Dear AFI Members and Friends:

As you know, the second International Israel Allergy Asthma and Immunology CME conference took place at the David Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem from November 30 to December 2. Despite all of the tensions in the region and in Israel up until this conference, I am pleased to report the meeting was a grand success. I want to personally thank all of our Israeli colleagues, all of our speakers and AFI members and other attendees for their efforts in making this conference a realization. For those who wanted to attend but were unable to do so due to extenuating circumstances, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your support and commitment to AFI and the specialty of Allergy in Israel. I can confidently say there will be a Third International Israeli Allergy and Asthma Immunology conference in the next 2–3 years which I hope everyone can attend.

This year’s gala western Purim event on Sunday at the AAAAI will feature an interesting PBL case presented by Ray Davis and a fascinating human interest presentation by Gary Gross, as well as a special video presentation highlighting the recent meeting in Israel. This past year AFI awarded $25,000 in research grants to Israeli fellows and young faculty, provided travel grants to fellows traveling abroad to Israel for the meeting, sponsored one mini-fellowship in Cincinnati Ohio in addition to the annual meetings held at the ACAA and AAAAI.

We couldn’t do the things we do on an annual basis without the support of our members and friends. Therefore please make a concerted effort to stop by the Friday night Kiddush to say hello and block out Sunday night for the annual AFI event as it promises to be a fun evening all around. This is a great way to meet and develop collaborations and friendships with our Israeli colleagues. Make sure to bring your colleagues, family and friends.

I want to remind everyone that they are welcome to participate in hosting Israeli allergy fellows or allergists as part of our mini-fellowship/sabbatical program. Please contact Beth or myself at jonathan.bernstein@uc.edu if you are interested in being a host institution.

We would like to continue to acknowledge our corporate sponsors, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Sunovion Pharmaceuticals and the support of our members as without this unwavering support we would not be able to continue to provide the programs and events at the annual meetings. I encourage you to join AFI or renew your membership by paying your annual dues so AFI can continue to grow and thrive as an organization. It is quick and easy to go to our website, www.allergists4israel.org, and submit your dues for 2013.

On behalf of the AFI board of directors and staff, I sincerely thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you all at the AAAAI meeting in San Antonio.

Shalom,

Jonathan A. Bernstein, M.D.
Chairman, Allergists for Israel
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 an international network of Allergists & Immunologists in order to foster and enhance communication and interaction with Israeli professional colleagues.

4. Develop linkages between Allergists/Immunologists from around the world and Israeli Allergists/Immunologists by sponsoring Allergists/Immunologists to visit and speak in Israel.

IN MEMORIAM
I. Leonard Bernstein

AFI would like to acknowledge with great appreciation the most generous contribution the Bernstein family made to Allergists For Israel. Dr. Bernstein was a stalwart figure in the field of Allergy and Immunology making significant contributions on a local, national and international level. He was an ardent Zionist and proud supporter of Allergists For Israel.
ANNUAL SUNDAY GALA DINNER EVENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2013

LONESOME DOVE ROOM
in the Convention Center

COCKTAILS
6:30 pm

GUEST SPEAKERS:

RAY S. DAVID, MD
Problem Based Learning: A Case of Chronic Rhinitis

GARY GROSS, MD
Beyond the Alamo:
Allergy & Asthma Clinics in Taveuni, Kenya & Myanmar.
A First Hand Account
Ray S. Davis, MD is a professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Pulmonary Medicine at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He has been in private practice with Allergy Consultants in St. Louis for 30 years.

In the past 20 years, he has facilitated well over 50 CME-type conferences per year on asthma and allergies nationally. These conferences have involved primarily interactive case discussions known as “problem-based learning” or PBL. He has helped initiate PBL workshops into both the AAAAI and ACAAI annual meetings.

Gary N. Gross, MD has practiced allergy in Dallas since 1975. He is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He did his allergy training at National Jewish Hospital in Denver. His publications are focused on allergy and asthma treatments. Gary has first hand experiences assisting in Allergy and Asthma Clinics in developing nations such as Taveuni, Kenya and Mayanmar.

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 2013 MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE IS IMPORTANT TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR WORK.

We appreciate you supporting AFI with your contributions.
Thanks for Sharing

Beth, thank you, Jonathan, David, Lyndon, Bill, Ilan and Nancy for a unique (until next time!) medical meeting in Jerusalem. You deserve all the accolades and appreciation bestowed upon you!!!!!! WE all enjoyed every part of the meeting, especially the people! The curriculum, venue and socialization were outstanding! Thank you very much for ensuring the success of our meeting. Until we meet again.

—Paul Shapero

I would like to thank you and all the organizers for the most wonderful conference! As a fellow in Allergy and Immunology I felt really privileged to be attending such diverse and interesting “cut of the edge” lectures, given by the leading professionals in their field. The Gala evening was also spectacular and I would like again to thank the AFI for the generous grant. Hoping to attend the next AFI conference and to be seeing you again.

—Tali Stauber

Dear Nancy, Beth, Ilan and Jonathan,
Sandra and I want to thank you for inviting us to participate in the 2nd International Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Conference in Jerusalem. Due to your tremendous effort in organizing the meeting, we found the conference to be highly interesting and very informative. We also enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with our Israeli colleagues, and found the venue and atmosphere to be highly enjoyable. We did take advantage of being in Israel to do some touring, and we had a fantastic time visiting the North as well as Tel Aviv.

—Sandra Christiansen and Bruce Zuraw

The December 2012 Conference was outstanding, so enriching in knowledge and inspiration. Besides the project on eosinophilia screening in toddlers, which is currently underway thanks to AFI’s generous grant the Conference was a great source of inspiration for additional research ideas. Thanks again for everything!

—Shira Benor

Dear AFI Colleagues, Shalom:

As an Israeli-born, Canadian and US-trained physician in fundamental immunology and pediatrics, now a first year clinical fellow in A&I, I would like to share my thoughts on the recent conference.

I was particularly struck by the uplifting spirit that prevailed, a combination of both the program’s excellence and Jerusalem’s vibrant atmosphere.

Indeed, the program mirrored the city’s own uniqueness, capturing past achievements, present issues, and future advances in the field. All focusing on continuity — the importance of training, innovation and continuing education.

For me, someone who is new to the field, these three days were particularly significant, reinforcing my passion for and commitment to strengthening the bond between Allergists worldwide and the world of possibilities that AFI offers for professional rapprochement, exchanges and of course friendship between Israeli Allergists, Immunologists and their international colleagues.

In my view, allergy fellows would only benefit if such an event was a routine part of our training.

With sincere appreciation,
Toda Raba,
Rony Greemberg
Montreal, Qc, Canada

“I was particularly struck by the uplifting spirit that prevailed, a combination of both the program’s excellence and Jerusalem’s vibrant atmosphere.”
We are pleased to announce that **Eduardo Shahar, M.D.** has been selected to receive the 2013 Bernard B. Siegel Memorial Award for his abstract entitled, *Continuous G-CSF Treatment Induces Complete Clinical Remission and Restoration of IL-17 Secretion in Autosomal Dominant Chronic Mucocutaneous Candidiasis.* His award will be presented at the AAAAI Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Shahar was born in Argentina and was on the Faculty of Medicine at Buenos Aires University, completed residency in the Department of Pediatrics at Lucio Melendez Hospital and a Fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at Buenos Aires University. He immigrated to Israel in 1989 and completed an allergy and clinical immunology residency at Beilinson Medical Center in Petach Tikva. He is a senior physician and deputy director at the Institute of Allergy, Clinical Immunology and AIDS at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa. His research interests are; oxidative stress in allergic diseases, treatment of chronic Urticaria, pharmacological interactions of anti HIV drugs, metabolic complications of HIV infected patients, salivary status of HIV patients and drug allergy management to allergenicity of pollen.

Dr. Bernard B. Siegel was a long standing Fellow of the AAAAI, Editor of the Allergy Abstracts of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Academy. “It was my privilege to train with Bernie Siegel in the Allergy Division of the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn under Dr. Mathew Walzer M.D.” says Israel Glazer. Dr. Siegel was very interested in medical affairs in Israel, particularly in the field of allergy. After his death in October 1982, family and friends established a fund in his memory. Since 1985 a leading Israeli Allergist/Immunologist and author of a paper accepted for presentation at the American Academy’s annual meeting has received the Bernard B. Siegel Memorial Award.

The Trustees of this fund are the Head of the Allergy Unit of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, currently Prof. Meir Shalit, and Israel Glazer, M.D., Founder and head (retired) of the Allergy Unit at the Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer. Allergists For Israel wishes to applaud Dr. Eduardo Shahar for his impressive accomplishments and wishes him continued success.

**The following are the accomplished recipients of the Bernard B. Siegel Memorial Award:**

- **Chicago IL 1984**
  - C. Springer M.D.
  - I. Ben-Dov M.D.
  - Hadassah Hospital (Mount Scopus)

- **New York NY 1985**
  - Chana Maayan M.D.
  - Hadassah Hospital (Ein Karem)

- **New Orleans LA 1986**
  - Shlomo Bar-Sela M.D.
  - Zieff Medical Center, Zafed

- **Washington DC 1987**
  - Avner Reshef M.D.
  - Hadassah Hospital (Ein Karem)

- **Anaheim CA 1988**
  - Meir Shalit M.D.
  - Assaf Harofeh Hospital, Zerifin

- **San Antonio TX 1989**
  - Yitzhak Katz M.D.
  - Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- **Baltimore MD 1990**
  - Francesca Levy-Schaffer Ph.D.
  - Meir General Hospital, Kfar Saba

- **San Francisco CA 1991**
  - Joseph A. Mekori M.D.
  - Jerusalem (private practice)

- **Orlando FL 1992**
  - Michael Levy M.D.
  - Meir Hospital, Kfar Saba

- **Chicago IL 1993**
  - Arnon Goldberg M.D.
  - Hadassah Hospital (Ein Karem)

- **Anaheim CA 1994**
  - Rami Herskowiz M.D.
  - Meir Hospital, Kfar Saba

- **New York NY 1995**
  - Meir Shalit M.D.
  - Meir Hospital, Kfar Saba

- **New Orleans LA 1996**
  - Ronit Confino-Cohen M.D.
  - Wolfson Medical Center, Holon

- **San Francisco CA 1997**
  - Dana Baram Ph.D.
  - Hebrew University, Jerusalem

- **Washington DC 1998**
  - Ilan Dalal M.D.
  - Kaplan Medical Center, Rehovot

- **Orlando FL 1999**
  - Morli Hartman Ph.D.
  - Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem

- **San Diego CA 2000**
  - Michael Stein M.D.
  - Souraski Medical Center, Tel Aviv

- **New Orleans LA 2001**
  - Yachov Beerkum M.D.
  - Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Zerifin

- **New York NY 2002**
  - Kobi Sade M.D.
  - Wolfson Medical Center, Holon

- **Denver Co 2003**
  - Adi Cohen M.D.
  - Schneider Children Hospital, Petach Tikva

- **San Francisco CA 2004**
  - Valery Teplitzky M.D.
  - Schneider Children Hospital, Petach Tikva

- **San Antonio TX 2005**
  - Amit Nachum M.D. Ph.D.
  - Children Medical Clinic, Rishon Litzion

- **Miami Beach FL 2006**
  - Nirit Segal M.D.
  - Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer

- **San Diego CA 2007**
  - Mona I. Kidon M.D.
  - Meir Medical Center, Kfar Saba

- **Philadelphia PA 2008**
  - Nily Mazur M.D.
  - Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Zerifin

- **Washington DC 2009**
  - Adam Mor M.D.
  - Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Zerifin

- **New Orleans LA 2010**
  - Michal Cohen M.D.
  - Rambam Health Care Center, Haifa

- **Orlando, FL 2012**
  - Arnon Elizur, M.D.

- **San Antonio, TX 2013**
  - Eduardo Shahar, M.D.
Grants Awarded

During the recent 2nd International Israeli Allergy Asthma and Immunology meeting I had the pleasure of bestowing to several allergy fellows and young faculty members research awards from AFI which totaled $27,500. It was fabulous to see the smiles of satisfaction and sense of accomplishment from all of the recipients as they were called up in front of their colleagues to receive their awards. To fund research and education for allergy and immunology in Israel is the epitome of what AFI represents and reaffirms to me the great importance of being an active member of this organization.

—Jonathan Bernstein, MD

• Nancy Agmon-Levin: Immunization with HBV-vaccine may affect SLE-like disease in genetically prone mice
• Shira Benor: Can eosinophilia at an early age be used as a marker for the later development of atopic disease?
• Laliv Ceder: IL-17 and Staphylococcus Aureus enterotoxins in severe asthma
• Eli Eisenstein: Use of positional cloning to identify genetically determined risk factors for meningococcemia
• Michael Goldberg: Measurement of basophil reactivity to modified food preparations utilized in oral immunotherapy (OIT)
• Ramit Maoz: Penicillin allergy in children and adults in the center of Israel
• Liat Nachson: Bone Mineral Density of Cow Milk Allergic Patients at the End of Growth – A Comparison with the Normal Population
• Amit Nahum: The immunologic mechanism underlying food allergy in liver transplanted children
• Raz Somech: Newborn Screening for T and B cell immunodeficiency in Israel
• Tali Stauber: Allergen immunotherapy during pregnancy: can it prevent allergy in the offspring?
• Zahava Vadasz-Zitron: The effect of Semaphorin 3A on Treg cells in asthma

• Avraham Beigelman: Do Oral Corticosteroids Reduce the Severity of Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Illnesses in Preschool Children with Recurrent Wheezing?
My abstract included the results of 2 post-hoc analyses done as part of the Childhood Asthma Research and Education Network of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The results suggest that oral corticosteroids treatment might not reduce symptoms severity during acute lower respiratory tract illnesses in preschool children with recurrent wheeze.

• Shira Benor: Eosinophilia Screening in Israel
Infants aged one year in Israel undergo a blood count with differential as part of a national screening program to detect iron deficiency anemia. This blood test is drawn when the infant is otherwise healthy at a weekday between 7:30 and 9:30 am. A significant percentage of these infants are incidentally found to have eosinophilia, defined as more than 3% of WBC or more than 500/μl. We are examining this data to establish normal values of eosinophils for age one year and to see if eosinophilia could be used as a prognostic marker for subsequent atopic disease.

Travel Grants were awarded to:
• Avraham Beigelman
• Rony Greemberg
• Michelle Halbrich
• Revital Shamri
HELP AFI GROW
SHARE OUR INFORMATION!
You can also give our Board Members names of friends and colleagues whom you would like for AFI to invite to our programs.
Contact Beth: afiadm@gmail.com

Tidbits from Beth

Sitting at the computer, contemplating what to share with my AFI friends and not coming up with any grand idea, I suddenly thought to venture onto a simple topic, like what is the meaning of life! Half joking I googled it to see what might come up. Wikipedia put forth the relevant questions that have been the source of speculation throughout time. People have ventured scientifically, philosophically, theologically into the depths of the “search” for an answer. Then I thought about the 1991 movie, City Slickers (still an all time favorite!). The burly cowboy, Curly tells Billy Crystals’ character, Mitch, who went out west to herd cattle hoping to find the answer, that it’s all about one thing. The actor, Jack Palance holds up one rugged finger as Mitch is desperately hanging onto every word, and says, “That’s for you to find out!”

So what might that one thing be? We all work hard and diligently at so many jobs that fill up the hours of our lives. Perhaps what makes that all worthwhile is the interconnectedness we establish with one another. We each are part of a family, a community, a city, a country, a people. We need a sense of belonging and through that relationship we make small and great things happen.

Our recent Israel Conference brought people together from all over the world, from different political views and religious persuasions. There was a real feeling of belonging and that together, we were making a great thing happen. Jonathan Bernstein, Ilan Dalal and Nancy Agmon-Levin have rightly been congratulated for putting together a brilliant, state-of-the-art meeting with exceptional speakers. I know the allergists I have met through AFI travel the world over for meetings and conferences. I know that our meeting was academically and scientifically outstanding. And yet the real brilliance was not evident through a power point presentation. It was a feeling that we all shared because we are connected in a special way, with a special commitment. Some of us have a historical bond, for others a cultural bond, others a religious bond. However we may define ourselves, we are a group committed to the State of Israel.

I encourage you to be connected with AFI, to share the great things we do with your colleagues so that we might continue to make a difference. Perhaps that is the “one” thing which is the meaning of life.
Allergists for Israel 2013 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

Please consider these levels of giving:

☐ $118: Chaver/Friend
☐ $180: Ozer/Helper
☐ $360: Madrich/Guide
☐ $540: Tzadik/Righteous One
☐ $1000: Chalutzim/Pioneers

Method of Payment

☐ Check made payable to ALLERGISTS FOR ISRAEL
☐ Paypal — Click on PAY DUES on our website: www.allergists4israel.org
☐ Credit Card □ Visa □ MasterCard

Account number ____________________________ Expiration date __________________________

Signature __________________________________________

Please visit our website: www.allergists4israel.org
For questions or comments, contact Beth at afiadm@gmail.com

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