

IMAJ celebrates its 25th jubilee: Medicine and Art at IMA and IMAJ

Twenty five years ago, we, the undersigned together with the chairman of the Israel Medical Association at the time, Prof. Yoram Blachar, and the secretary general of the Israel Medical Association, Adv. Leah Wapner, joined forces to found an Israeli medical journal in English. The purpose of this journal was to present to the world Israeli clinical medicine and medical research. That journal is none other than the *Israel Medical Association Journal (IMAJ)*, and in 2023 its 300th issue was published. In 2024 we keep going, taking pride in the fact that every one of those past 300 issues has been published and dispatched on time, without delay, regardless of any circumstances.

The cover of each issue has been embellished with an image of a painting, a sculpture, or a photograph taken by an Israeli artist. A brief biography of the artist and an explanation of the artwork is always presented on the inside page.

This issue is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of *IMAJ*. The title of this issue is *Medicine and Art at IMA and IMAJ*. We have collected the covers of all the past issues and assembled them in a collage of the past 300 journal covers, thereby to represent and emphasize the contribution Israel has made in medical research to the world. The selection of arts we have made here by no means minimizes the importance of the thousands of medical articles that had undergone the scrutiny of peer review and had been included in *IMAJ* over the years.

The combination of art and medicine is well recognized in medical literature and has been manifested throughout history [1]. Indeed, many of the works of art on the covers of *IMAJ* issues have been the creations of Israeli physicians. However, the plethora of the articles published over the years in the Israeli medical journal represent the significant contribution of the Israeli physicians to the world of science and medicine. It has always been our aim to address the current agenda of the Israeli medicine. Hence, the last issues of our journal were devoted to the medical aspects related to the ongoing Iron Swords war in Gaza and to the atrocities perpetrated by the Hamas-ISIS organization on 7th October 2023.

We would like to thank the present chairman of Israel Medical Association, Prof. Zion Hagay, and the secretary



general of the IMA, Adv. Leah Wapner, for their unwavering support of the Israel Medical Association Journal, which has made it possible for the journal to go on for 25th consecutive years without fail.

We wish to thank the editorial staff of *IMAJ* over the years: Ms. Heather Rockman, Ms. Tovy Malkin, Ms. Tali Simhon, Mr. Yair Ronen, Ms. Judi Felber; as well as Ms. Michal Hadad-Levi and Ms. Inbar Haim-Hagashi of the editorial staff of *Harefuah*, for their tireless and dedicated work. We extend our gratitude also to the printing and graphics teams at LOGO, who have designed the journal, and given it its beauty.

Above all, we are grateful to the thousands of physicians who have contributed and shared with us their knowledge, their findings, and their results; thereby, increasing the quality of our journal and raising the impact factor of *IMAJ* to a respectable level.

The editorial board at the *Israel Medical Association Journal* wishes all its authors and readers good health and longevity so together we can celebrate its 50th Anniversary!

Yehuda Shoenfeld MD,
Editor-in-Chief

Joshua Shemer MD,
Associate Editor

Gad Keren MD,
Associate Editor

[1] Dahan S, Shoenfeld Y. A picture is worth a thousand words: art and medicine. *IMAJ* 2017; 19 (12): 772-6.