

The 20th anniversary of *IMAJ*

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For the last 20 years, weekly, the three of us together with a small secretarial team meet and enjoy the intellectual process of reviewing manuscripts and preparing future issues of the *Israel Medical Association Journal*. Each one of us brings to the Editorial board different background, characteristics and personality, but we all have the same goal of bringing to light the best of Israeli medical sciences. The work is an intense team effort, with a rapid peer review process in which we consult each other after carefully reading the evaluations by a wide range of Israeli physicians and scientists. We discuss medical, scientific, philosophical and ethical issues when they arise, and choose the picture that will appear on the cover of that month's issue. The content and form of the journal is important to us since this is a mirror of medicine in Israel nationally and internationally, and we are in a position to help and enhance the standing of Israel in this area of science and medicine worldwide.

As members of the editorial board of the former *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*, on its cessation in the late 1990s the three of us approached the president of the Israel Medical Association (IMA) at the time, Dr. Yoram Blachar, with the idea of launching a new journal. He was immediately enthusiastic about the project and the need to continue publishing Israel's medical scientific work in English. Thus, 20 years ago, the IMA undertook to publish the Journal, in English, to complement the Hebrew-language *Harefuah* that has been published for more than 90 years. Indeed, in September 1999, the first issue of *IMAJ* (*Israel Medical Association Journal*) made its appearance, and since then every month, steadily and without pause, has presented interesting and diverse topics. *IMAJ* became a reliable and consistent platform for Israeli physicians and scientists to share their knowledge and experience locally and abroad. Historically, the *IMAJ* was a continuation of the *IJMS* (*Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*), which was founded 33 years earlier by the late Prof. Moshe Prywes who recognized the importance of an Israeli medical publication in English.

The content of the first issue (see next page) reflected the intention of the Israel Medical Association and the editorial

board of *IMAJ* to present the diversity and high level of clinical and scientific contributions of Israel. During the last two decades, interesting and high-level original articles, reviews and editorials have been published, reflecting current practice and future directions both in the clinical and experimental arenas in Israel. In the section *Perspectives*, usually the first article in an issue, the Journal provides the stage for matters of concern regarding the provision of medical care. For example, in the journal's maiden issue, the article "Future of World Medicine" gave an accurate prediction of the practice of Medicine in years to come. Other features are unusual case reports, clinical images from various disciplines of Medicine, notes on Medical Education curricula, Bioethics, diagnostic algorithms, commentaries on ancient Jewish medical practices, subjects of historical significance, and other stimulating subjects.

Israel is known for the high level of medical care and scientific innovation and, rightfully, is considered the "Startup Nation." *IMAJ* took on the mission to present biomedical and scientific novelties that originated in Israel and that may impact on clinical practice in the future. The journal's Internet site receives numerous entries by both professionals and lay people daily, and the Journal keeps up to date with current trends of the modern telecommunication and social network age.

The aesthetic presentation of each issue is important to all those who take part in it. The editorial board is grateful to the galleries and artists who have contributed their art work to grace the cover. This includes paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and photography.

The Editorial Board is proud of the high standard that the Journal has maintained over the past 20 years, as well as the publication of this particular celebratory issue. The Board promises to make every effort to continue to represent Israeli Medicine and Science and to strengthen the position of the Journal nationally and internationally.

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