

## From the Guest Editor

### *Emergency Medicine in Israel: A Spring of Opportunities in Education*

“Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time.”

Hebrew proverb

In Jewish tradition, spring is a time for renewal and Passover is the festival that celebrates freedom and the birth of the Jewish nation.

For the Israeli Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM) this particular spring is one of change as well. I congratulate the new executive and chair on their recent election and I wish them well in these exciting times full of opportunities for the discipline. Past leaders and many hard working front line emergency physicians deserve recognition for their efforts to create and bring the discipline of emergency medicine to where it is today in Israel. Their worthy efforts paid dividends and with the assistance of the next generation the challenge to advance clinical practice, teaching, research, administration and international cooperation is being tackled. The clear beneficiaries of all these huge sacrifices and hard work are the citizens of Israel.

It is extremely appropriate that the Israeli Journal of Emergency Medicine (IJEM), the IAEM's arm that promotes and disseminates knowledge in emergency medicine is publishing its first electronic edition during the Passover time. This rejuvenation of the journal ushers in a new era as it brings it firmly into the technology based 21<sup>st</sup> Century where speed and ease of access to accurate information is important to all clinicians.

It is also timely that the main focus of this edition is the broad topic of “Education” in general and medical education (MedEd) in

particular. The role of MedEd as a key topic in IJEM is to promote adult education based on best evidence and with a focus that is useful for the needs of Israeli emergency physicians, allied health care providers and hopefully also for other colleagues in the region. The topics chosen for this particular edition cover domains that are of immediate relevance to Israeli emergency medicine (EM).

The article by Dr. William McCauley on the need for continuous professional development is extremely timely. In Israel there is a cadre of well seasoned clinicians-educators and there is also a generation of younger emergency physicians. Each group and each individual have specific areas of need in terms of ongoing professional development. Dr. McCauley, one of the primary medical educators in EM in Canada, makes a very eloquent case for the need to develop and apply educational strategies that are based on sound evidence based literature. The ability to implement these strategies is well within the reach of members of the IAEM in light of the fact that there are several well known experts in MedED in Israel. These experts could assist the association in professional development for its members.

Drs. MacGougan and Lam provide a review on newer modalities in delivering MedEd, such as the use of simulators and distance education. The article provides a balanced look at some of the benefits and challenges of these new teaching tools. Israeli society is technology oriented and

time is a very precious commodity for all physicians. This review may provide some options to consider in education for this busy environment. Both authors have training in MedEd and Dr. Lam's specific domain of interest is distance education.

For the development of EM as a healthy discipline, the concept of "team growth" is essential. The goal of upgrading the training of doctors and nurses in EM is a corner stone for overall improvement in patient care and addressing the educational needs of all the health care providers is appropriate and desirable. Drs. Shavit and Steiner's cataloguing of current pediatric emergency nursing educational opportunities in Israel is a positive step in the "need assessment" process. Improvements in training should inevitably lead to improved patient outcomes.

Dr. Philip Yoon reviews the importance of evaluating trainees in the ED through "direct observation". The ability of clinical teachers and administrators of education to vouch for the competence of future physicians must be based on verifiable facts, and this manuscript describes an assessment method that should be a major tool in this process. Dr. Yoon is the director of a very successful emergency residency training program in Canada and direct observation of residents is an integral part of his evaluation

process. Israeli medical schools and residency training programs follow a somewhat different path than their North American counterparts in completing training requirements. Despite these differences, the principles and methods used in direct observation apply to all.

Dr. E. Jackson Allison is well known internationally. He was a past President of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and is a founder and first sitting President of the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. The commentary that he and Ms Wilson provide on "mentoring in emergency medicine" is light hearted and very relevant to the evolution of EM in Israel. The process of guiding younger colleagues in developing expertise in various professional domains is an essential step in the healthy evolution of the discipline.

In addition to the "Education" section, this new electronic version of IJEM also contains a bevy of usual, time tested domains of its predecessor, such as "Radiology", "Morbidity and Mortality" and "A Break in the Action". Future editions will include articles from other traditional IJEM areas.

I hope that the readers will find this issue stimulating and interesting and on behalf of the entire editorial board I wish them good reading.

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Senior Associate Editor