Dear AFI Members and Colleagues:

The rapid political changes occurring worldwide and specifically in the Middle East has resulted in a greater uncertainty about the security of Israel. Although peace in the Middle East is something we all would embrace, the circumstances required to achieve a legitimate peace has been an ongoing debate within Israel and abroad. One certainty is Allergists for Israel’s continued commitment to provide academic and moral support for our Allergy/Immunology colleagues in Israel. This past year AFI has continued to provide support for academic research grants and programs in Israel including the recent IAA CI meeting in Maalot and the Food Allergy and Intolerance Conference held in January. We are excited about the culmination of our joint efforts in organizing the second International Allergy Asthma and Immunology Conference in Jerusalem to be held November 28–30, 2012. The preliminary curriculum for this meeting is attached to the newsletter. The success of this meeting is dependent on your attendance so I encourage you to block time out of your busy schedules to register and become part of this important event. For those who were unable to attend the 2008 meeting, the 2012 meeting will be a great opportunity to visit Israel, get CME credits while seeing old friends and/or making new ones. More details about the meeting will follow shortly.

At the last AAAAI meeting, we had a very successful Purim thematic gala dinner featuring Eli Meltzer who gave an excellent talk highlighted by a solo musical performance. We also had a very interesting lecture by Rabbi Irvin Ungar, the publisher of the Szyk Haggadah entitled “A 20th Century Masterpiece for the 21st Century”. This year at the ACAAI we had a wonderful Kiddush Friday night and I am pleased that Beth Goldfarb, our administrative director was there to meet and greet everyone.

I want to remind everyone of the invitation for any AFI member to apply for a two week mini-sabbatical under the guidance of Drs. Shimon Pollack and Eduardo Shahar at the Rambam Health Care Campus, in Haifa that is subsidized by AFI. We are still providing opportunities for Israeli Allergists/Immunologists to come to the United States or Canada to participate in clinical/academic/research programs as part of a mini-fellowship or sabbatical. All academic institutions are welcome to participate in these mini-fellowships and AFI provides stipend support for our Israeli colleagues to participate. Please contact Beth or myself at jonathan.bernstein@uc.edu if you are interested in being a host institution. Of course the best way to meet and develop collaborations with our Israeli colleagues is by attending the AAAAI and/or ACAAI meetings where AFI has sponsored events or by attending the annual IAA CI meeting.

We would like to continue to acknowledge our corporate sponsor, TEVA pharmaceuticals and the support of our dues paying members as without this unwavering support we would not be able 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 thrive and persevere as an organization into the future. The process of paying dues and donations is now electronic. Simply go to our website, www.allergists4israel.org, and submit your dues for 2012.

Tell your friends about the great camaraderie AFI promotes and encourage them to become members and attend this year’s Kiddush and Sunday’s Gala event at the AAAAI. 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 at the AAAAI meeting in Orlando.

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.

Chairperson
Jonathan A. Bernstein, M.D.

Board of Directors
Leonard Bielory, M.D.
John Cohn, M.D.
Daniel Ein, M.D.
Beth Goldfarb
Gary Gross, M.D.
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Lyndon Mansfield, M.D.
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IAACI
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Ronite Confino-Cohen, M.D.
Ilan Dalal, M.D.
Mona Kidon, M.D.
Menachem Rottem, M.D.
Valerie Teplitsky, M.D.

Webmaster
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Administrator
Beth Goldfarb

Treasurer
Randee Mansfield

Founder (1984)
William Silvers, M.D.

Past Chairpersons
Lyndon Mansfield, M.D.
William Silvers, M.D.

AFI is pleased to award travel grants to Alon Nissim and Ori Tocker to help facilitate their attendance at the AAAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando where they will be presenting their abstracts.

Alon is with the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is presenting his research, Hypoxia Regulates Activation / Inhibitory Receptors on Eosinophils, on Monday, March 5 from 2:45–3:00 pm at the Convention Center S230CD, Level II.

Ori is a Fellow in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. His abstract, Ribavirin Desensitization in Chronic Hepatitis C Infection, will be presented during the conference.
Please join us as we meet, greet, reacquaint with friends and welcome new colleagues to the AFI Annual Gala Dinner Event

Sleuths Mystery Dinner Shows

Sunday March 4, 2012
6:15–10:00 p.m.
at the Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show
8267 International Drive, Orlando, Florida

Cocktails begin at 6:15
Kosher Dietary Laws Observed — Catering by Cohen’s Deli
Glatt Kosher and under the supervision of Rabbi Yosef Konikov
Orthodox Rabbinate of Central Florida

Guest Speaker: Lanny Rosenwasser, M.D.
Asthma and Small Airways Disease

Support provided by Teva Specialty Pharmaceuticals
Guests of Attendees will be hosted courtesy of AFI

The Sleuths Mystery Dinner Theatre is 1.2 miles from The Peabody Hotel
From the hotel turn right on International Drive going North.
The Sleuths is in Goodings Plaza on the right, just past Ripley’s Believe It or Not, at the left end of the plaza.

There is a Trolley that travels up and down International Drive, stopping at the Peabody every 15-20 minutes for $1.25 per trip.
After I graduated from Sackler School of Medicine and completed my residency in Pediatrics at Asaf Harofeh Medical Center, I went on to do a fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at St Louis Children’s Hospital. During that time I trained in basic science research, studying the role of Clara cells in LPS-induced airway inflammation in a murine model at Robert Senior’s laboratory. After 4 years I returned to Asaf Harofeh Medical Center as a pediatric pulmonologist and initiated a Pediatric Sleep Service. In the last 2 years I participated in the oral immunotherapy program, managed by Prof Yitzhak Katz, inducing desensitization in patients with various food allergies. That led me to undertake a formal fellowship program in Allergy and Immunology, which I started in 9/2010.

In addition to the clinical service, I’m also involved in research in several fields. One of my study interests is focused on the natural course of milk allergy. This is presented in this year’s AAAAI abstract Reaction in the First Month of Life and a Lower Eliciting Dose are Risk Factors for Persistence of IgE-Mediated Cow's Milk Allergy which will be presented at the AAAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando.

In this study we followed infants with IgE-CMA prospectively, and demonstrated that a reaction to < 10 ml of milk, a reaction in the first month of life and a larger wheal size on SPT to milk, are risk factors for persistence. These factors can be easily translated into clinical practice, assisting allergists and pediatricians in guiding parents regarding the natural course and prognosis of their infant’s allergy.

I was excited to hear that this abstract was chosen as the 2012 Bernard B. Siegel Memorial Award recipient in the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology 2012 Annual Meeting.

This type of recognition and support certainly encourages me as a young researcher to continue my research.

Thank you for your kind support.

Sincerely,

Arnon Elizur, MD

Asaf Harofeh Medical Center

Zerifin, ISRAEL
Jeffrey Demain, M.D.
Allergy Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska

AFI has been a wonderful reentry into Judaism for me. My family and I have become more involved with our Temple, which has begun to fill a void that I did not even recognize previously. I guess I am an example of someone AFI reached out to. Last year, I introduced David El’kyam to AFI, so the process continues. I do like the idea of a Foundation to reach out to international members and to further enhance our connection with our Israeli counterparts. In time, who knows how far this could go. We are so blessed in this country and it feels good to be able to connect with others and assist.

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.

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 28–30, 2012
IAACI – AFI Second International Meeting
Jerusalem, Israel
One of the things I love most about December...besides it being my birthday...and oh boy, wait till this year...12/12/12...is that going to be special or what! ...And did I hear, Jon Bernstein is going to throw a party for my big day and invite all of AFI!!!! Maybe we'll all still be in Israel “kvelling” in the aftermath of another grand AFI-IAACI International Conference!

Anyway...what I do love about December...is that it is the time for all of us to celebrate the Festival of Lights. Whether we celebrate that with Chanukah or Kwanzaa or Christmas, it is a time of year that touches each of our hearts in a very special way. This year, Richard and I hosted a Chanukah party for “his side of the family.” Funny how sooner than we would have imagined, we take the roles of being the “providers” and the “glue” that keeps family together.

Actually nothing makes me happier than trying some new recipes on non-suspecting victims and having a reason to clean the piles of massive clutterness. So we plan and execute a Chanukah Cousins gathering, everyone brings a grab bag gift and one cousin relishes in organizing a “Chinese Exchange” which basically means, anything you pick can be taken from you at any moment!

I finally get to pick from the treasures and hoping that no one will “steal” whatever I pick as I’d hate to get into a cat-fight in my own home...I unwrap and find a 670-piece puzzle, of a night scene of the grand Cincinnati skyline, which means not a lot of color variation. I am ecstatic! Not sure why...maybe it was the punch or the aura of the season...but I was coveting that puzzle hoping no one would “steal” it from me. Maybe it was the vicious look in the eyes, or the fangs showing...but no cousins dared to challenge my right to my puzzle.

About a month later, I glanced upon the puzzle, in the corner of the room I had left it.

Actually the picture is by a friend who has become quite a well known photographer so if you can’t afford his pictures...you can buy his playing cards or puzzles. I decide to open it and for some insane reason think I can actually take on this project. I used to love doing puzzles, but I think that meant conspiring with my 4-year-old on a 26-piece. Why would I ever think I could take on something like this and it’s a night scene no less!

I slowly become intrigued with this daunting challenge! Never having the patience for anything requiring such intricacy, I found myself drawn to the project. During football games or phone calls, I was sorting light purple shades from a bit of a deeper-purple shade. I was either becoming an expert “puzzelier” or a totally compulsive, crazy, neurotic person. I wasn’t sure which would be for the worse. One day I was thinking about AFI during my “puzzle-therapy” time. Finally finding a certain piece I needed to connect two important sections, I had one of those moments of enlightenment! At a glance all these little puzzle pieces look similar, and they are in many ways. But each one has something very unique about it, a certain shape, curve, subtle touch of color. Sometimes I had to re-work a section that had appeared right but was actually slightly off. Each piece was meant to interlock in a certain way. Each piece was vital. Sometimes I concentrated on the similarities of the pieces, other times on their differences.

And so it is with AFI. Each of us has a special way to interlock which is vital to creating the big picture. Allergists For Israel’s big picture is awesome! We bring people together from all over the world, different cultures, different religious observances and beliefs in order to further enhance Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in Israel. Each of us is a critical link. The puzzle can’t be complete without you. Hmmm, now where is that last piece!
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 judged according to NIH scoring criteria.
Contact afiadm@gmail.com for submission deadline.

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.  Fred Finkelman, M.D.
I. Leonard Bernstein, M.D.  Marc Rothenberg, M.D.
Leonard Bielory, M.D.  Menachem Rottem, M.D.
Mona Kidon, M.D.  Ilan Dalal, M.D.

Best Regards,
Jonathan A. Bernstein, M.D.

Application For Israel Mini-Fellowship 2012

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, 2012 to Beth Goldfarb:
afiadm@gmail.com
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 semaphorins in inflammatory bowel disease.”
- **Dr. Yuri Zeldon** for “Component resolved sensization 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’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 2012 MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE IS IMPORTANT TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR WORK.

We appreciate you supporting AFI with your contributions.
Save the Date

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} International Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Israel Conference

November 28-30, 2012

The David Citadel Hotel Jerusalem, Israel

Hosted by: Israel Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Partnering with Allergists For Israel with representation from AAAAI, ACAAI, & WAO

Jointly sponsored by the University of Cincinnati and Allergists For Israel.

Conference Secretariat:
Kaleidoscope Ltd - Email: Allergy2012@kldltd.com
AFI (Allergists For Israel) - Email: afiadm@gmail.com
2011 AAAAI Annual AFI Dinner (continued)
If you have already sent in your 2012 dues, we thank you for making a commitment to Allergists For Israel. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to join and be part of the link! AFI is making great things happen!

The list below reflects AFI Members as of February 24, 2012.

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<tr>
<th>Mark Ballow</th>
<th>Stanley Fineman</th>
<th>Gideon Pinczower</th>
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<td>Ronald Filderman</td>
<td>Yoram Padeh</td>
<td>Barry Zeffren</td>
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Allergists for Israel 2012 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

2012 annual dues are $118. Please include a check payable to ALLERGISTS FOR ISRAEL with your completed
form or provide your credit card information below.
OR go to our website: www.allergists4israel.org and click on the membership link to pay dues by either
Paypal or send a check.

□ 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

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