Welcome to the World of Israeli Internal Medicine

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Internal medicine is no doubt one of the main pillars of modern medicine. For years it has been considered to be the basis and foundation of medical education and proper clinical service. During the recent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, internal medicine departments were recognized worldwide, and clearly in Israel, to be the true *Corona Warriors* that provided medical care to patients as well as support and comfort to families. Around the globe, the public applauded and appreciated the bravery of our medical staff, who without hesitation and under direct personal danger provided the best medical care possible despite the hardships of the time. The high personal price and even the heavy cost of staff member lives lost in offering medical care to the pubic did not stop our quest for ongoing medical research.

Interestingly, just before the pandemic, we published our views in the *Israel Medical Association Journal* (*IMAJ*) [1]. These actions were initiated to strengthen the internal medicine wards throughout Israel. During the challenges due the pandemic, these measures were shown to be essential to patient care and were seen as obvious to the public and decision makers alike. In parallel to the extensive political and organizational discussions with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Treasury, and members of Knesset, the Israeli Society of Internal Medicine did not stop its medical research and asked to dedicate an issue of *IMAJ* to present the studies that are continuously conducted in our departments.

This issue of the *IMAJ* is dedicated to our team members who, despite one of the most challenging times in modern medicine, did not stop asking medical questions and pursued answers by conducting medical research. The articles offer a humble reflection of the great deeds and efforts of those involved in the advancement of modern Israeli internal medicine.

COVID-19 imprinted the contents in this issue. Reports describing therapy and unique presentations have been included [2,3], as well as a review elaborating prediction models assessing risk stratification for clinical deterioration, which is of extreme importance due to the practical implications of the disease on medical planning as a result of COVID-19 [4,5].

This issue is unusual for the number of original articles from different disciplines generating the matrix of internal medicine. There are articles discussing and describing the capacity of plasma glycated hemoglobin A1c levels and a prediction of 30-day all-cause mortality of intensive care unit patients [6]. The role of brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) as a decision tool in hospitalized patients was also presented [7].

One of the appealing aspects of this issue of *IMAJ* is the interactions and associations among different disciplines of modern medicine in topics as diverse as the association of statin therapy and pain [8], Behçet's disease and depression [9], thyroid disorders and systemic sclerosis [10], and fibromyalgia and osteoporosis [11]. In addition, articles discussing the contribution of ultra-short heart rate variability in assessing risk stratification in pneumonia patients have been included [12]. These linkages not only reflect remarkable aspects of medicine but also manifest the collaboration of health care professionals of different fields performing research together.

Since many of our patients are hospitalized due to cardiac issues, many dilemmas are also presented in this issue such as the impact of statin therapy on one-year recurrence and length of hospitalization of acute idiopathic pericarditis [13], comparison of rate control efficacy of beta-blockers and calcium channel blockers in patients hospitalized with atrial fibrillation [14], and the impact of adherence to guidelines in heart failure in elderly patients [15]. Preventive measures were also assessed in the article by Elis et al. [16] who discussed the effects of treatment with anti-PCSK9 monoclonal in lipid tertiary care in Israel.

Medical education is also presented in this issue, with an article dedicated to the delicate issue of journal authorship agreements and disagreements between researchers and students [17].

One of the most pleasant and encouraging aspects of a medical writing is the involvement of young residents in medical writing. This issue has no less than seven exciting clinical case communications [18-24].

We thank the contributors for their pivotal role in the advancement of the field of internal medicine and wish our

readers an enjoyable introduction into our world of internal medicine.

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Capsule

Depletion of exhausted alloreactive T cells enables targeting of stem-like memory T cells to generate tumor-specific immunity

Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation (alloBMT) is a potentially curative treatment for blood-related cancers, but patients are prone to tumor relapse due to escape from graft-versus-tumor effects, especially when accompanied by systemic immunosuppression. Using a mouse model of myeloma resistant to treatment with alloBMT, **Minnie** and co-authors found that alloBMT-derived donor T cells became functionally exhausted from exposure to alloantigen rather than tumor antigen. Post-transplant cyclophosphamide depleted alloantigen-driven exhausted T cells, leaving a population bearing a stem cell memory-like gene signature. In leukemia-bearing mice receiving a haploidentical transplant, agonist immunotherapy with an engineered interleukin-18 resistant to endogenous inhibitors enhanced antitumor immunity and improved survival. These results demonstrate that immunotherapy targeting residual T cell populations can improve the graft-versus-tumor response of alloBMT during systemic immunosuppression.

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