

# APF News



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Winter 1999/2000

## APF Sponsors International Bioethics Conference

This past October, more than 200 Jewish physicians, nurses, medical students, ethicists, rabbis, and other health care professionals flocked to Boston for the 2nd Annual International Conference, entitled, *"Jewish Perspectives on Bioethics in the 21st Century: A Pluralistic Discussion."*



Lady & Lord Jakobovits (z"l)

"This series of Conferences is the fulfillment of a key organizational priority of APF," according to **Don Perlstein**, APF Executive Director. "They provide a model for intra-religious dialogue within the Jewish community and bring rich insight to the challenging bioethical dilemmas facing us as health care professionals and members of the Jewish community."

The Conference brought together world renowned Jewish medical ethicists, including the late and beloved "Father of Jewish Medical Ethics," **Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits (z"l)**, who noted that there are few areas in which the Jewish community can have such a powerful and positive effect upon the world as in medical ethics.

"We are the guardians of the Jewish ethical tradition," Jakobovits told conference participants. "We can be pioneers, in spite of all the barriers and limitations that historically have been put up against us, to provide the world with hope, enlightenment

and moral understanding. And there never has been such a time of both great opportunity for human existence but also the greatest of dangers."

**Professor Paul R. Wolpe, Ph.D.**, from The Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania and the organizer of the founding conference, noted that the purpose of the conference was to "set an example of pluralistic depth and diversity – where no voices were excluded – to directly address bioethical substantive issues in Judaism."

The two-day conference addressed major bioethical issues through a series of plenaries and participatory workshops. The primary sponsoring organizations



Professor Michael A. Grodin, M.D., (standing) works with a Chavrusa-Style Discussion Group addressing a case study on the "Termination of Life."

included: APF, The Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University, The Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, The Finkelstein Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary, The  
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## Dr. Samuel Thier Honored By APF

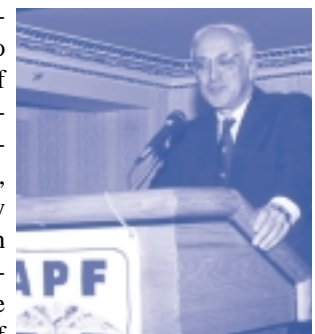
**Samuel O. Thier, M.D.**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Partners HealthCare System, Inc., received the Distinguished Medical Service Award of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel at a Gala Dinner attended by nearly 500 individuals and held on September 29th at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

The event, preceded by a late afternoon Medical Symposium on *"The e-World and Medicine,"* was co-chaired by **Jerome P. Kassirer, M.D.**, the former Editor-in-Chief of The New England Journal of Medicine and **Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D.**, Distinguished Institute Scholar, CEO Emeritus of Beth Israel Hospital and CareGroup, Inc. The featured dinner speaker, **Thomas S. Durant, M.D.**, Assistant Director, Massachusetts General Hospital, presented first hand accounts of medical missions to war ravaged countries, including Cambodia, Northern Iraq, and Kosovo and moving slides that depicted

not only the brutality but the hope present in these situations.

Special tributes to Dr. Thier were offered by both Drs. Rabkin and Kassirer. "Dr. Thier is most deserving of this honor," said **Sherwood L. Gorbach, M.D.**, President of APF. "He is being recognized for his outstanding service to the field of medicine."

Dr. Thier is internationally known for his many contributions to the field of internal medicine and kidney disease, and equally well known for his expertise in the areas of national health policy, medical education and bio-



Samuel O. Thier, M.D.

*(Continued on page 11)*

As we go to press, we have learned of the unexpected passing of Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

## APF On the Eve of the Millennium



As I begin my third year as President, there is much good news to report. We have had a very full agenda so far this year, including our annual Dinner and Symposium in honor of Dr. Samuel Thier attended by over 500 physicians and other members of the Boston community.

Ten days later we were co-hosts for the 2nd Annual Jewish Bioethics Conference, a major national gathering that has now established itself as an ongoing collaborative venture.

We are welcoming 35 new APF Fellows to North America this year, and we are currently making final plans for our first joint American – Israeli medical mission which will bring a team of American and Israeli Emergency Medicine specialists to Ethiopia, a project that has grown out of our work on behalf of and in partnership with our Israeli colleagues.

As we approach the millennium and

our own 50th Anniversary year, we are exploring ways to develop strategic alliances with those in North America and Israel who share our mission of contributing to the continued advancement of medicine in Israel and developing collaborative projects in partnership with Israel.

We are very excited about the emerging alliance with the Jewish Federation in Boston (CJP) with whom we are developing a multifaceted program that seeks to build bridges between the Boston and Haifa medical communities, which are "sister cities" within the Federation's Partnership 2000 program. We hope to develop a model that can be replicated in other communities throughout North America that are twinned with various regions in Israel.

At the same time, we are seeking ways to work more directly with those medical institutions in Israel whose programs we support. We hope to create APF sponsored events and programs in several cities across North America this coming year

that will bring together all friends of medicine in Israel, focusing particular attention on the continuing (in fact, increased) need for our Fellowship program as well as for our other initiatives that contribute to critical areas undergoing development at medical centers throughout Israel.

While we will continue to strive to build our network of physician members, who have supported APF over the past 50 years, we are planning to reach out even more assertively this year to members of the business and general philanthropic community who we have found are willing and often eager to support our programs.

Whether you are a long-time physician member of APF or a more recent supporter, we thank you for your commitment to helping build a vital organization dedicated to the advancement of medicine in Israel, and to the development of our unique partnership between the American and Israeli medical communities.

—Sherwood L. Gorbach, M.D.

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*APF NEWS is a publication of the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel (APF), an organization of physicians and others committed to advancing the state of medical education, research and care in Israel, and to forging links between the North American and Israeli medical communities. National office: APF, 2001 Beacon Street, Suite 210, Boston, MA 02135-7771. Tel: 617-232-5382.*

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## APF Maps Boston – Haifa Medical Connections

**APF** is working closely with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), the Jewish Federation in the Boston area, to promote closer relationships between the medical communities of Boston and Haifa. The two cities are linked under the Partnership 2000 Program of the United Jewish Communities.

APF President **Dr. Sherwood Gorbach** and Treasurer, **Dr. Theodore Steinman**, are among our members leading the effort to create a Boston-Haifa Medical Connection. **Dr. Selwyn Oskowitz**, the physician chair of CJP's Health Professions Team and other CJP leaders are also active in this initiative.

Over the summer of 1999, APF conducted a survey of existing relationships between health professionals in Boston and Haifa. More than thirty Boston doctors and nurses reported that they had visited Haifa hospitals, many as visiting lecturers or on faculty exchanges. About an

equal number said they would be interested in links with their Haifa colleagues, from exchanges of hospitality to regular consultation, to collaborative research in their specialty areas.

At the Haifa end, three major Haifa hospitals (B'nai Zion, Carmel, and Rambam Medical Centers), plus the Fliman Geriatric Hospital and the medical faculty at the Technion, have found great enthusiasm among their faculty for a connection with Boston. **Dr. Giora Pillar** of

Rambam Medical Center, an APF Fellow currently studying at Brigham & Women's Hospital, said, "Who wouldn't want to come to Boston? It's a city with top institutions in many specialties. I see the Boston-Haifa Medical Connection as something that can only help my home city, and I am happy to be involved."

APF hopes, that over the next several months, we will build a model program that could be duplicated in other Partnership 2000 cities and regions.

### Dr. Ethel Siris Elected To Board

The APF welcomes **Dr. Ethel S. Siris, M.D.**, the Madeline C. Stabile Professor of Clinical



Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, to the APF Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. Dr. Siris is the Director of the Toni Stabile Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Siris received her medical degree from the College of Physicians and

Surgeons of Columbia University. Trained as an endocrinologist, Dr. Siris has worked as a clinician, clinical investigator, and educator in the area of metabolic bone diseases, including Paget's disease of the bone, osteoporosis, and skeletal complications of cancer.

Dr. Siris is a member of the Board of the National Osteoporosis Foundation and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*, the *Journal of Clinical Densitometry*, and *Osteoporosis International*. She also serves as the Medical Director of the National Osteoporosis Risk Assessment, a public health initiative of over 200,000 postmenopausal women in the U.S.

#### Visit APF On-Line

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\*\*Learn about Israeli innovations in health care in our on-line book, *Good Medicine: Israeli Innovations In Health Care That Can Benefit Americans.*

\*\*Click on CHEVRA/SIG and learn about Jewish medical history and ethics.

\*\*Contribute to our on-line discussion forum.

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#### *Jews and Medicine: Religion, Culture & Science*

Based on the exhibit at Beth Hatefutsoth, Museum of the Diaspora  
**Special APF reduced price, \$40 (plus \$5 postage).**

#### *Three Jewish Physicians of the Renaissance:*

*The Marriage of Science & Ethics*, by Aaron J. Feingold, M.D.  
**Cost: \$15.00 (includes postage)**

#### *Case Reports: Short Stories About Jewish Doctors*

By Michael A. Nevins, M.D. **Cost: \$15.00 (includes postage)**

#### *Korot: The Israel Journal of the History of Medicine & Science*

Edited by Professor Samuel S. Kottek, M.D.

**Special price for APF members, \$20 per volume (published annually)**

#### *Israel Medical Association Journal (IMAJ)*

After a 33 year hiatus, the IMAJ has once again started to publish an English language medical journal. The journal, edited by many of Israel's most noted physicians, will be indexed and published monthly. Contact APF for subscription information.



## APF Grants 9th Annual Edward H. Kass Award

Since 1991, the APF has awarded a major annual grant to support the medical research of a promising



Lior Gepstein, M.D.

young physician in Israel. These grants were established in memory of the late **Edward H. Kass, M.D.**, a distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and also a past president of the APF (1986-1990).

APF is proud to announce that this year's **Edward H. Kass Award for Biomedical Research** will be granted to **Lior Gepstein, M.D.**, an outstanding researcher and lecturer from the Cardiovascular System Laboratory, Department of Physiology & Biophysics,

Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa.

Dr. Gepstein's research is entitled, "*Phenotypic Characterization of Human Embryonic Stem-Cell Derived Cardiomyocytes: Possible Role in the Regeneration of Functional Myocardium.*"

The study has three objectives:

- 1) To characterize the phenotypic properties of a unique type of cardiomyocytes derived from a recently reported human embryonic stem cells (ES);
- 2) To develop a novel high resolution mapping technique, which allows the characterization of the long-term structural, mechanical, and electrophysiological properties of cardiac cultures;
- 3) Using this mapping technique, to characterize the electromechanical and struc-

tural properties of the ES-derived cardiomyocytic cultures and to assess its possible functional and structural integration with a pre-existing culture.

Dr. Gepstein hopes that his project results will open the way to further studies that attempt to test the feasibility of grafting these cells into the in-vivo adult heart as well as the possible functional improvement following transplantation in animal models of cardiac disease and in heart failure patients.

APF is grateful to **Mrs. Amalie Kass**, whose generous support has made these grants possible. We also thank as well the *North American Review Committee*: **Leonard S. Gottlieb, M.D., M.P.H.**, (chair), **Franklin H. Epstein, M.D.**, **Sherwood L. Gorbach, M.D.**, **J. Alex Haller, M.D.**, **Rochelle Hirshhorn, M.D.**, **Louis M. Sherwood, M.D.**, and **Kenneth A. Woeber, M.D.**

## 1999 / 2000 Fellows Begin Training

APF is pleased to contribute to the medical education of 35 young Israeli physicians currently undergoing specialty training in the U.S. and Canada this year. These future leaders of Israeli medicine are spending a year (or more) of specialty training in major medical centers in North America. On completion of their fellowships, they will return to Israel, enriching the medical system and the level of care in Israel. The following fellows have arrived so far this year:

**Marianne Amitai, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine–Tel Aviv University, is a radiologist at Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer. Dr. Amitai is a fellow in virtual endoscopy at the *University of Toronto*, Canada with **Walter Kurcharczyk, M.D.**

**Abid El Rahim Assali, M.D.**, a graduate of Ben Gurion University, is a cardiologist at Rabin Medical Center. Dr. Assali is a fellow in interventional cardiology at the *University of Texas, Houston*, with **Richard Smalling, M.D.**

**Naftaly Attias, M.D.**, a graduate of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is an orthopedic surgeon at Kaplan Hospital, Rehovot. Dr. Attias is a fellow in traumatic and spine surgery at the *Baylor College of Medicine*, with **Ronald W. Lindsey, M.D.**

**Galit Aviram, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, is a diagnostic radiologist at the Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv. Dr. Aviram is a fellow in chest radiology at the *London Health Sciences Center, London, Canada*, with **Michael S. Lefloe, M.D.**

**Amir Belson, M.D.**, a graduate of the Technion, Haifa, is a pediatrician at the Tel Aviv Medical Center. Dr. Belson is a fellow in pediatric nephrology at *Stanford University Medical Center*, with **Steven R. Alexander, M.D.**

**Ofer Benjaminov, M.D.**, a graduate of the Technion, Haifa, is a radiologist at the Rabin Medical Center. Dr. Benjaminov is a fellow in abdominal body imaging at the *University of Toronto, Canada* with **Robert Willinsky, M.D.**

**Rachel Dahan, M.D.**, a graduate of

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is a family physician at the Kupat Holim, Pinsker Clinic, and the Technion in Haifa. She is a fellow in family education and medicine at the *University of Western Ontario*, with **Professor J.F. Sangster.**

**Orly Eshach-Adiv, M.D.**, a graduate of the Technion, Haifa, is a pediatrician at the Rambam Medical Center, Haifa. Dr. Eshach-Adiv is a fellow in the pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at *Children's Hospital* and the *Mass General Hospital in Boston*, with **W. Allan Walker, M.D.**

**Asaf Ferber, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is an obstetrician–gynecologist at the Rabin Medical Center, Petach Tiqva. Dr. Ferber is a fellow in fetal imaging at the *Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City*, with **Michael Y. Dison, M.D.**

**Yoav Golan, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is a physician in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv. Dr. Golan is a fellow in infectious diseases at the *New England*

## Hirsh Nursing Fund Supports Israeli Nurses

Since 1986, the APF, through its *Solomon Hirsh Memorial Nursing Fund*, has supported more than 27 Israeli nurses for short-term specialized nursing training in the United States and Canada. This year the grant recipients include **Menucha Idel**, and **Zahavit Turok**, and **Rachel Chosnek**.

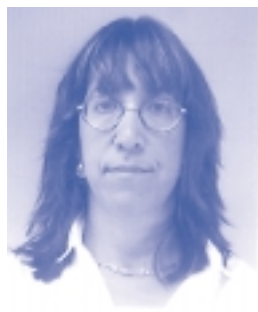
**Menucha Idel, R.N.**, Head Nurse, Maternity & Neonatal Unit, Rabin Medical Center, Petach Tikva, spent a month at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto Canada. While there, Mrs. Idel concentrated on observing the procedures, techniques, treatment, management and organization of the hospital. She was exposed to high standards of nursing care, advanced equipment and



new roles in the nursing field. She also had the opportunity to participate in a seminar on nursing professional practice and a resource utilization workshop.

As a result of her new learning, Menucha plans to implement her new knowledge of nursing techniques and management on her own Maternity & Neonatal Unit in Israel.

**Rachel Chosnek, R.N.**, a native of Cali, Colombia, immigrated to Israel after high school. She studied at the Recanati School of Nursing, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and is now the Head Nurse of the Cardiothoracic Department at the Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheva. Rachel is



at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada, studying management methods and clinical care delivery approaches in the cardiology program.

**Zehavit Turok, R.N.**, Clinical Instructor at Sheba Medical Center, spent a month learning Case Management Practice and Geriatric Nursing at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged in Boston. Zehavit currently works in the Department of Internal Medicine and also teaches nursing students from both Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities. She hopes to bring back to Israel new materials and techniques to improve nursing care at Sheba Medical Center.



Medical Center, Boston, with **Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.**

**Dan Grisaru, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is an obstetrician–gynecologist at Sourasky Medical Center. Dr. Grisaru is a fellow in gynecologic oncology at the *Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Center*, with **R. J. Osborne, M.D.**

**Asnat Groutz, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, is an obstetrician–gynecologist at the Tel Aviv Medical Center. Dr. Groutz is a fellow in gynecology at *New York Hospital, Cornell University*, with **Jerry G. Blaivas, M.D.**

**Ariel Hourvitz, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, is an obstetrician–gynecologist at Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer. Dr. Hourvitz is a fellow in reproductive endocrinology at the *University of Utah*, with **E.Y. Adashi, M.D.**

**Daniel M. Kaplan, M.D.**, a graduate of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is an otolaryngologist at Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheva. Dr. Kaplan is a fellow in neurotology and otolaryngology at the *Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Center*, with **Julian M. Nedzelski, M.D.**

**Alexander Karlic, M.D.**, a graduate of 1st Leningrad Medical Institute, is a geriatrician at the Kupat Holim Meuchedet, Jerusalem. Dr. Karlic is a fellow in geriatrics at *Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia*, with **J. Ouslander, M.D.**

**Avi Khafif, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, is an otolaryngologist at Kaplan Hospital. Dr. Khafif is a fellow in oncological head & neck surgery at the *University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center*, with **Jesus E. Medina, M.D.**

**Mohanna Khateeb, M.D.**, a graduate of Craiara University Medical School, Romania, is Head of the Intensive Care Unit at Poriya Hospital, Tiberias. Dr. Khateeb is a fellow in intensive care at the *Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada*, with **Thomas Stewart, M.D.**

**Lavy Klein, M.D.**, a graduate of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is a physician in internal medicine at the Rambam Medical Center, Haifa. Dr. Klein is a fellow in health care management at *Heller Graduate School, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts*, with **Jack P. Shankoff, M.D.**

**Eran Kozer, M.D.**, a graduate of the

Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, is pediatrician at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. Dr. Kozer is a fellow in emergency pediatrics at *The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada*, with **Gideon Koren, M.D.**

**Eliyahu Mizrahi, M.D.**, a graduate of the Technion, Haifa, is a geriatrician at Flieman Hospital, Haifa. Dr. Mizrahi is a fellow in memory problems and dementia in the elderly at *Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio*, with **Robert Friedland, M.D.**

**Yair Morad, M.D.**, a graduate of the Technion, Haifa, is an ophthalmologist at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. He is a fellow in pediatric ophthalmology at *The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada*, with **Raymond J. Buncic, M.D.**

**Ariel Revel, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is an obstetrician–gynecologist at Hadassah University Hospital. Dr. Revel is a fellow in gynecology at *The Toronto Hospital, Toronto University*, with **Robert F. Casper, M.D.**

**Vladimir Rukshin, M.D.**, a graduate of the Leningrad State Medical Institute, is a cardiologist at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem. Dr. Rukshin is a fellow

## Data Book On Women's Health In Israel Published

The APF is proud to have been one of the first supporters of the recently published *Data Book on Women's Health in Israel* and the sponsor of a key chapter on heart disease. The *Data Book* was published jointly by the *Israel Women's Network*, *Hadassah Women* (US and Israel) and the *Israel Center for Disease Control (ICDC)* of the *Ministry of Health*. The book appeared first in English and is due to be translated into Hebrew.

The *Data Book* represents a milestone in the recognition of Women's Health as a field in Israel. It is the first time that a serious effort was made to gather so much up-to-date information about all the major areas of Women's Health—demographics, mortality and morbidity, reproductive health, cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic illness and disability, mental health, injuries and violence against women.

The involvement of the Ministry of Health also testifies to the success of the women's health advocates in Israel and their supporters (including APF) in putting Women's Health on the agenda in Israel in

a remarkably short time.

The information in the *Data Book* will provide the basis for initiatives in research, health policy and education. The book



also indicates the areas in which data is lacking. As a result of the book the ICDC has initiated a National Women's Health Survey, which will supplement the *Data Book* and enable further projects and programs.

Some of the central conclusions of the

*Data Book* findings are as follows:

**Cancer** — it is the second leading cause of death in women. In comparison with other countries, Israeli women ranked 10th highest for incidence of cancer, while Israeli men ranked 33rd. Breast cancer among native Israeli women appears at relatively young ages. The most obvious "unique" finding for Israel is the relatively high incidence of mutations in the *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes. The high carrier rate, particularly among Ashkenazi Jews, means that many Israeli women are at especially high risk for breast and ovarian cancer.

**Heart Disease** — the mortality rate from heart disease is significantly higher for Arab women than Jewish women (in cancer the opposite is generally true). The mortality rate for Israeli women due to heart disease ranked 3rd highest, when compared to European countries, whereas Israeli men ranked 9th.

*(Continued on page 7)*

in cardiology at the *Save the Heart Foundation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles*, with **Prediman K. Kaul, M.D.**

**Reni Sabo, M.D.**, a graduate of Cluj University Medical School, Romania, is an otolaryngologist at Hasharon Hospital, Petach Tikva. Dr. Sabo is a fellow in rhinology & sleep disorders at the *Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada*, with **Arnold M. Noyek, M.D.**

**Dimistry Samsanov, M.D.**, a graduate of the 2nd Moscow Medical Institute, is a pediatrician at Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem. Dr. Samsanov is a fellow in pediatric nephrology at the *Children's Hospital, Boston*, with **William E. Harmon, M.D.**

**Avshalom, Shalom, M.D.**, a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, is a plastic surgeon at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. Dr. Shalom is a fellow in burns and acute care surgery & rehabilitation at *The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center*,

*Baltimore, Maryland*, with **Andrew M. Munster, M.D.**

**Mario Sofer, M.D.**, a graduate of the Faculty of General Medicine, Bucharest, Romania, is a urologist at the Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv. Dr. Sofer is a fellow in endourology at the *St. Joseph's Health Centre, London, Canada*, with **John Denstedt, M.D.**

**Eli Sprecher, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is a dermatologist at Rambam Medical Center, Haifa. Dr. Sprecher is a fellow in dermatology & cutaneous biology at *Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia*, with **Jouni Uitto, M.D.**

**Moshe Swissa, M.D.**, a graduate of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is a cardiologist at the Kaplan Medical Center, Rehovot. Dr. Swissa is a fellow in cardiology at the *Save the Heart Foundation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles*, with **Peng-Sheng Chen, M.D.**

**Sigal Tavor, M.D.**, a graduate of the Ancona Medical School, Italy, is the Senior Doctor of the Blood Bank,

Hematology Institute, Tel Aviv. Dr. Tavor is a fellow in hematology/oncology at the *Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles*, with **H. Phillip Koeffler, M.D.**

**Shoshana Revel-Vilk, M.D.**, a graduate of Hadassah Medical School, is a pediatrician at the Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem. Dr. Vilk is a fellow in pediatrics at *The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada*, with **David Malkin, M.D.**

**Ehud Zamir, M.D.**, a graduate of Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School, is an ophthalmologist at Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem. Dr. Zamir is a fellow in ophthalmology at the *Doheny Eye Institute, Los Angeles*, with **Narsing A. Rad, M.D.**

**Leonid Zingman, M.D.**, a graduate of 1st Medical Institute of Leningrad, is a physician in internal medicine at Soroka Medical Center. Dr. Zingman is a fellow in Clinical Pharmacology at the *Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota*, with **James Lipsky, M.D.**



## Plastic Surgeons Meet in New Orleans

This past October, more than 75 plastic surgeons from North America and Israel gathered in New Orleans at the Annual Meeting of APF's American-Israeli Plastic Surgery Fellowship (AIPSF).

The meeting, moderated by **Robert Goldwyn, M.D.**, Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Editor of the *Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, included a panel in which North Americans and Israelis presented their views on the purpose and potential of this newly formed association between American and Israeli plastic surgeons.

Panelists included **Sumner Slavin, M.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; **Garry Brody, M.D.**, Professor of Plastic Surgery, USC; **Jacob Golan, M.D.**, Head, Dept. of Plastic Surgery, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and **Ran Talisman, M.D.**, Sheba-Tel Hashomer Medical Center.

**Tanya Goldwyn**, President of Action for Post Soviet Jewry, also spoke briefly on some of the highlights and pitfalls of medical missions to Russia and the Former Soviet Union.

After presentations and discussion the following points were agreed upon:

1. AIPSF should be inclusive and not be limited only to Jews.
2. American plastic surgeons would continue to register for APF's Israel Emergency Medical Volunteer Program.

3. Fellowship placements and support for Israeli plastic surgeons in the U.S. and Canada are needed.

4. There should be a cross fertilization and sharing between Israeli and N. American plastic surgeons, including the development of professional exchanges and home hospitality.

5. Israeli-American medical missions to developing countries and in response to medical emergencies should be a working goal of the group.

**Professor Daniel Hauben, M.D.**, Chief, Dept. of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Rabin Medical Center, and President of the Israeli Society of Plastic



A small group gathers at the New Orleans Meeting.

Surgery (ISPS) suggested that a corresponding membership be developed between AIPSF and the ISPS. This was warmly welcomed by all present.

Participants ended the meeting by agreeing to meet again next March in Israel during the AIPSF Study Tour

## Specialty Networks Organize

### Allergists For Israel

*Allergists For Israel (AFI) continues to expand and grow. This November, AFI met in Chicago during the annual meeting of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology. In addition to the traditional kiddush, the AFI Advisory Board met to solidify newly formed working committees that now include, in addition to an Executive Committee, Committees for Development, Grant Allocations, Religious, Kiddush and Social Events, and an Israeli-American Working Committee.*

*AFI will next meet in San Diego on March 3-5 during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. An advisory meeting, kiddush, kosher dinner, and morning Jewish religious services are planned.*

*AFI has also begun to plan for a Scientific Symposium in Israel in the year 2001 in cooperation with Israeli colleagues.*

### Occupational & Environmental Medicine Network

*APF Board Member Sidney Blair M.D. continues to seek physicians interested in increasing awareness and support of occupational and environmental medicine issues in Israel.*

*Currently, a focus group is forming on musculo-skeletal pain. The group plans to go to Israel in the Spring and hold meetings with Israeli medical leaders in occupational medicine. Anyone interested in becoming part of this network and/or initiative, should contact APF.*

## Women's Health Data Book

(Continued from page 6)

**Stroke** - the mortality rate among Arab women is much higher than among Jewish women and also higher than for Arab men (among Jews the rate is higher for men).

**Reproductive Health** - Israel has one of the highest rates in the world of assisted fertility facilities per capita, a reflection of the pronatal policy of the country.

**Life Expectancy** — Israeli women's life expectancy ranks 20th out of 23 Western countries, while the men rank 5th, and the

female-male life expectancy advantage is only 3.6 years, compared to 7.4 average in developed countries.

All of the above provide many questions for medical researchers in Israel, and of course the variety of ethnic origins, Arab and Israeli populations, religious and non-religious customs and lifestyles make it even more interesting and challenging.

The APF congratulates the editors of the *Data Book* and wishes all working in the field of Women's Health in Israel much success.

**AIPSF Plastic Surgery  
Israel Study Tour  
March 11-19, 2000**

**Tel Aviv Jerusalem  
Eilat & Red Sea**

**Includes Tour to Petra, Jordan**  
(Extension Tour to Northern Israel Available)

**CME SEMINAR**  
Abstract Deadline — End of December

For Information, contact AIPSF:  
Tel 617-232-5382  
Email: aipsf@apfmed.org

## IAACI Develops And Expands In Israel

Over the last year, the *Israel Association of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (IAACI)* has been extremely active under its newly elected



Executive Committee, which includes **Drs. Yehuda Shoefeld, President, Yitzhak Katz, Secretary,** and at-large committee members, **Shumel Kivity, Menachem Rotem, and Zaev Sthoeger.** The IAACI has sponsored monthly clinical sessions with the participation of every allergy and clinical immunology clinic in Israel, as well as special meetings with guest speakers from abroad.

In addition to its regular meetings, the IAACI also plans this year to establish the *Israeli Asthma Council*. The Council is being founded to organize patients, families and caregivers; to educate the public about asthma and related diseases; and to encourage research in the field.

Earlier this year, in March, the *2nd International Congress on Autoimmunity* took place in Tel Aviv. The meeting, co-chaired by **Dr. Jean-Francois Bach**

(Paris) and **Dr. Yehuda Shoefeld**, was a rousing success and included about 600 participants from both Israel and abroad.

In June, the *2nd Palestinian-Israeli Conference on Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology* took place in Haifa, under the auspices of the *Palestine Council of Health* and the *Economic Cooperation Foundation*. The meeting was organized by **Yoseph Mekori, M.D., Elizabeth Fireman, Ph.D., and Shumel Kivity, M.D.** of the IAACI.

The Conference provided a common ground for Israelis and Palestinians to exchange ideas and clinical experiences about mutual medical problems in their communities and in the region at-large.

As this newsletter goes to press, the IAACI is completing the final planning for its Annual Meeting and Conference which is taking place in Nazareth in November.

The Conference will feature workshops on Latex Allergies, Food Allergies, Artherosclerosis & Autoimmunity, Genetics of Asthma Bronchial Hyperactivity, and AIDS.

The IAACI is also proud to report that **Ephraim Sneh, M.D.**, an allergist and a guest speaker at the *Allergists For Israel Symposium* in Tel Aviv last October, is now the Israel Deputy Minister of Defense. The IAACI wishes him much success.

Over the next year, the IAACI will be working with APF's Allergists for Israel to develop collaborative projects on behalf of allergy in Israel.

**Israel Glazer, M.D.**

Head, Allergy/Immunology Unit (Ret.)  
Sheba Medical Center, Israel

**Shmuel Kivity, M.D.**

Sourasky, Tel Aviv Medical Center, Israel

## Dr. Rafael Beyar Elected Dean

This past winter **Professor Rafael Beyar, M.D.**, was selected the new Dean of the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, in Haifa, succeeding **Prof. Peretz Lavie, M.D.** A native of Tel Aviv, Prof. Beyar received his M.D. degree at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine in Tel Aviv in 1977. Following his service as an

army physician, Dr. Beyar entered the Technion in Haifa where he earned a D.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering. He then trained in Internal Medicine at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa and completed a fellowship in Cardiology (1985-97) at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he still maintains an affiliation.

## Israeli & Palestinians Cooperate

A recent report by the *Joint (JDC), the Brookdale Institute and Al Kuds University* (East Jerusalem) shows a surprisingly high level of cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in the area of health care.

Since 1994 some 150 joint projects have been undertaken, and many were started or continued, on a low-profile basis, even when the political relations were cool and the peace process stuck. This is particularly significant in view of the hard line of the professional groups in Jordan and Egypt, including the medical area, which boycott any cooperation with Israel (though there are cases of joint work between individuals).

The report points to a wide variety of programs, covering teaching, research, and care. Many Israeli academic institutions, hospitals and voluntary groups are

actively involved, including Yad Sarah, the religious-run organization from Jerusalem which loans a wide variety of medical equipment to needy and handicapped persons around the country. It is helping the Palestinians start a similar organization in Ramallah.

The Palestinians realize that cooperation with Israeli medical institutions can help improve the levels of professional competence and of health infrastructure and administration in the Palestinian Authority. The leader in this is Al Kuds University, which has over 50 joint projects underway. The university's leadership was among the first to appreciate the potential benefits from such cooperation and to translate it into real programs.

*Ha'aretz, November 1, 1999*

Dr. Beyar has been a Senior Interventional Cardiologist at Rambam since 1988, and he is now Director of Invasive Cardiology. He is also Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Head of the Heart System Research Center at the Faculty of Medicine, Technion.

Dr. Beyar is the author of many publications and also holds a number of patents

in the field of cardiac stents and imaging. Professor Beyar, a good friend of the APF since 1994 when he was the Israeli co-chair of the APF's tour and seminar on cardi-



ology, recently was selected to chair the Association of the Deans of Israel's four medical faculties.



## Israel Sends Medical Mission To Earthquake Victims

Israel responded immediately to the devastating earthquake in Turkey in mid-August, even before it was known that a dozen Israeli tourists were buried in the rubble. The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) sent two major missions - a 300 member Special Rescue Team, whose specialty is searching for victims in damaged and collapsed buildings, and also an IDF Medical Corps field hospital.

Teams of the Special Rescue unit worked at three different sites using special heavy equipment flown in from Israel for the purpose. In their week of intense efforts, team members worked 20 hours a day, rescuing 13 people alive and locating over 140 bodies. The unit returned to Israel a week after the quake when the Turkish government declared a halt to rescue efforts and ordered the leveling of the remaining damaged buildings to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.

One of the high points of the mission was the rescue of Shiran Franko, a nine-year old Israeli girl who was trapped under rubble for four days. Shiran's mother, Iris, had managed to get out after 36 hours, but Shiran's father, twin brother and grandparents all died in the quake.

The IDF Medical Corps set up a field hospital in Adapazari, a city of 350,000 people, where most of the buildings in the

area were damaged and the infrastructure and hospitals disabled. Within hours of being set up it was treating earthquake victims, ill residents of the area and delivering babies.

The facility, led by **Surgeon General**

**One of the high points of the mission was the rescue of Shiran Franko, a nine year old Israeli girl who was trapped under rubble for four days.**

**Brig. Gen. Aryeh Eldad, M.D.**, included operating rooms, a medical laboratory, radiology services and a pharmacy and provided the full range of medical services to the residents of the area. The field hospital treated over 1200 persons. It was active for a month, until the local hospitals

were again able to serve the city.

As in Kosovo, earlier in the year, the IDF demonstrated its outstanding ability to bring a team and sophisticated equipment to an area of severe need in a very short time and to provide the victims of misfortune with a full range of high-level medical services under adverse conditions.

P.S. Israeli rescue squads rushed to Turkey on November 6th following the second major earthquake to hit that country. Israel's rescue mission included 255 rescue workers and some 100 doctors and nurses. The Israeli team concentrated on rescue works in Duzce, a farming town at the epicenter of the quake. The quake destroyed the local hospital, so a field hospital set up by the IDF Medical Corps became the primary medical facility for the area.

## 1948 War Victims Not Forgotten — Relatives Provide Gene Profiles

One of the most traumatic events of Israel's War of Independence was the brutal attack on the convoy of physicians, nurses and support staff on its way up to the besieged Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus in April 1948. Of the 78 people killed 47 were declared missing or could not be identified (cf. APF NEWS spring 1996). A group of bodies was later found and put in a common grave in Jerusalem's Sanhedria Cemetery, but to this day 22 victims are still "missing."

In 1993 Shuki Levanon, a newspaperman whose father was killed in the convoy, managed to track down a Palestinian Arab who had taken part in the attack and the burial. Levanon learned that the Arabs had buried a number of the dead together in a cave in the Muslim Cemetery near the Lion's Gate of the Old City. When the Israeli authorities were reluctant to pursue the matter, including digging up the grave, Levanon filed with Israel's Supreme Court. This past January the Court ordered the authorities to begin the procedures to open the burial cave in the Muslim Cemetery in order to try to identify the bodies and remains buried there.

which will help identify the victims, families and relatives of the victims have been invited to give blood samples at the rebuilt Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus. Notices to relatives have been

*When the Israeli authorities were reluctant to pursue the matter, including digging up the grave, Levanon filed with Israel's Supreme Court.*

placed in newspapers and on the Internet. Some twenty families have already given blood samples, but the process will not be simple as a number of the victims have no close family left.

To the descendants the search is vital. Shuki Levanon says he has been going annually to the grave in Sanhedria, in memory of his father, and now he is in doubt if his father indeed is buried there. He and the others hope that the sophisticated genetic identity techniques being used now will settle the uncertainties still lingering from this half-century old tragedy once and for all.

In order to build genetic profiles

*Ha'aretz, July 19, 1999*

## Health Care Innovations Published On-Line

**Good Medicine: Israeli Innovations In Health Care That Can Benefit Americans**, written by sociologist **Barbara Swirski** and sponsored by the **American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE)** and the **APF**, has been published online. It can be viewed from the APF home page: [www.apfmed.org](http://www.apfmed.org) or from the AICE: [www.us-israel.org/pub/med.html](http://www.us-israel.org/pub/med.html).

The book reviews the development of health care in Israel and examines Israeli medical and scientific innovations in such areas as gene therapy, fertility and reproductive technologies, bone marrow transplantation, and laser surgery.

This publication was made possible by APF's **Dr. Manuel & Helen Glazier Memorial Fund** which supports new and innovative projects of the APF.

## ...Jewish Bioethics Conference

(Continued from page 1)



Conference organizers and presenters of the Opening Plenary: "Is there a Jewish Bioethics?" (l-r) Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Michael Grodin, M.D., Professor Paul Wolpe, Rabbi Gerald Wolpe, Rabbi Elliot Dorf, Professor Steven Katz, Rabbi Nissan Shulman, and Sherwood Gorbach, M.D.

Center for the Study of Ethics at the Hebrew Union College, and the Center for Jewish Ethics, at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA.



Rabbi Feldman speaks on Physician-Assisted Suicide."

Major presentations were given by **Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits**, who reviewed his "Personal Journey Toward A Jewish Medical Ethics;" **Shimon Glick, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ben-Gurion University, who contrasted "Israeli & American Views on Bioethics;" and **Rabbi David M. Feldman**, Rabbi of the Jewish Center of Teaneck, NJ, who spoke on "Physician-Assisted Suicide."

Plenary Sessions, led by renowned experts in the field, included topics on *Reproductive Technologies; Healthcare Priorities for the Jewish Community; Termination of Life;* and, "Is There A Jewish Bioethics?"

In the workshops, rabbis, ethicists, nurses and practicing physicians struggled with current topics in medical ethics including CME sessions on the *Termination of Life, Abortion, Justice and Access to*

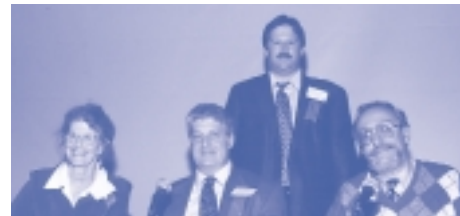


Presenters of the Plenary, "Healthcare Priorities for the Jewish Community." (l-r), Carol Lobron, Kenneth Segel, Don Perlstein, and Shoshana Cardin.

*Care, Definition of Death, Genetic Issues, Organ Transplantation, Truth & Confidentiality, Managed Care, Treatment Limitations in the Elderly, Reproductive Genetic Testing, Jewish Hospice, and the Relevance of Agada to the Halachic Process.*

Throughout the conference, participants were continually challenged to address the moral conflicts and dilemmas in their own personal and professional lives.

**Rabbi Elliott Dorf, Ph.D.**, Director of Rabbinical & Masters Programs, University of Judaism, described physicians as "the agents of God in the ongoing acts of creation." And he challenged them not only to learn their Jewish traditions,



Presenters of the Plenary, "Reproductive Technologies-Views from Israel & the U.S" (l-r) Rosalie Ber, M.D., Professors Noam Zohar, Paul Wolpe, and Baruch Brody.

but also to learn how to bring this tradition into the marketplace."

**Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D.**, Professor of Rabbinics, Hebrew Union College (Reform), told the audience that, "A non-halachic bioethics is doomed to failure — to remove halacha is to remove the Jewish from Jewish bioethics."

Some physicians remarked that they were coming away from the conference with more questions than answers. **Fred Rosner, M.D.**, Prof.

of Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NYC, noted in his workshop on "Genetic Issues," that the "role of ethicists is not to provide the right answer, it is to sensitize people to the questions."

During the plenary, "Healthcare Priorities for the Jewish Community," participants grappled with how to project

Jewish values into societal and systemic change in the healthcare arena."

Presenters

**Shoshana Cardin**, Past President, Council of

Jewish Federations, and **Ken Segel**, Director of the Working Together Consortium Healthcare Initiative, a project begun by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation of Pittsburgh, described how the Jewish Community has added

its voice to various educational and advocacy efforts, and contributed to the passage of key healthcare legislation at the state and national levels.

APF would particularly like to thank members of the planning committee, including: **Michael A. Grodin, M.D.**, Professor of Philosophy, Medicine, Public Health & Management, Boston University; **Steven Katz, Ph.D.**, Director of Judaic Studies, Boston University; **Paul R. Wolpe, Ph.D.**, Fellow of the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania; and **Rabbi Gerald Wolpe**, Director of the Finkelstein Institute for Religious & Social Studies, JTS; and **Dr. Sherwood L. Gorbach**, President of APF.

The 3rd International Bioethics Conference is tentatively scheduled for NYC on May 6-7, 2001. Published Proceedings of the plenaries and major presentations can be ordered from APF for a cost of \$35.00 (including postage). Audio tapes may also be available.



Old friends meet over dinner: (l-r) Shimon Glick, M.D., Fred Rosner, M.D., and Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits.



APF staff members, Carol Ghatan (l) and Lisa Gibalerio, Conference Organizer, greet attendees at the registration table.



(l-r) Drs. Sherwood Gorbach and Shimon Glick.

## Dr. Samuel O. Thier Honored In Boston

(Continued from Page 1)  
 medical research.

The CME Medical Symposium, which was moderated by Dr. Kassirer, included as



(Guest Speaker Thomas S. Durant, M.D. (left) meets Itzhak Levanon, Consul General of Israel to New England.

panelists: **Peter Szolovits, Ph.D.**, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, MIT; **John P. Glaser, Ph.D.**, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, at

Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; and **Daniel Z. Sands, M.D, M.P.H.**, Medical Director, Clinical Workstation Initiative and Director, Electronic Patient Records, Center for Clinical Computing at Beth



APF Board Member Elise S. Waterman (left) speaks with Hadassah National Board Member, Nancy Falchuck.

Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The CME symposium looked at both the potential and pitfalls of practicing medicine via

email and over the web. Time was also allowed for participants to express their concerns about



Paula & Dr. Samuel Thier and Dr. Mitchell and Adrienne Rabkin celebrate at dinner.



Medical Symposium panelists meet with Dr. Thier: (l-r) Sherwood Gorbach, M.D., Daniel Z. Sands, M.D., Samuel Thier, M.D., Jerome Kassirer, M.D., John Glaser, Ph.D., and Peter Szolovits, Ph.D.

the issue. Participants engaged in a lively discussion over the changes anticipated by this newly emerging technology.

## NYC Reception Builds Support for Oncology Research Fellows

A reception was held in November in NYC to build support for APF's new Clinical Oncology Research Fund. Initiated by **Richard Klitzberg** of Princeton, N.J. and Boca Raton, FL, the Fund succeeded in its first year to provide support for **Dr. Ilan Ron** of the Ichilov Medical Center in Tel Aviv to spend a year as an observer at Memorial Sloan Kettering under the direction of **Dr. David Kelsen**, Chief of the Gastrointestinal Oncology Service.

At a reception at The Tapika Restaurant, Drs. Kelson and Ron explained that there is a major gap in Israel in oncology programs linking the laboratory and the clinic. The Fund will seek to establish a cadre of well trained clinical oncology researchers who will be able to lead clinical trials and other investigative efforts in Israel. We hope to support annually 1-2 Fellows who will undertake training at Sloan Kettering and other leading American oncology research centers.



Israeli Oncologist Dr. Ilan Ron (left) with Judy & Richard Klitzberg.

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# UPCOMING MEDICAL MEETINGS IN ISRAEL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
(Year 2000)			
Feb. 13-17	Health, Law & Ethics	Eilat	ISAS, Fax, 972-2-652-0558
Feb.28-March 3	Treatment of Cardiac Arrhythmias	Dead Sea	Kenes-Fax, 972-3-517-5674
March 13-23	Palliative Care 2000	Jerusalem	Kenes-Fax, 972-3-517-5674
March 11-19	AIPSF Israel (Plastic Surgery) Study Tour	Eilat/Israel	APF, Tel, 617-232-5382
March 14-17	Aesthetic Surgery at the Red Sea	Eilat	Carmel, Fax 972-3-575-3107
March 26-29	World Congress, Gynecologic Endoscopy	Tel Aviv	Kenes-Fax, 972-3-517-5674
March 2000	Emergency Medicine Week in Israel	Tel Aviv	APF, Tel, 617-232-5382
April 4-7	Symposium on Reproductive Medicine	Jerusalem	Kenes-Fax, 972-3-517-5674
April 10-14	Congress, Pediatrics in the Community	Jerusalem	Ortra-Fax, 972-3-638-4455
April 11-13	Psychiatric Conference	Jerusalem	Ofakim-Fax 972-3-517-0512
May 21-25	International Workshop on Hemophilia	Jerusalem	DanKnassim



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\_\_\_\_ Please send me information about the AIPSF Israel Plastic Surgery Study Tour

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