

AFI's Gala Masquerade Dinner

Sunday, March 20

at San Francisco's newest special event venue
One Leidesdorff, 344 Pine Street
(a 3-minute taxi ride to the Financial District from the Hilton)

Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m.
Kosher dietary laws observed

In celebration of Purim,
costume attire is desired!



Chairperson

Jonathan A. Bernstein

Board of Directors

Leonard Bielory
John Cohn
Daniel Ein
Gary Gross
Michael Kaliner
Jonathan Matz
Marc Rothenberg
Nathan Segall
Bernie Silverman
Jonathan Spergel

IAACI

Ilan Dalal
Nancy Agmon-Levin
Ronite Confino-Cohen
Valery Teplitsky

Webmaster

David Rosenthal

Administrative Assistant

Beth Goldfarb

Treasurer

Randee Mansfield

Founder (1984)

William Silvers

Past Chairpersons

Lyndon Mansfield
William Silvers

Mission/Vision of Allergists for Israel

Allergists for Israel was founded in 1984 and the evolving vision of our group is to:

1. Develop camaraderie by the gathering (nationally and internationally) of Allergists/Immunologists and other supporters of allergy in Israel at national Academy and College allergy meetings.
2. Provide financial support for Israeli allergy fellows for scholarly activities.
3. Establish a network of Allergists/Immunologists around the world with our Israeli Allergists/Immunologist colleagues so we can communicate and interact at international meetings around the world and in Israel.
4. Develop linkages between Allergists/Immunologists from around the world and Israeli Allergists/Immunologists by sponsoring Allergists/Immunologists to visit and speak in Israel.



ALLERGISTS FOR ISRAEL

Irvin Ungar

Irvin Ungar is the CEO of the noted firm of antiquarian booksellers HISTORICANA, which he founded in 1987. A former pulpit rabbi (serving communities in Forest Hills, NY, and Burlingame, CA), Irvin has become the tireless force behind the revival of the artist Arthur Szyk, and his expertise on Szyk is internationally recognized. He has lectured and consulted worldwide on the Szyk oeuvre at institutions such as The Library of Congress, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Irvin was the catalyst and Guest Curator for the first major Szyk exhibition in Europe in 70 years, at the German Historical Museum in Berlin in 2008–2009. He serves as consultant for

the exhibition *Arthur Szyk: Miniature Paintings and Illuminations* (December 4, 2010–March 27, 2011) at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. Irvin is also the author of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* and the curator of the traveling exhibition program of The Arthur Szyk Society. With director Jim Ruxin, he has co-produced the documentary, *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art*, which has been screened at numerous film festivals in both the U.S. and Europe. Irvin is also the publisher of the new edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*, which has earned worldwide acclaim as a technological and artistic landmark, and the co-producer of the accompanying documentary, *“In Every Generation: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah.”*



Irvin Ungar

Eli O. Meltzer, MD

Eli Meltzer, MD, is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego, and past Chief, Division of Allergy and Immunology at Children’s Hospital in San Diego. He is also a founder of the Allergy/Immunology Fellowship Training Program at UCSD and for nearly 25 years faculty for Allergy/Immunology Fellows at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Meltzer has been Co-director of Allergy & Asthma Medical Group and Research Center in San Diego. During this time he has participated in over 600 research studies focused on various aspects of respiratory disease and has been a consultant to numerous pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. He has lectured extensively throughout the world on topics including asthma, rhinitis, sinusitis, pharmacotherapy, and immunotherapy and has authored more than 500 scientific publications.

Dr. Meltzer earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, and completed his residency in pediatrics at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his fellowship training in

allergy and clinical immunology at National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Meltzer is a Fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (recipient, Distinguished Clinician Award), the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (recipient, Distinguished Fellow Award), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (recipient, Section on Allergy and Immunology’s Jerome Glaser Distinguished Service Award).

He has been a member of national and international advisory groups including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Pulmonary/Allergy Advisory Committee, the Rhinosinusitis Initiative, and the World Health Organization’s initiatives Allergic Rhinitis Impact on Asthma (ARIA) and InterAirways. He has also served as President of the San Diego Allergy Society, the California Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, and the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Dr. Meltzer is listed in *Best Doctors in America* and *Top Doctors in America*.



Eli Meltzer, MD

Speaking Out

by John R. Cohn



John Cohn, M.D.

Israel is vastly outnumbered and out financed in a world where large segments, including in the academic community, are inclined to believe the worst of the Jewish state. Israel struggles to have its policies presented fairly and accurately on campus. As physicians we seek accuracy and truth every day. While our area of expertise may be allergy, we are used to evaluating evidence, separating fact from opinion.

Indeed, our position statements and guidelines even grade the weight of evidence on which a recommendation is based. As masters of complex data, that makes us well suited to weigh in on efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, if, like our best trainees, we do our homework.

And doctors are respected by the public at large. Insurance companies and government regulators may not always value our opinions, but most patients—the public—still do.

In order to succeed consider several important points. First off, as in medicine, avoid personal attacks. Stay focused on providing accurate information to correct falsehoods. Scholarship is the bedrock of the academic and medical communities.

Fairness and accuracy are not synonymous with balance, although they are unfortunately too often equated. We make decisions everyday as to what is right, what is wrong, and where there is uncertainty. We could not do our jobs if we practiced in a world where there were no “truths”.

In the battle between the RAF and the Luftwaffe, who in Britain would have contended that truth was somehow evenly divided between them? Likewise, if the IRA setting off a bomb in London is terrorism, so is Hamas blowing up a restaurant in Tel Aviv.

Conversely, all speech is not equally worthy or entitled to be heard. Whether a newspaper, program committee, or professional journal, judgments are made every day about the merits of material for inclusion. Professional publications are fertile ground for setting the record straight, using the same rigorous standards applied to less controversial topics.

Consider this letter that appeared last year in *Lancet*. It was written in response to *Lancet's* declaration of a Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance and resulting publications:

The Lancet–Palestinian Health Alliance

*The Lancet–Palestinian Health Alliance (July 3, p 7)*¹ provides unfortunate evidence that a political agenda inexorably debases medical science. There are many regions of the world with far more pressing public health problems than those experienced in Gaza, the West Bank, and the portions of Jerusalem occupied by Jordan between 1948 and 1967. But given this prominent effort by *The Lancet*, one would at least hope for reasonable science by investigators committed to objective evaluation of data.

Richard Horton writes not just of improving health, but of devising “long-term solutions to the many and varied health injustices that Palestinian people face”¹, attributed explicitly to Israel. The accompanying Comment² by Birzeit University students is an unsubstantiated polemic that makes a variety of misleading if not dishonest assertions. It would be promptly rejected if it dealt with any other topic as not befitting a medical evidence-based publication. Under a genuinely repressive regime, by contrast with Israel's benign administration, the paper and its authors would be unlikely to see the light of day.

For the accompanying abstracts published online-only, there is no evidence of true peer review nor of genuine scientific analysis. No mention is made anywhere in print or online of the fact that life expectancy in Gaza is 73.68 years and on the West Bank 74.78 years—both higher than Egypt, for example, and in the top half of the world's nations according to the American Central Intelligence Agency.³ Infant mortality on the West Bank and Gaza is likewise well within the middle of the range for the world's nations.⁴

The West Bank, still under at least partial Israeli control and benefiting from the availability of Israeli medical care, surpasses China, Turkey, Libya, and Mexico in that regard.

It is hard to explain on any rational grounds why *The Lancet* has chosen to make a unique and selective focus on these disputed territories. A broader *Lancet*-inspired scientific health alliance for the area, including research coming from the many Israeli medical institutions where Jewish, Muslim, and Christian physicians work side by side and publish research together, might be a useful contribution to both medicine and peace. Unfortunately, publication

(continued on next page)

Speaking Out (continued)

of papers that are thinly disguised polemics posing as thoughtful scientific treatises takes the world further from not closer to the Editor's stated goal.

**John R Cohn, Steven M Albert,
Paul S Appelbaum, Laurie Zoloth
john.cohn@jefferson.edu*

*Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Medicine,
Philadelphia, PA 19107, USA (JC); University of
Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA (SMA); Columbia
University College of Physicians and Surgeons,
New York, NY, USA (PSA); and Northwestern
University, Evanston, IL, USA (LZ)*

- 1 Horton R. The Lancet—Palestinian Health Alliance in 2010. *Lancet* 2010; 376: 7–8.
- 2 Abeer A, Yaha A, Abu Qara AA, et al. Making the future ours in the occupied Palestinian territory. *Lancet* 2010; 376: 8–11.
- 3 Central Intelligence Agency. Country comparison: life expectancy at birth. *World Factbook*, 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2102rank.html> (accessed July 27, 2010).
- 4 Central Intelligence Agency. Country comparison: infant mortality rate. *World Factbook*, 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2091rank.html> (accessed July 27, 2010).

Physicians have earned the respect of the community at large because of the presumption of knowledge based integrity. The good news is that it is possible to advocate for peace and Israel, and keep your integrity, too.

Message from Ilan Dalal

Israel Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IAACI) has a central role in advancing the knowledge and treatment of allergy, asthma and immunology in Israel, and our members are active scientifically and professionally, nationally and internationally.

The relationship between the IAACI and AFI is based on mutual respect and the IAACI greatly acknowledges and appreciates the commitment of AFI and its leadership in support of allergy in Israel for many years. We appreciate your support in different activities in the field of allergy such as: grants for young investigators, short fellowship program, hosting a special event during the annual meeting of the AAAAI, supporting a guest speaker and active participation in our annual meetings.

We were all very excited to have the first joined meeting in 2008 and IAACI is looking forward to our second Jerusalem International Meeting in 2012.



Ilan Dalal
IAACI Chairman

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 2, 2012
IAACI – AFI Second International Meeting
Jerusalem, Israel



Please contact
Beth Goldfarb
afiadm@gmail.com
if you are interested
in attending this event.

Spotlight



Meir Shalit, M.D.

Meir Shalit, M.D.

Dr. Meir Shalit is a graduate of the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem. Following a 4-year service in the Israel Defense Forces, Dr. Shalit completed his residency in Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine A at Hadassah Medical Center. He subsequently did his fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology (1985–1987) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, under the supervision of B. Zweiman. In 1991–1992 he was a visiting scientist in the Laboratory of Host Defenses at the NIH and in 2002, a visiting scientist in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the NIH.

Dr. Shalit has served on many national and international professional committees and is a recipient of awards from the American and European Academies of Allergy and Immunology. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Dr. Shalit's clinical and research interests are focused on mast cells and eosinophils function and activation, drug and latex allergies. He is currently the Head of the Allergy and Clinical Immunology Unit of the Department of Medicine at Hadassah, an Associate Professor of Medicine and the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University Jerusalem.



Beth Goldfarb

Tidbits from Beth

Expectations are a funny thing! We may not always want to have them, for fear of disappointment, but having expectations is a natural phenomenon. We expect certain things from our spouses, children, even our friends, family and foe. We have...or at least should have...great expectations of our leaders, our government, and our country.

Once again there is unrest, uncertainty and violence plaguing the Middle East. Citizens of various countries have had expectations of what life should be like, what their leaders should be doing. Disappointment is running rampant, spreading over borders like an epidemic of swine flu. Generations filled with hopelessness and poverty have been allowed to languish as dynasties and empires laced in gold are built.

And of course there is the question...how will Israel be affected by this unsettling climate? Israel, a country entering its sixth decade as a State, has spent it's time developing an

infrastructure for its people, creating jobs, commerce, educational institutions. Surely many of her citizens have disappointments and expectations yet to be fulfilled, but Israel has not turned a blind eye or a deaf ear to the needs of her people in exchange for the accumulation of wealth for rulers. I am proud to think of Israel's accomplishments and I do have great expectations for her greatness!

And of course there is the question of AFI! We have come to have expectations of Allergists For Israel. We expect to reunite with friends and colleagues several times a year. We expect to share academically, socially, and to build bridges of communication connecting our paths. We are about to celebrate another holiday of Purim together. We have truly become a family!

We have high hopes for AFI and they will come to fruition with your help. Together we create something special. Great Expectations... what a novel idea!

Call for Israeli Research Proposals

Dear Friends,

Allergists for Israel will be awarding grants to Israelis submitting their research proposals. Depending on the quality of the submissions the following will be awarded:

2 grants for \$3,000 each, or 1 grant for \$6,000

Please submit your proposal for basic, translational and/or clinical research to the attention of Beth Goldfarb at afiadm@gmail.com.

Proposals should be no longer than 5 pages inclusive of figures, tables and references; 12 pt Times New Roman, single spaced, 1" margins and page numbered.

The proposal format should include: Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Background and Rationale, Preliminary Data, Methods/Study Design, Statistical analysis, Pitfalls and Alternative approaches.

Along with your proposal, please submit your curriculum vitae.

Proposals will be accepted until September 5, 2011. Proposals will be judged according to NIH scoring criteria.

Applicants must be conducting clinical, translational or basic research in Israel in Allergy and/or Clinical Immunology. Previous recipients are excluded from applying for two years.

Scientific Review Committee:

David I. Bernstein, M.D.

I. Leonard Bernstein, M.D.

Leonard Bielory, M.D.

Mona Kidon, M.D.

Fred Finkelman, M.D.

Marc Rothenberg, M.D.

Menachem Rottem, M.D.

Ilan Dalal, M.D.

Best Regards,

Jonathan A. Bernstein, M.D.



Application For Israel Mini-Fellowship 2011

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dates available to participate in Israel Mini-Fellowship:

Please attach a paragraph explaining why participating in a mini-fellowship in Israel would enhance your current education and training.

**Are you interested
in participating in
a Mini-Fellowship
in Israel?**

**Please send
the application by
May 15, 2011
to Beth Goldfarb:**

afiadm@gmail.com

Research Grants Awarded

The following colleagues have been awarded research grants over the past years:

- **Dr. Arnon Broides** for “The role of Bruton Tyrosine Kinase and Leflunomide Metabolite Analog on Neutrophil Functions in Patients with X Linked Agammaglobulinemia.”
- **Dr. Alon Hershko** for “The IL-10 gene as a model for molecular regulation of cytokines in autoimmune arthritis.”
- **Dr. Mona Kidon** for “Cellular responses to recombinant allergens from dust mites, among patients with clinical allergy, and evidence of immediate type hypersensitivity.”
- **Dr. Shaye Kivity** for “Ribosomal-P derivative as a novel therapy for anti-ribosomal-P mediated- depression in mice.”
- **Dr. Eli Magen** for “Basophil-platelet aggregates in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria.”
- **Dr. Ariel Munitz** for “The Role of Esophageal Epithelial Cell Related Cell Surface Receptors in the Pathogenesis of Eosinophilic Esophagitis.”
- **Dr. Miguel Stein** for “The Prevalence and Long Term Follow-up of Eosinophilic Esophagitis in Israel, a Retrospective Pathology Based Analysis.”
- **Dr. Yuval Tal** for “Development of a novel ex-vivo system to study human nasal polyps physiology and therapy.”
- **Dr. Zahava Vadasz** for “The involvement of neuropilin-1 and immune semaphorin's in inflammatory bowel disease.”

- **Dr. Yuri Zeldon** for “Component resolved sensitization to molds and fungi and the risk of asthma in atopic patients living in distinct geoclimatic areas.”

Mini-fellowships have been awarded to:

- **Dr. Ilan Asher** at McMaster University Medical Center
- **Dr. Moshe Ben Shoshan** at Montreal's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Baraban Eugenia** at University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Ariel Munitz** at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. David Nuseum** at University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Eduardo Shahar** at University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Miguel Stein** at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital
- **Dr. Zev Sthoeger** at the University of South Florida under the supervision of Dr. Westley Reeves
- **Dr. Valery Taplisky** at the University of Cincinnati
- **Dr. Yuri Zeldon** at the University of Cincinnati
- **Dr. Mark Zimmerman** at the University of Cincinnati

AFI & You

We appreciate hearing from you!

Last year, especially, as this year, with the AAAAI meeting being held during Purim, I was feeling unhappily separated from my family. My wife and I are blessed with four wonderful children, ages almost 11, 9, 5, and 3. AFI really gave me a home away from home—Shabbat dinner, tephilot, a chance to layn part of the weekly parasha on Shabbat, and a way to hear megila on Purim! I was—and am—so grateful for that kindness and friendship. Although I have attended nearly every AAAAI annual meeting since 2001, the meeting in 2010 was the first where I attended AFI functions, and doing so made it the best AAAAI meeting I have ever attended.

—David Sloane

AFI's mission is to create and foster research and educational ties between Israel and the United States, Canada, South America and Europe. We provide financial support for Israeli allergy fellows for scholarly activities and to promote the specialty of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

You can help to advance our mission by considering Allergists for Israel when you make contributions in honor or in memory of a special person or commemorating an event. We will send a donation card to the recipient and mail you an acknowledgement letter of your tax exempt contribution. Simply email Beth at afiadm@gmail.com with the necessary information.

YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE IS CRITICAL TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR WORK.

*We appreciate you supporting
AFI with your contributions*



Research Fellowship Updates

A number of research grant proposals are being considered and will be announced at a later date.



AFI research grants were awarded to two, young Israeli Allergist/Immunology researchers, **Zahava Vadasz** and **Yuval Tal**. Zahava Vadasz received the grant for her project entitled, "The involvement of neuropilin-1 and immune semaphorin's in inflammatory bowel disease." Yuval Tal's project is entitled, "Development of a novel ex-vivo system to study human nasal polyps physiology and therapy". Congratulations to both recipients and we look forward to seeing the results of their studies at an upcoming IAACI or AAAAI meeting, the AFI Mini Fellowship program.



Currently we are receiving new research proposals submissions from Israeli researchers that will be awarded at the October 2011 IAACI meeting.

We would like to encourage the multitude of Clinics, Medical Centers, Hospitals and University programs to consider hosting a mini-fellowship for one of our AFI Israeli candidates. The exchange that happens academically, scholastically, mentally, emotionally as well as socially is beyond measure. We can share with you packets of protocol, suggestions and assistance in designing a program that will be appropriate for you. This is one way we can make a lasting difference!



AFI is thrilled to help sponsor a member's participation in an Israeli Mini-Fellowship program which will be hosted by **Drs. Eduardo Shahar** and **Shimon Pollack** from the Rambam Health Care Campus at Haifa, Israel. The time frame for this exchange is flexible. The deadline to accept applications will be May 15, 2011 so if you are interested please attend to this as soon as possible.

Your 2011 membership pledge is critical to the continuation of our work!

AFI Membership 2011

Allergists for Israel 2011 Membership Application Form

Name _____ Date _____

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Spouse/Partner's Name _____

Hobbies/Affiliations _____

Member since _____ Areas of interest _____

Please let us know what you are interested in seeing Allergists for Israel achieve. Your comments and suggestions will help us to improve our organization.

Our primary mode of communication will be e-mail since it is easy to use and inexpensive. Please let us know if you would rather be contacted via an alternate method. Phone Fax

2011 annual dues are \$118. Please include a check payable to ALLERGISTS FOR ISRAEL with your completed form or provide your credit card information below.

Visa MasterCard

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

For questions or comments, please contact Beth at afiadm@gmail.com
Please visit our website at: www.allergists4israel.org
Membership dues may be paid on line through Paypal by visiting our website

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO:

Randee Mansfield, Treasurer
Allergists for Israel
2121 Wyoming Ave., El Paso, TX 79903
PHONE 915-544-2557
FAX 915-544-1817