



US Chapter

www.ima-wf-usa.org

CONNECTIONS

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to you all for endorsing me for one year as the President of the IMA-WF-USA. I face this role with humility before the huge task facing us collectively.

We have an enormous responsibility. Never since the mid 20th century has the Jewish community faced so many challenges and threats. This is seen in the very real threat to Israel, and the existential threat to world Jewry. We stand somewhat isolated in the USA. However, as we scan the international environment we see anti-Semitism raising its ugly head both in its most vulgar form as we saw in Venezuela this weekend, and recently in Europe. It has hit as anti-Semitic demonstrations even here in my home town of Fort Lauderdale. Moreover, we have seen this hate gain respectability in the forms of academic boycotts of Israel.

This is the world we find ourselves. However, we cannot base our existence on such negative energy. We collectively have so much to offer.

Our organization joins us in our common culture, and dedication to supporting the health care community in Israel. Regional chapters are being organized. Meetings have occurred in South Florida, New York and Maryland. Over the next year we aim to expand these experiences and strengthen the local groups. Members will meet within their area to interact, offer fellowship and be educated.

Advocacy is another important function of our organization. Whenever health related speakers visit the USA, we aim to make them available to local groups. Only by arming ourselves with information can we hope to be effective advocates for our world-view based on mutual respect, democracy, and the creation of health care systems of the highest quality designed to serve all people. These are the values of the Israel Medical community.

Israel needs our support as much as possible now. One very practical way one can express such solidarity is to attend the International Congress of the IMA late in April this year. The newsletter contains details about this gathering. I attended the last con-

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Michael C. Lewis, MD
President, IMAWF-USA Chapter

MISSION:
We are a group of medical and health professionals, medical scientists and students based in the USA dedicated to promoting academic, clinical, professional and social links between our members and like-minded colleagues in Israel and around the world.

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SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 22-26, 2009

Tel-Aviv, Israel

CONNECTIONS

Inaugural 2009 Board of Directors

Our most sincere thanks to our members. We have a new Board of Directors, which was endorsed by membership as of January 28, 2009.

These directors are committed to the IMAWF-USA and its membership.

President: Michael Lewis, MD

Vice President: Aviad Haramati, PhD

Secretary/Treasurer: David Polaner, MD

Immediate Past-President: Abe Berger, MD

Director 1— East: Bruce Auerbach, MD

Director 2—East: Steve Lenger, MD

Director 1—West: Ben Drillings, MD

Director 2—West: Roneet Lev, MD

Director 1— South: David Marcus, MD

Director 2— South: Bernd Wollschlager, MD

Director Mid-West: Victoria Maizes, MD

Medical Student/Resident Rep: Joshua Livingstone, MD

*Register for the
IMA-WF
International
Conference
coinciding with
the 100th
anniversary of
Tel-Aviv, Israel*

April 22-26, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Last year physicians from 22 countries attended our international conference, at which President Shimon Peres was the special guest speaker.

The president stressed “the importance of a bond between Israeli physicians with physicians in the Diaspora as well as the importance of international humanitarian missions” and continued by emphasizing “I wish to declare my support for the World Fellowship and its goals”.

We invite you to be part of this unique event. Please take this opportunity to meet new colleagues, understand Israeli medicine, and show your support for Israel and the IMA. Make this a memorable experience.

For registration information please click here: [IMAWF International Conference](#)

Warm Wishes,



Dr. Yoram Blachar

President, IMA



Dr. Tzaki Siev-Ner

Chairman, IMA WF

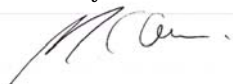
President's Message (cont.)

gress and I can say in terms of education and fellowship it was a first class experience. Please consider in joining us.

The IMA can offer educational and clinical experiences in Israel, and hopefully through strategic partnerships being developed through the world. Such service to the community is a core Jewish value.

In conclusion I want to again thank you for allowing me this experience. Please take an active role in our organization. There has never been a more appropriate time.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Lewis MD

Volume 1, Issue 1

Alyn Bike Ride 2008

Written by William Stern, MD

Dr. Stern is a member from the State of Maryland

How does one combine the love of Israel, bike riding, going on adventure, and doing charity all at the same time. By going on the Alyn Hospital “Wheels of Love” Charity Bike Ride, of course.

For the past three years, a close friend had been regaling my wife and I about the exhilarating experience of the Alyn ride. This past summer, with the knowledge that our daughter would be studying in seminary in Jerusalem, and our recently married son and his wife would be spending a year in Israel, we literally “got off our backs” and started training for what turned out to be an overwhelming experience.

Begun in 2000 with ten riders, the “Wheels of Love” ride, this year had over 350 riders for the five day ride, and an additional 200 riders participated in the one day “Gag Alyn” ride. Four different routes took us from Jerusalem south to Beer Sheva, to Arad, down the Rimon crater, up along the Dead Sea and back to Jerusalem.

We were joined by riders from many countries, with a third coming from Israel, and the next largest groups from the US and Canada.

A highlight of the ride was visiting Alyn Hospital, and seeing the delight of the children when we partied with them at the closing ceremony.

My wife, Sarah and I, ride a tandem bicycle and were the only participants in the five day ride this year who sported a tandem. Sarah became very used to riders passing and telling me that “your wife is relaxing” or “reading a book”. Truth to tell, we both get the same aerobic workout, and at times, especially on the climb from the Dead Sea to Jerusalem, when I told her that we needed to stop, she pedaled extra hard and kept us going.

We hope to join the ride again in the future, and we would encourage anyone with the same interests in bicycling, Israel, and supporting a fantastic institution to look into participating in a future ride. We would be happy to discuss our experiences with anyone interested and further information is available at www.alynride.org.



Chapter Activities in the Nation's Capital Area

The Israel Medical Association-World Federation USA Chapter (IMA-WF-USA) held its inaugural event in the Maryland-DC area on Thursday night, October 16, 2008, during the Sukkot festival. In cooperation with the Health Professions Affinity Group of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, a parlor meeting was graciously hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Leo Rozmaryn in Silver Spring, Maryland, to inform health professionals in the Nation's Capital of the work of the IMA-WF-USA Chapter. Following a delicious reception held in the Rozmaryn's Sukkah, Adi Haramati, PhD, Professor of Physiology and Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and Secretary of the IMA-WF-USA Chapter served as host for the evening and introduced USA Chapter President, Abe Berger, MD, who presented to the 40 participants on the Chapter's mission to promote academic, clinical and professional links with colleagues in Israel and around the globe. The keynote speaker was Steven Kutner, MD, founder and medical director of Jewish Healthcare International, an organization dedicated to improving the quality and access to medical services for at-risk communities.



Abe Berger, MD
Immediate Past-President, presenting the US Chapter's mission

The next parlor meeting the IMAWF-USA Chapter is co-hosting with The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Health Professionals Affinity will be held Monday, February 9. Information on this event can be found on the back of your newsletter or email Adi Haramati at haramati@georgetown.edu.



Photo above: (from left to right) Brent Berger, MD, co-chair, *Health Professionals Affinity Network, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington*; Michael Stern, DDS, co-chair, *Health Professionals Affinity Network, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington*; Abe Berger, MD, Immediate Past-President *IMA-WF-USA chapter*; Adi Haramati, PhD, Vice-President-Elect, *IMA-WF-USA chapter*; Steve Kutner, MD, Medical Director, *Jewish Healthcare International*; Leo Rozmaryn, MD, host

IMA-WF-USA Chapter

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US Chapter

We are on the web!
www.ima-wf-usa.org

Invitation to Jewish Health Professionals in MD-DC-VA

*The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's
Health Professionals Affinity*

The Israeli Medical Association –World Federation– USA Chapter

Invite you to an evening with

Dr. Erica Brown

Director, Jewish Learning Institute

"Can Prayer Heal"

Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

At the home of
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Yuzefovich
3359 Roundtree Estates Ct.
Falls Church, VA

Light Supper provided. Dietary laws observed

No solicitation of funds Limited Capacity

**Note: There is no charge to attend, but you MUST pre-register
RSVP by Thursday, February 5 by calling (301) 230-7276**

Questions? Contact Adi Haramati at haramati@georgetown.edu