



AJMFNEWS

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AJMF 16TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

More than 150 people attended the highly successful 16th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Jewish Medical Federation held at the Novotel Pacific Bay Resort at Coffs Harbour from January 8 to January 15, 2012.

The scientific program was extremely well attended with the quality of the presentations at the standard usually seen at international meetings. The informative and entertaining talks were held each morning covering topics in anaesthetics, dentistry, ENT, gastroenterology, male fertility, oncology, paediatrics, psychiatry, rheumatology and radiology. Additional talks and discussions on legal and medic-legal issues were supplemented by fascinating insights given on aboriginal health and medical issues associated with asylum seekers. I take this opportunity to thank the session chairpersons and all the speakers for their valuable contribution to the success of the meeting.

A number of social events were held during the week for registrants, spouses and children in attendance. The conference commenced on the Sunday evening with Welcome Cocktail Party on the decking of Charlies Restaurant overlooking the overlooking the lagoon and surrounding grass lands.

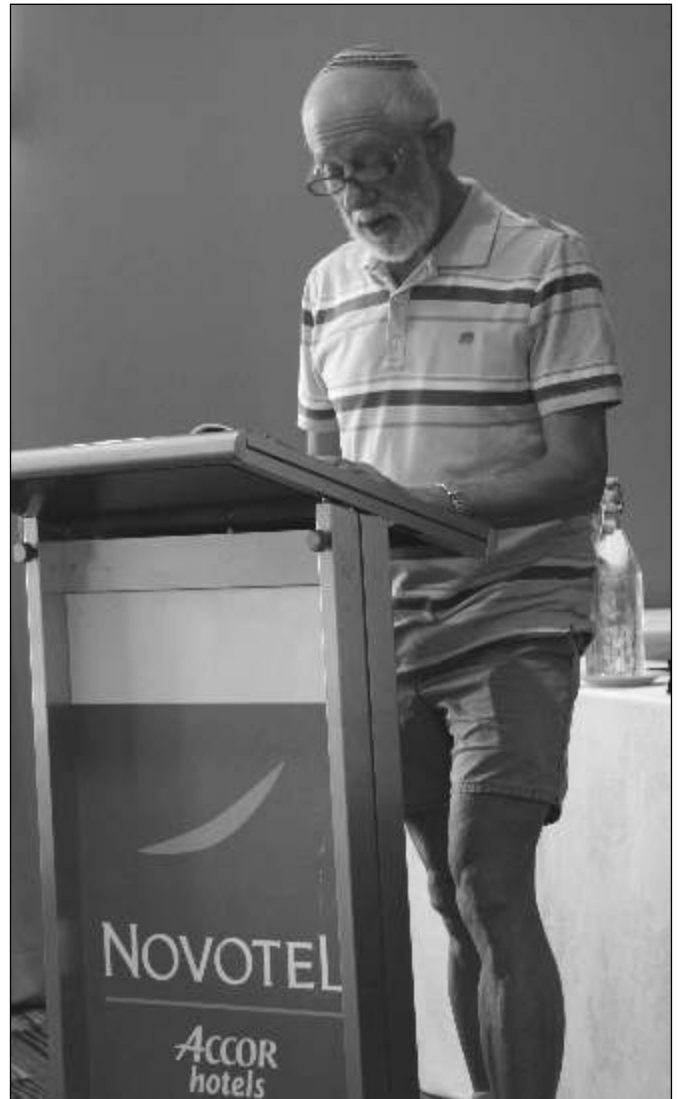
On the Monday evening there was a quiz night organized by Helen Fisher and Miriam Kuttner which was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to the quizmaster Darryl Shnier who directed the evening, asked the questions, and entertained and amused the audience.

The conference dinner was held Tuesday evening. The table decorations and venue set the scene for a wonderful evening. The highlight was our guest speaker, Rabbi Ralph Genende. His after dinner speech had the intriguing title "Are we moving too fast?"

On Thursday night there was a thought provoking panel discussion on "why refugees are good for Australia". Our thanks go to our panellists: Michelle Gold, Howard Goldenberg, Miriam Kuttner, Doug Joshua and Rabbi Ralph Genende. A special thanks goes to our chairperson for the evening Les Schrieber who kept the speakers on time, and moderated the lively discussion and audience participation.

All who attended enjoyed the Farewell Party on Saturday evening. The local band Funky Mustard entertained both the children and adults throughout the evening.

All conference meals were kosher under the supervision of the Rabbi Ralph Genende and our mashgiachs Eli



Goodhardt and Ari Esterman who worked tirelessly throughout the week and were wonderful ambassadors for our conference and the Jewish community. All who attended appreciate the work and effort of Eli and Ari who contributed so much to the success of running a Kosher conference. Head chef Tony learnt a lot about Kosher catering during the week and the quality of the meals was outstanding.

Morning and evening services were run during the week and on Shabbat. A minyan was achieved on all occasions. Our thanks go to Paul Tesar who supplied the Torah, siddurim and chumashim.

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Medical and
Dental Finance



L-R: Paul Catanzariti, Michael Fazzolari, Jeff Miller, Simon Moore, Sam Baxter, Debbie Kiely, James Thomas, Todd O'Reilly, Michael Foley, Ryan Raymond, Stafford Hamilton, Amanda Abbott, Richard Curia, Nick Tagg, Alan Coughlan, Craig Spiegel, Lynne Kelly, Di Stewart, Melinda Goddard, Adrian Raath, Sandi Constanti, Michelle Gianferrari, Barry Lanesman, Jacqui Lombard, Ricky Wong, Tony Kalmin, Kingsley Valladares, Kelly Gall, Andre Karney, Penny Murphy, Paul Hastings, Bill Dale, Trevor Knowles, Daniel Volker, Angela Warren, Paul Richardson

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Out of the Ordinary®

JEWISH DOCTOR: HAVA GADASSI

Hava Gadassi is a paediatric fellow at the RCH who has been supported by AJMF

In 2008, I was a Paediatric resident at the end of my training at Hadassah Hospital, in Jerusalem, and had again to face the question: what will I do when I'll grow up? I had several different interests in the field of Paediatrics, and had to decide between doing a sub-speciality, as Neonatology, Haemato-Oncology, Endocrinology, Adolescent medicine and more, or starting my life as a community paediatrician.

Just in the middle of my self debating, I was offered by the head of my department, Prof Dan Engelhard, a very interesting offer. As someone who had interests both in community and in hospital and research, a new position was proposed for a Paediatrician to be trained in Australia in Community Child Health, in order to bring the knowledge back and open a similar unit in Hadassah a few years later.

At that time, I must admit that even though it sounded very interesting, I didn't quite understand what this training involved.

About a half of all paediatric residents in Israel, choose to work in the community at the end of their training but now there is no special sub-speciality training for this. This is so different in Australia, and how will it change my, (and in the future others) paediatric, practice?

Israeli paediatric training is a 4.5 years training program, based mainly, if not solely, in hospitals. Being trained by highly qualified paediatricians and clinicians in first class medical institutions that are equipped with the latest technology, Israeli paediatricians finish their training very capable in managing different acute, complex, and life threatening conditions. But, leaving hospitals to work in the community, new paediatricians have little experience in the totally different disease patterns that children in the community present. Those common conditions, termed by Prof Haggerty more than 30 years ago as the "new morbidity", consist of developmental-behavioural problems as learning difficulties, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders, sleep problems, unsettled babies behaviour issues, enuresis and encopresis and more. These conditions might be of low severity, but they are very frequent, and the burden, stress and distress they cause children and families are very high. In current practice in Israel, most of these common problems are addressed by different sub-specialised paediatricians, as neurologists, gastroenterologists, psychologists etc, but unfortunately some problems are not addressed at all, and parents remain not assisted and frustrated.

In recognition of this gap and mismatch between needs and training, leading Israeli paediatricians and stakeholders have formed the "Goshen" project, to enhance community child health in Israel. This project is lead in Israel by Prof Eitan Kerem, head of Paediatric



Hava and her family

division in Hadassah, and Prof Mati Berkovich, head of the Israeli Paediatric Association, has brought together major stakeholders as heads of Paediatric departments across the country, heads of HMOs (Kupot Cholim), the Ministry of Health, the School of Public Health in the Hebrew University, and more. As one of the first steps of this project, and with the support of Ron Finkel, president of Hadassah Australia, I was sent to the Royal Children's Hospital to train and learn from the knowledge gained in Australia in this field from more than 20 years of work by Prof Oberklaid and the Centre for Community Child Health, in order to implement it in Israel.

My training in Australia has not only broadened my knowledge on diagnosing and managing common developmental and behavioural problems, but has also equipped me with tools that will help me develop, with the rest of the "Goshen" team, research programs, training programs, and policy work in the field of child health.

As for my personal experience, coming to Australia with my husband, Adi, and our 4 children, Yochai (8), Talya (7), Hadassa (5) and Odeya (3), has been a great experience. We found here a thriving and rich Jewish community, who welcomed us warmly, and had been very supportive all along the way. We enjoy the Australian relaxed way of life, our Sunday's off, and the beautiful sites that Australia has to offer. Our kids had integrated well into the Australian language, accent, and social life, including having a favourite AFL club to support....

We are looking forward to our return back home to Israel, to reunite with our families, and to start working and translating those two and half years of learning into practice.

DELIVERING RCH INNOVATION ACROSS THE GLOBE

DECEMBER 13 2011, 4:50 PM

Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital is a world-class medical centre and university teaching hospital, renowned for leading international medicine across a host of research and training programs. In collaboration with The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Hadassah Hospital will soon cement its progressive medical approach with the opening of the Hadassah Center - a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to advancing paediatric care and public policy in Israel.

This exciting initiative will be based on the RCH's world-leading Centre for Community Child Health, which, under the directorship of Professor Frank Oberklaid, brings together research into child behaviour and development, prevention and early intervention to deliver substantial community-focused services. The core philosophy that underpins RCH's Centre - and one which will also guide the Hadassah Center - is that a child's early years play a critical role in determining their trajectory through to adulthood.

Professor Oberklaid has been a regular visitor to Israel, communicating his vision of progressive, holistic and developmentally focused paediatric care. It was during one of his lecture tours that he met with the chairman of the department of paediatrics at Hadassah Hospital, who recognised that a similar Israeli model could be developed, embracing the community-based behavioural and developmental services that are absent in much of the country's current paediatric approach. In the same year Oberklaid delivered the annual oration at Hadassah Australia - the Melbourne-based organisation dedicated to raising funds for Hadassah Hospital - which also wanted to support a centre for multidisciplinary paediatrics in Israel. Marrying the two interest groups created the momentum for The Hadassah Center project.



Dr Frank Oberklaid

One of the first steps in bringing The Hadassah Center to fruition was the creation and funding of a Community Paediatrics Fellowship. The first fellowship was awarded to Dr Hava Gadassi from Hadassah Hospital, who will spend a total of two-and-a-half years in Australia under Professor Oberklaid's mentorship, practicing as a clinician in the Centre for Community Child Health and absorbing the Centre's innovative model of paediatric care.



Dr Hava Gadassi and patient

This invaluable exposure to RCH expertise will equip Dr Gadassi with the skills to develop and tailor the multidisciplinary academic Israeli centre to the needs of the local environment, with ongoing guidance after she returns to Hadassah Hospital. "I'm excited about using the Centre's model of care to really make a difference. By training our paediatricians and people working with children in Israel, we can distribute our knowledge to the whole community".

By broadening paediatric practice, research and training to include the behavioural, social and developmental issues that affect children's health and wellbeing, the hope is that the centre at Hadassah can inform smarter public policy, better care for all children and greater wellbeing for the adults they will become. "The Centre for Community Child Health is an international leader in this area and as our expertise is exported there's an opportunity for both paediatric services and health care policy to be completely transformed," says Oberklaid, "We have a responsibility to advocate not just for the health of children in hospital, but for all children".

The Hadassah Project is funded by The Besen Foundation, George and Freda Castan Families Foundation, Pratt Foundation, Spotlight Foundation, and Victor Smorgon Family Foundation, coordinated through the Foundation.

This story was featured in the Foundation's annual review book, The Impact of Giving, read our online version for more stories about the RCH.

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AJMF 16TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

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A wonderful family Shabbat meal followed Maariv on Friday night. The Shabbat lunch was followed by Rabbi's shiur. Rabbi Ralph Genede was our "rabbi in residence" for the week. His contribution to the social program, kosher catering and religious services throughout the week was immeasurable and greatly appreciated.

I take this opportunity to thank my committee and all those that have contributed to the success of the 16th Biennial Conference of the AJMF.

A special thank you to Mandy Chalmers who helped on the conference desk during the week, and to my wife Irene and daughter Deborah who contributed so much of the behind the scenes organising required for a successful conference.

Finally I want to acknowledge and thank our major sponsors MIA Victoria, Abbott Laboratories and TressCox Lawyers for their support.

The 16th Biennial Conference of the AJMF continues the tradition of successful conferences that are enjoyed by all who attend. I look forward the 17th Biennial Conference of the AJMF in two years.

Dr Wayne Lemish
President AJMF (VIC)
Convenor of the AJMF 16th Biennial Conference



UNESCO BIOETHICS CONFERENCE

2-5 SEPTEMBER 2012, TIBERIAS, ISRAEL

Esteemed Colleagues,

We are happy to inform you of the next UNESCO Bioethics conference to be held in Tiberias, Israel on the 2nd-5th September this year.

Medical ethics is an integral part of the doctor's work; in fact, it constitutes a foundation of modern medicine. From the dawn of medicine as a profession, ethical aspects have arisen in tandem with other professional issues in a doctor's daily work. As medicine has changed, the ethical component has also undergone changes, but the core of medical ethics – concern for the patient – has remained.

Medical history has known dark days of glaring violations of medical ethics. After World War II, the World Medical Association (WMA), which unites the world's medical associations, was established with the understanding that there is a need for the determination of clear ethical standards. By 1947 the WMA had already formulated the Declaration of Geneva on Medical Ethics and in 1962 the Declaration of Helsinki on the Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects, was adopted.

Similarly, the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) has worked hard over the last several years developing and updating our code of ethics, and as a result, a new ethical code relating to most aspects of the doctor's professional life was adopted at our last General Assembly. The IMA Ethical Code is also presented to medical students at the beginning of their clinical studies.

Other fields related to biology and medicine are themselves developing ethical standards. There is great importance to international cooperation in this field. Different historical, national and religious backgrounds that undoubtedly influence one's ethical outlook make international conferences both interesting and necessary for exchanging ideas and promoting the issue.

The UNESCO Bioethics conference this year is an important contribution to the ongoing international discussion on ethics.

We wish to welcome and thank the organizers and delegates.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Leonid Eidelman

President

Israeli Medical Association

Dr. Zeev Feldman

Chairman

IMA World Fellowship

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14 / 15 May 2012

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Editor: Mark Steiner
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PO Box 2270, Caulfield Junction VIC 3161
Federal President: Ron Sweet
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