

Clinic and Science: Interfaces



Mexico-Israel Symposium

(February 15-16, 2001 - Mexico City)



The symposium presented herein came into being when Jaime Constantiner called one of us for help in planning a symposium between the “Salvador Zubiran” National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition of Mexico City and Tel Aviv University. The symposium was to be sponsored by the Mexican Association of Friends of Tel Aviv University of which Dr. Constantiner, an ardent philanthropist who has been most generous to both Mexico and Israel, is an active supporter.

The planning of the symposium took place by email between the two of us, and we enrolled distinguished scholars from both institutions that would cover different topics of related fields. The Mexican part was enriched by the participation of scientists from other institutions with which the Institute has close collaborations.

The name of the symposium was chosen to emphasize the nature of medicine in the future: a close relationship between science and medicine. But notice that the name was not Medicine and Science but Clinic and Science, for we believe that clinical practice will have to be in close contact with the ever-expanding science of medicine. An interface is a connection. It is commonly thought as that

between a machine and a computer, a computer and its printer. In this case, it is between the bedside and science. The role of physicians will be that of bringing the most advanced medicine to their patients. We would like to think of future doctors as Beatrice or Virgil guiding Dante into the unknown. Understanding the medical science of the future will be a difficult but important task for doctors. Those left behind will not be able to guide their patients henceforth.

There is some circular nature to the program: lipids, menopause, diabetes, autoimmunity, lupus, insulin, pancreas, gall stones, sex hormones, auto-antibodies that penetrate into cells, paraneoplastic autoantibodies, apoptosis, neurosurgery, and heart rate problems... they would all seem to be somehow interconnected although each is a topic in itself. We trust that the program will be attractive both to those attending the symposium and to readers of the *Israel Medical Association Journal*.

Donato Alarcón-Segovia MD
*Instituto Nacional de Ciencias
Médicas y Nutrición
Salvador Zubiran*

Yehuda Shoenfeld MD
*Sackler Faculty of
Medicine, Tel Aviv
University*