

Preface

It is a great honor and privilege for me to introduce several of the articles that will be presented at the Israeli Medical Association World Fellowship Conference and incorporated in this special edition of *IMAJ*. One of the most significant activities of the Israeli Medical Association is our World Fellowship, established in 1945, instituted with the aim of involving doctors around the world with the medical profession in Israel and with their Israeli counterparts. The conference focuses on four main themes, and the articles chosen for this special issue represent these ideas.

- The first, *Advanced Technologies in Medicine*, relates to the sophisticated developments and technologies used for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and improvement of the quality of life. Computerization has contributed to assessment, communication, organization of information and assistance in risk management. In robotics, it compensates for human limitations, in surgery it improves skills and precision, and in rehabilitation it greatly improves functions thanks to virtual reality.
- In contrast to advanced technologies is *Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, which is progressively being integrated into the medical system.
- It is only natural that new technologies create new dilemmas. As much as we value life we must deal with the implications, the economic and the ethical costs to the individual and society. A range of topics raise these questions and attempts are made to provide answers on ethical issues in general, as well as those pertaining to *Halakha* (the corpus of Jewish law).
- The conference presents different aspects of *Medicine in the Holocaust*, the impact of Nazi physicians and the lessons that doctors worldwide must remember and retain. Today, 60 years later, we must remember not only to honor the victims of the Holocaust, but to be vigilant that such a breach of medical ethics never be repeated.

We thank the editors of *IMAJ* for their willingness to publish this sample of conference presentations.

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