

Annual Editorial Board Meeting in the Shadow of the Security Situation: A Testament to National Resilience

Nothing better reflects the times in which we live—amid missile barrages, air-raid sirens, sheltering in protected rooms, and yet continuing our daily routines and work—than the annual meeting of the editorial boards of the medical journals *IMAJ* and *HaRefuah*. The event was held via Zoom on 8 March 2026 and was scheduled to begin at 17:00.

I had prepared my study in advance with the computer ready and a glass of water nearby. However, just a few minutes before the meeting, my phone sounded the familiar alert from the Home Front Command instructing us to move to a protected area. At the same time, Yehuda Shoenfeld called to make sure that I would indeed be joining the meeting. I told him that I was on my way to the safe room but that I would join the meeting at all costs.

Taking my iPad and phone with me, my wife and I hurried Tesla, our Labrador, and Maggie, our Jack Russell, into the safe room so they could find their places. Maggie, who in my opinion is the wisest of the animals, expressed her concern about the situation by lowering her ears and curling herself tightly on a pillow.

Fortunately, the Home Front Command gave the all-clear just one minute before the meeting began, and I managed to run from the safe room back to my study and log in on time. Other colleagues experienced similar interruptions, and although the meeting was not festive, it was filled with humor and a good atmosphere.

Prof. Shoenfeld brought us to order and shared a presentation prepared by the journal staff summarizing the activities of 2025. Hundreds of manuscripts have been reviewed this year, and we took pride in the fact that all journal issues were published on time. The impact fac-

tor of *IMAJ* stands at 1.3, placing it in the Q2 category among international journals in its field.

We discussed strengthening the connections between the Israeli medical schools, particularly the newer ones, and the journals. In an era in which Israeli scientists sometimes find themselves isolated, the journal provides an excellent platform for publishing their research. Shoenfeld also spoke about the paintings and photographs that appear on the cover of the journal, and suggestions were raised for new sections and special issues, including one devoted to compassion.

All participants congratulated the team responsible for the journal on their dedication and the high quality of their work. The meeting concluded with warm wishes and hopes for quieter days ahead.

Afterward, I returned to the kitchen and, as is my habit, prepared coffee and cake while turning on one of the news channels to catch up on the evening's events. I reflected that our country was under attack from north to south, yet despite everything we had convened a well-organized and dignified annual editorial meeting. We planned for the future with the intention of continuing this important work.

The annual meeting that took place on 8 March 2026 stands as a powerful testament to our cohesion, our national resilience, and our people's ability to meet any challenge.

SINCERELY,

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We are not an endangered species ourselves yet, but this is not for lack of trying.

Douglas Adams (1952–2001), English author, screenwriter, essayist, humorist, satirist and dramatist; author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

You can sometimes count every orange on a tree but never all the trees in a single orange.

Attipate Krishnaswami Ramanujan (1929–1993), Indian poet and scholar of Indian literature and linguistics