right, Dr. Kgossi Letlape, President, Dr. Yoram Blachar, Chair of Council, Dr. Eva Bagenholm and Dr. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary-General

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represented by Dr. Udi Cantor, Chair of the Division of Healthcare Policy at the Israeli Medical Association. He was accompanied by Mr. Yossi Tal, of Medanes Insurance. Together they gave a presentation "From Risk Management to Patient Safety." The conference was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Health, headed by the Minister of Health, senior personnel from the Croatian Medical Chamber, hospital managers and risk managers.



Dr. Rose Geist, President of the Canadian IMA World Fellowship Chapter and her husband, Dr. Roger Goldstein, met with Dr. Yoram Blachar, Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner, Chairman of the IMA World Fellowship, Dr. Moshe Shalev, WF Board member and Esti Sherbelis during their visit to Israel in June. Dr. Geist spoke of recent developments in the Canadian chapter, including the inclusion of medical students as members and her desire to advance exchange programs.

This was followed up by Dr. Siev-Ner's visit to Toronto and Montreal to meet with key figures of medicine and discuss with

them the activities of the IMA World Fellowship. Among those he met with were Drs. Joseph Portnoy, David Zukor, Avi Whiteman, Rhoda Kagan, Etan Lichtblau, Cleve Ziegler, Walter Gotlieb, Joyce Fung, Rubin Becker, Andre Ibgly, Allen Climan and Edna Mendelson from Montreal and Drs. Ronald Laxer, Gideon Koren, Ron Zuker, Dan Farine, Ze'ev Seltzer, Warren Goldstein, Benny and Ahuva Meilik from Toronto. The visit was fruitful and many physicians expressed a keen interest to help promote the IMA WF in Canada and be involved in future endeavors. Siev-Ner concluded his visit with a meeting with Dr. Geist, who will further develop the plans for action in Canada.



It has become a yearly tradition, organized by Prof. David Katz, Chairman of the British World Fellowship Chapter, and the UJIA, to bring British medical students to Israel. This year the students met with Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner, Chairman of the IMA World Fellowship and Esti Sherbelis, IMA's International Public Relations Officer and were exposed to the modern technology Israel has to offer. Many expressed their eager-



Standing left to right, Dr. Shimshon Erdman and Dr. Moshe Shalev, seated, Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner and Dr. Simon Drelevich

ness to participate in the WF exchange program and are kept aware of IMA activities thanks to the Chairman of the Jewish Medical Students Association, Adam Albert.



Dr. Robert Levi, Chairman of the Dutch IMA World Fellowship Chapter, met with Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner and Esti Sherbelis to discuss ideas on how to interest the younger generation of doctors in Holland in WF activities.



Dr. Simon Drelevich, the Chairman of the new IMA WF chapter in Argentina, met with Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner and other WF Board members during his visit to Israel in March. Dr. Drelevich elaborated on the situation of physicians in Argentina and expressed his desire to raise funds in order to bring young physicians to Israel for exchange programs. ■



Dr. Rose Geist, Esti Sherbelis, Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner and Dr. Roger Goldstein