

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



Morton Lebowitz MD and Jack Stroh MD April 2009.

Editor's Note: Welcome to the new and improved Newsletter of the Friends of Israel Heart Society. We thank those that preceded us in these offices and use their experiences to build upon to make this Newsletter a vital organ in the growth of this wonderful organization that seeks to connect cardiologists and cardiac surgeons across the globe.

This enterprise will be a team effort. I met with Morton Lebowitz MD, President and Scientific Director of the Israel Heart Fund at Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba over the Passover holiday in order to coordinate our efforts "across the sea" and come up with a Newsletter that would inform and educate our members across the globe.

Each quarterly issue will seek to inform our members about upcoming meetings in Israel as well as in the

USA. We also plan to highlight a different Israeli Heart Center in order to familiarize American physicians with the state of cardiac care and medical advances in cardiology in Israel. This will include activities in clinical departments as well as clinical and/or basic research. Finally, we are trying to create an information stream that will encourage American members' support for and participation in cardiology activities throughout Israel.

To this end, this Newsletter will endeavor to become the link for American cardiologists to join their Israeli counterparts in educational articles and programs, research endeavors, and collaboration between Medical Centers in Israel and the United States. Upcoming Israeli Cardiology meetings will be announced with enough time for American cardiologists to change their vacation plans to be able to attend them.

Remember, this Newsletter belongs to the membership. Please feel free to email us with questions, advice, anything we inadvertently left out, or to just tell us we did a good job. We look forward to working with you to make this Newsletter and the connections between American and Israeli cardiologists and institutions grow and prosper!

Editor: Jack Stroh MD, FACC, FACP, FSCAI can be reached at
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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Anglo-Israel Seminar: New Directions in Cardiology

October 20 2009, Hotel Dan Caesaria, Caesaria, Israel

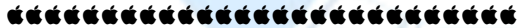
<http://www.israel-heart.org.il/Caesarea1009.pdf>



6th International Meeting on Intensive Cardiac Care

October 25-27, 2009, Dan Panorama Tel Aviv, Israel

<http://www.isas.co.il/cardiac-care2009/index.php>



Innovations in Cardiovascular Interventions- ICI 2009

December 6-8, 2009, Hotel David Intercontinental, Tel Aviv

<http://www.congress.co.il/ici2009/>



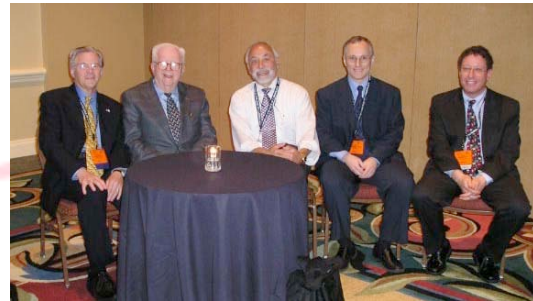
The 10th International Dead Sea Symposium on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Device Therapy (IDSS)

February 7-10, 2010, Tel Aviv

<http://www.paragon-conventions.com/arrhythmia2010>



Pictures from the Annual FIHS reception at the March 2009 American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando, Florida



From left to right above: Drs. Richard L. Popp, Eugene Braunwald, Douglas P. Zipes, Jeffrey J. Goldberger, and Giora Weisz.



Founder and Past FIHS President Dr. Douglas Zipes receiving a gift from Dr. Basil Lewis, Past President of the Israel Heart Society.



Current President of FIHS Dr. Jeffrey J. Goldberger.

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Message from the President

As the incoming President of the Friends of the Israel Heart Society, I would first like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Doug Zipes, our founding President, for all his efforts in founding this organization. I also want to acknowledge all those on the Board and at the Israel Heart Society who provided support to the Friends over the last few years. In particular, I would like to thank both Joan Zipes and Batia Ziv for all their efforts supporting the organization.

One of the main goals of the Friends of the Israel Heart Society is to strengthen the clinical and scientific bonds between us and our colleagues in Israel. Perhaps the most important tool to support this goal is the exchange of information, knowledge, and experience. Our newsletter is one forum to provide you with important information and updates. Please provide input to our editor about items that you would like to see featured or further expanded. We also hope to provide you with timely information about meetings in Israel. There are typically at least three to four high quality meetings per year in Israel. These meetings are outstanding in content, faculty, and collegiality. Their small size enables close contact and interaction with experts from

around the world. We hope that by providing you the relevant information, you will be able to plan to take advantage of these meetings.

The success of our organization depends on the strength of our membership. There is strength in numbers! Our recruitment campaign needs your support. Each of us knows 20 people who are not currently members of the Friends of the Israel Heart Society who would be interested in our activities. Please feel free to forward this newsletter along with an invitation to join. Please encourage your colleagues to help us identify additional colleagues who would be interested in joining. While we tremendously appreciate our Silver, Gold, Platinum, and President's Club members and plan to acknowledge them in an upcoming newsletter, our nominal membership fee of \$50 enables the maximum number of people to participate. We need your help to reach out to all potential members!

Thank you for your continued support!

Jeff Goldberger MD

President,

Friends of the Israel Heart Society

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Review of Recent Meetings

First International Cardiovascular Conference – Focus on the Middle East

In the mission statement of the Friends of Israel Heart Society (FIHS) emphasis was given to encourage links between the FIHS, Israel Heart Society and other international organizations and to promote educational programs that will bring together Israeli and Arab cardiologists from all over the middle East.

In this line, the first International Cardiovascular Conference with Focus on the Middle East was conceived. Prof. Douglas P. Zipes organized and hosted the conference in Indiana University School of Medicine bringing together leading Cardiologist from the United States, Europe and the Middle East. This was a cooperative effort between the American College of Cardiology, Indiana University School of Medicine and the Heart Rhythm Society and took place immediately after the ACC meeting at the beginning of April 09.

Prof. Amos Katz and myself represented the Israel Heart Society and lectured on the subjects of our expertise. The faculty was incredible and over two days, a vibrant conference was held with Academic lectures of very high quality given by all participants. The meeting

was greeted by the Mayor of Indianapolis, and other officials from the University, the Medical School. Prof. Zipes greeted with a historical perspective and hope for a better future for the Middle East and the potential of Medicine to help in creating the necessary bonds. The plenary lecture was given by Sir Magdi Yacoub on the Biology of Bicuspid Aortic Valve. The first session of the meeting was devoted to acute coronary syndrome with Dr. Zubaid from Kuwait describing the epidemiology in the Gulf area and Dr. Alam from Beirut dedicating his lecture to the pathophysiology of the disease. Loren Field described his contributions to the interesting subject of Stem cell therapy and cardiac repair. Heart Failure was an important issue with lectures on the pathophysiology and device based therapy.

In between the lectures, discussions were held on Medical issues but more importantly on the potential of holding this meeting in years to come, on the format that such a meeting should take and the site that will be acceptable to all. Hope was expressed by all participants with regard to the future of collaboration between the various nations and the trust that with good will and careful planning we will see a larger meeting with a significant attendance next year. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to subjects like atrial fibrillation, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and inherited channel abnormalities with

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lectures given by esteemed colleagues researching these fields such as Prof. Jose Jaliffe, Nabil El Sherif, Fred Morady, Barry Maron Peter Schwartz and others. The last two sessions were conducted to present pertinent issues in the area of corrective surgery of cardiac valves, interventional cardiology and cardiac imaging with contributors such as Laurence Cohn, Murat Tuzcu, Robert Bonow and Harvey Feigenbaum.

The atmosphere during the two days was vibrant, with nice social events, where representatives from the various Middle Eastern countries conversed and expressed their hopes. Practical advice were given by the participants to assure that any progress is made step by step in a careful manner taking into account the sensitive issues ahead. Overall my impression was that the meeting was a big success and that in the future many cardiologists from Israel and from our neighboring countries will attend it and set a new stage on the horizon for Cardiovascular Medicine.

Gad Keren, MD, FESC, FACC,
President Israel Heart Society

The 56th Annual Congress of the Israel Heart Society

The 56th Annual Congress of the Israel Heart Society took place in Tel Aviv on April 22-23, 2009. The Congress was well attended- by over 1300

cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and allied professionals and was of extremely high standard. The meeting featured 311 original abstracts which covered all aspects of modern cardiology and cardiac surgery, as well as basic research.

A number of plenary sessions offered state of the art lectures by world experts. The 2009 Henry Neufeld memorial lecture was given by Dr. Salim Yusuf (McMaster, Canada) and was titled: "Global Burden of Cardiovascular Disease." The joint HIS-ESC session was devoted this year to heart failure. Dr. Roberto Ferrari, President of the European Society of Cardiology, discussed "Mechanisms of Cardiac Remodeling," and Dr. Stephan Anker (Germany) discussed "Anemia and Iron Deficiency as New Therapies for Chronic Heart Failure." Dr. Amos Katz (Ashkelon, Israel) discussed "Controversies and New Directions in Device Therapy for CHF," and Dr. Gideon Sahar (Beer Sheva, Israel) gave a surgeon's perspective on the management of congestive heart failure.

The joint IHS-ACC session featured 3 talks. Dr. Eric Prystowsky (Indianapolis, USA) discussed "Controversies in Atrial Fibrillation." Dr. Dan Berman (Los Angeles, USA) talked about "Noninvasive Imaging in CAD." Dr. Chaim Lotan (Jerusalem,

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Israel) described the "Current Status of Drug Eluting Stents."

The traditional joint session with AFICARDIO (the Association of French Cardiologists) was devoted this year to percutaneous aortic valve replacement; French and Israeli cardiologists and surgeons discussed various aspects of this rapidly evolving technology.

Overall the meeting was very successful and very well attended with a central English language session track throughout the 2-day program. We look forward very much to an even more exciting Congress next year and would very much like to see many of our friends from abroad join us. Please mark your calendar now- the dates are April 14-15, 2010. Venue is the David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv. We are looking into CME credits with the ACC and ESC and hope to see many of you joining us to support the IHS and to support Israel!

Doron Zahger MD, FESC,
Secretary General, Israel Heart
Society

Highlight on a Cardiology Program:

The goal of this section of the newsletter is to familiarize our members with a different Cardiology Program in Israel with each issue. Hopefully, this will encourage associations and collaborations

between FIHS members and these programs to everyone's benefit. Please feel free to email any section head listed in the article the next time you are visiting Israel- that's how we bond together!

The Cardiology Department - Soroka University Medical Center

The southern Negev region of Israel encompasses approximately 60% of the country's land and 7% of its population. Originally depicted as a desert, it now comprises flourishing cultivated agricultural settlements and 13 residential towns intermingled with numerous sporadic Bedouin camps. The Negev's capital city, Beer Sheva, hosts the only tertiary referral medical center for this multiculturally diverse community. Being part of the Clalit HMO system, the Soroka University Medical Center's 1000 beds serve a population of around 900,000 and is the fourth largest hospital in Israel. It is within this context that Soroka's cardiology department operates. Headed by Prof Reuven Ilia, the staff is comprised of 20 senior cardiologists, 4-6 residents and many specialized nurses and technicians. The department integrates comprehensive community-based care with the most advanced technology and treatments available for every type of cardiac and vascular disease.

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At the heart of the cardiology department lies its inpatient service, with 9 beds designated as acute coronary care and an additional 9 beds reserved for step-down care. Patients with ST elevation MI are admitted to the CCU, and the majority are treated by primary PCI, available 24/7. While the majority of patients with other acute coronary syndromes are also referred to the CCU, a large number of these might be initially admitted to one of the seven medicine wards and only subsequently referred to the CCU, often after a PCI procedure. Other life-threatening cardiac disorders, such as complex arrhythmias, decompensated heart failure and valvular disorders are also treated at the CCU, which hosts approximately 800 admissions annually, with an average length of stay of 2.5 days.

Another focus of intense activity is the cardiac catheterization lab, located on a floor above the CCU. The lab performs elective and emergency catheterizations, with over 2200 diagnostic and interventional procedures annually in its 2 catheterization laboratories, each furnished with state-of-the-art digital equipment. The lab works in full cooperation with Soroka's cardiac surgery department, which provides a back up for emergency conditions that

are not suitable for percutaneous treatment as well as all other cardiac operations that patients might require.

The cardiac electrophysiology (EP) service treats a wide variety of rhythm disturbances of hospitalized and ambulatory patients. It includes the EP lab in which over 400 hundred pacemakers and implantable defibrillators are implanted annually. The EP service is a referral center for patients with cardiac arrhythmias that are treated with curative percutaneous ablative therapy. Another program that was recently introduced by the EP service is the complex procedure of extracting old malfunctioning or infected pacemaker leads. A new EP lab is currently under construction that will include state-of-the-art imaging and arrhythmia mapping equipment (such as the CARTO system), and will allow all invasive EP procedures to be performed in one operating/procedure suite.

The echocardiography unit provides service to both inpatients as well as all Clalit HMO ambulatory patients and as a tertiary referral center for all patients in the area. The services include transthoracic,

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transesophageal, stress and dobutamine echocardiographic studies by advanced machinery and skilled sonographers. The unit performs more than 14,000 transthoracic and 500 advanced examinations annually. The echo lab is currently collaborating in research projects with the engineering faculty at Ben Gurion University and with a research group at the General Electric plant at Tirat HaCarmel in Israel. The main areas of interest are automatic wall motion detection and evaluation of left ventricular function and induced left ventricular dysfunction by arrhythmias in a rat model. Recently, the cardiology department expanded the cardiac imaging service beyond the nuclear cardiology unit (which performs over 3500 studies annually) to include cardiac MRI and in the near future, cardiac CT. This comprehensive service will provide high-level diagnostic capabilities using cutting edge technology for the cardiology and cardiothoracic departments, as well as pediatric cardiology.

The pediatric cardiology unit provides diagnostic and therapeutic services for a host of congenital and acquired cardiac problems in newborns, babies and older children. The pediatric cardiologists also perform in-utero echocardiographic evaluations for the

detection of congenital cardiac abnormalities. Over 2500 babies and children are evaluated annually.

The recently renovated outpatient cardiology institute offers ambulatory cardiac consultation services to Clalit HMO members of the whole Negev region. With over 20,000 annual visits, the clinic provides general cardiology counseling in addition to specialized centers for congestive heart failure, preventive cardiology, arrhythmias and pacemaker follow-up.

The cardiology department's staff is committed not only to the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease, but is also involved in numerous research and teaching activities. Research includes both original projects (often in collaboration with other Soroka and Ben-Gurion University departments) as well as national and international clinical trials. One of the unique features of medicine in the Negev region is its comprehensiveness and integration of community and tertiary services. Since Soroka is the only tertiary hospital in the whole region, and because 60% of the population is insured by the Clalit HMO (which also owns the Soroka University Medical Center), the ability to integrate

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services and medical data has tremendous potential from both the medical as well as research perspective. The 4C (Computerized Community Cholesterol Control) project was established a number of years ago by Dr Harel Gilutz in collaboration with a number of cardiology and other hospital and community faculty members. They managed to create a mechanism by which the medical records (including medical diagnoses, laboratory data and pharmacological prescriptions) of all patients from Clalit HMO with any diagnosis of a cardiovascular disease are automatically screened every 3 months for lipid target goals and treatment. The system automatically creates reminders for the family physician regarding appropriate testing and treatment of patients who have not attained the recommended target goals. After 2 years during which the project was successfully run in a research format, the Clalit HMO decided to integrate the program within the regular computerized patient records of all their physicians nationwide, and broaden its spectrum to the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Another area of collaboration (with the S. Daniel Abraham International Center for Health and Nutrition and the Diabetes Research Center) involves the preventive cardiology center and the echocardiographic unit, which are

heavily involved in epidemiologic and nutritional randomized interventional studies using 3 dimensional carotid duplex imaging of atherosclerosis as endpoints. Examples of such collaborations are the DIRECT study (N Engl J Med. 2008 Jul 17;359(3):229-41) and the CASCADE study (a randomized study of alcohol consumption in diabetics) which is about to be launched.

All of the department's physicians participate in the teaching of basic and clinical sciences in the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School, the Medical School for International Health (in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center), the Recanati School for Community Health Professions and the various other programs at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ben-Gurion University. One of the characteristics of the Negev population is its diversity of ethnic groups and cultures, including Jewish immigrants from numerous countries as well as a large Bedouin community. This sets an ideal background for the education of community and cross-cultural (or global) medicine, which is a major theme in the curriculum of the 2 medical schools at Ben Gurion University.

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Don't forget!

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Israel Heart Society at the David InterContinental Hotel and Convention Center April 14-15, 2010. The website (not yet functioning) will be <http://www.congress.co.il/cardio2010>. See you there!



Know anybody who might want to join FIHS in our quest to connect Israeli Cardiology with the World? Give them this URL: <http://friendsihs.org/Register.html>

The bigger we get, the more connections we can make! Any comments or suggestions- don't be shy, contact me!

Look for the next Newsletter to be emailed in September! Have a great summer!

Please send comments to:

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