

Message from the Past Chairman – IMA-WF



■ Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

My term as chairman of IMA-WF has come to an end.

I have been elected as the Chairman of the State Employed Physicians' Organization (Irgun Rofei Hamedina) and Vice President of the Israeli Medical Association.

I am proud to "pass the torch" to my successor, Zeev Feldman, whom I

have known for many years. I am sure he will be dedicated and bring his qualities to make IMA-WF better.

The good news is that I will remain a member of the board and will support the new chairman and the board.

As my term ends, I am even more convinced about the important role of IMA-WF as the umbrella organization of the friends of Israel and IMA around the globe. This solidarity has been challenged a few times in the last 4 years and as always, without any hesitation, you were there for us. Our mutual recognition is the very essence; however, the bonds between all chapters and within the chapters are not less important.

Over the last 4 years we increased membership, established new chapters, and held two international conferences with high scientific standards, but even more importantly, we got together and got to know each other personally.

Our members are our best resource and asset. It is our responsibility at the IMA and the international board to further develop this asset and maintain the bonds between us.

It has been a privilege to serve you. I would like to thank you all: individual members, chapter chairmen, the Israeli board, IMA board and members, Malke Borow and especially Esti Sherbelis who was so dedicated to all of us.

I wish us all a productive quadrennium and continuous fraternity.

› **Tzaki Siev-Ner**

Assemblies in Israel

The 19th Biannual IMA World Fellowship Conference

Over 150 physicians from abroad and 100 physicians from Israel participated on April 22-26, 2009 in the Israel Medical Association's World Fellowship Conference, which took place at the Hilton Tel Aviv. The conference centered on the themes of advanced technologies in medicine, medical ethics and health policy. The conference received CME accreditation from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and the American Medical Association. This event, like its predecessors, allowed doctors from different specialties, from hospitals, clinics and academic institutions, from the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, and Latin America, to share ideas, to create professional ties,



■ Asael Lubotzky, Maru Gete and Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner at the IMA-WF conference opening Ceremony

to build joint projects, and to discuss medical issues, studies and technologies with their Israeli counterparts.

Many diverse topics were covered during the conference, including sessions on oncology, alternative medicine and pulmonology in the technology portion of the conference, sessions on medical ethics in various cultures and ethics in the Holocaust during the ethics portion of the conference, and sessions on the clash between economics and ethics in health policy, the impact of culture and religion in health policy and preventative cardiology during the health policy portion of the conference.

The session on Ethics in the Holocaust received added publicity in the special Holocaust Memorial Day section in the Israeli newspaper 'Maariv.' The article described the lecture given by Prof. Rael Strauss which explained how the murdering of Jewish mental patients in institutions developed the technology used for mass murder in concentration camps. The Israeli newspaper 'Haaretz' described some of the medical technologies presented at the conference in one of its published articles.

The conference opened with an exciting ceremony. Dr. Yoram Blachar, President of the IMA, welcomed the World Fellowship participants. Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner, Chairman of the World Fellowship, emphasized the connection between physicians in Israel and abroad and described this connection with an emotional story. During the Second Lebanon War, Asael Lubotzky,

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■ Dr. Yoram Blachar



■ Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner



■ Medical Students



■ Susan Cabrera, Dr. Michael Lewis and Dr. Ben Driling



a soldier from the Golani division, was injured when a rocket directly hit the armored carrier in which he was travelling. Asael was hospitalized at Tel Hashomer hospital for rehabilitation in Dr. Siev-Ner's department. When Dr. Siev-Ner heard the name 'Lubotzky' he immediately asked Asael if he was related to Isser Lubotzky, who turned out to be Asael's grandfather.

Asael's grandfather, Isser, fought with the partisans during World War Two and later in the Etzel organization. While fighting the Nazis, Isser was shot in the leg. The wound became infected and his fellow partisans began digging his grave. Henka, Dr. Siev-Ner's mother, served as a nurse for the partisans and she used leaves to dress the wound and provided Isser with penicillin to fight off the infection. Because of Henka's treatment, Isser survived his injury. Dr. Siev-Ner, Asael, and Asael's brother-in-law, Maru Gete, an oleh from Ethiopia who did not attend school until arriving in Israel at age 8, presented this emotional story and its unlikely conclusion: both Asael and Maru decided to study medicine.

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Social events at the conference included a cocktail dinner and performance by Israeli artists Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak at the Suzanne Dellal Center, a festive Shabbat dinner at the Hilton hotel, and the closing Gala Dinner at the Hilton. This conference provided the opportunity for physicians from Israel and abroad to connect on a personal and professional level. The Israeli Medical Association is grateful to all those who took the time to visit Israel and participate in the World Fellowship conference. We thank you and hope to see you here again soon!

