

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



**Editor's Note:** Welcome to the Fall 2011 FIHS Newsletter. This issue includes the usual sections such as President's Message, upcoming meetings, and a scientific article from Israel. In addition, we will highlight program opportunities in America and elsewhere for Israeli physicians. We will include a couple of "feel good" articles on Israeli medicine. Our Heartbeats section will return this issue, as well as a "shocking" case report from Hadera, Israel.

Remember, this Newsletter and Society belong to you, the membership. We look forward to enhancing this Society and the connections that we hope to foster between Israeli and non-Israeli cardiologists and their

institutions. Please feel free to email us with questions, answers, comments, criticisms, or just to tell us to keep working harder!

Our immediate goal is to try to grow our membership and participation to include any and all cardiologists and fellows that would be interested in supporting this bridging relationship. If you know of any cardiologists or cardiology fellows who we can contact, please email me (my address is [jackstroh@usa.net](mailto:jackstroh@usa.net)). May we continue to grow in size as well as in deeds in the coming New Year!!



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### Message from the President

We are excited to distribute to you our fall newsletter. As the Jewish New Year is approaching, I want to wish all our readers and members a happy and healthy new year!

With your help, the Friends of the Israel Heart Society continues to grow and reach an ever increasing number of cardiologists. We still need your help in reaching out to the many more individuals in the cardiovascular arena who would be interested in the Friends. With the immense growth of cardiovascular technology and research in Israel, we benefit greatly from this interaction. Please take a few moments to forward this newsletter to a few colleagues. If you have a few more moments, contact them to find out if they have signed up for membership.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of those who can provide support at the Silver, Gold, Platinum, and President's Club levels.

In this newsletter, there is information about several exciting meetings taking place in Israel this year. The meetings are of the highest quality and provide an excellent way to combine a historic trip to Israel with continuing medical education. This year the Friends of the Israel Heart Society is a co-sponsor for the Fellow's Case Competition for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Dead Sea Symposium. We are delighted to participate in the effort to facilitate fellows' participation in this meeting.

Thank you for your support,

Jeff Goldberger, M.D.

President, Friends of the Israel Heart Society

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# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



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## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

### Cardiac Care and Peace in Israel

#### ***Fixing broken hearts in Israel***

By [Dina Kraft](#) · June 12, 2011 (JTA)



Laura Kafif, the housemother at Save A Child's Heart, visits with one of her charges, Zeresenay Gebru, as he recovers from heart surgery at Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel, May 31, 2011. (Sheila Shalhevet )

HOLON, Israel (JTA) -- Just two days earlier but a world away, 8-year-old Salha Farjalla Khamis said goodbye to her parents and four siblings in her village on the African island of Zanzibar.

Now, in a hospital in the Tel Aviv suburb of Holon, tears roll silently down her cheeks as she watches an Israeli nurse attach the wires of an EKG monitor to her small body.

"Momma!" she cries out as the Israeli nurse, an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, tries to soothe her in a language the little girl does not understand.

"Don't cry, no pain," the nurse says in broken English.

Khamis is on her second trip to Israel for an operation to remedy a heart defect that she has had since birth. Brought by the Israeli humanitarian organization [Save a Child's Heart](#), she is one of 2,600 children who have benefitted from the program launched by an American Jewish immigrant to Israel to provide cardiac surgery for children from the developing world.

The story of the effort begins in 1996, when a charismatic cardiac surgeon from Maryland named Amram Cohen starts treating patients from outside Israel and using his home, and those of his patients and friends, to host them.

Since then, patients from 42 countries have been helped by the organization, nearly half of them Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza. Others have come from Iraq, Nigeria and Romania.

Save a Child's Heart also trains medical staff from developing countries, and leads surgical and teaching missions abroad.

Dr. Lior Sasson, the organization's lead surgeon and head of the cardiothoracic surgery department at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, operates on the children on

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ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

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his own time. He helped perform the organization's first surgery 15 years ago with Cohen, who was then his mentor.

Just six years later Cohen, who had operated on some 600 children through Save a Child's Heart, died of high altitude sickness while climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, a country from which many of the treated children come.

This August, the organization will hold a fundraising climb in Cohen's memory at Kilimanjaro that it hopes will bring in \$1 million.

"These are children who would otherwise be doomed to die within a few years and suddenly are getting their lives back and their parents again live with hope," Sasson tells JTA in a sunny waiting room just after completing a surgery.

"And when it comes to the Palestinian kids, you see how Palestinian families go from seeing Israelis as sworn enemies to seeing how we all join forces to save these kids together. It's better than 1,000 diplomats. We are working with people. They get to know us, we get to know them."

In May, the organization was recommended for special consultative status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council. If granted, Save a Child's Heart will be able to participate in various U.N. forums, including the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Every week, new arrivals from around the world arrive at a large stucco house surrounded by palm trees at the end of a quiet, residential street in Holon -- their home during their time in the country.

On a recent morning, Khamis' group from Zanzibar arrives shortly after dawn. They sit clustered together, still bleary eyed from the long trip. Children under age 4 were accompanied by their mothers cloaked in bright African print scarves and dresses. These mothers also become caretakers to the older children, who because of space and financial constraints travel without a parent.

A child's surgery and post-operative care typically costs \$10,000, all of which is covered through donations to Save a Child's Heart.

"My baby needs surgery. She loses weight all the time. She needs to get better so she can play with the other children," says Mati Ali, 27, who had never been on an airplane and knew practically nothing about Israel before a doctor referred her to the program.

Fathma, her 3-year-old, is dressed in her best clothes -- a maroon dress sprinkled with pink flowers.

Soon the children are bundled into taxis en route to Wolfson Medical Center, where they will meet up with fellow new arrivals from Angola.



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

Sara Mucznik, 28, who immigrated to Israel from Portugal last year and now does marketing for Save a Child's Heart, helps translate for the Angolans.

"Their lives are about to be forever changed," she says, speaking at the bedside of an 11-year-old from Angola who is having blood drawn.

Many of the volunteers at the hospital and the house are young Jews from abroad.

Upstairs from the African patients, Palestinian patients are attending a weekly clinic. The long corridor is filled with mothers in floor-length black dresses and headscarves holding babies.

Akiva Tamir, the pediatric cardiologist who oversees the clinic, says the Palestinian patients are fortunate because their proximity to Israel means they will be treated at a younger age, before damage from either congenital or acquired heart disease has time to intensify.

Godwin Godfry, a 31-year-old general surgeon from Tanzania, is in the midst of six-year stint training in Israel. When he finishes, Godfry will go back to the city of Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria in northern Tanzania. He will be one of the only pediatric cardiac surgeons in the country.

"In our hospital alone, we have a waiting list of 300 children to be treated for heart

disease," he says, but no doctor is available to treat them.

The range of cardiac cases Godfry sees while helping treat children from the program makes his time in Israel that much more valuable, he says, because he can treat in a western setting patients with the illnesses usually found only in the developing world.

"Here you learn how things should be done," Godfry says.

At Wolfson's pediatric intensive care unit, most of the beds on a recent day are occupied by children recovering from surgery performed by Godwin's mentor, Sasson.

Smiling from a bed in the far corner is Zeresenay Gebru, 15, from Ethiopia. Earlier in the day, he had surgery to replace the battery in a pacemaker he received from Save a Child's Heart when he was 6.

"I would like to thank all the doctors and the volunteers," the teenager says, adding that he wants to be a cardiologist. "They gave me my heart back."



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



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ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4112497,00.html>

### Israelis help Kenya save lives

**African country's Health Ministry to set up network of clinics according to model adopted from Jerusalem's Terem emergency medical centers**

Ari Galahar

Published: 09.01.11, 09:21 / [Israel Activism](#)

The Kenyan Ministry of Health has decided to adopt the model of the Terem emergency medical centers in Jerusalem, and set up a similar chain of clinics in the country.

The ministry's director-general visited Israel recently, accompanied by members of her staff. The delegation signed an agreement with Terem for the establishment of independent emergency medical centers in Kenya.

The ministry will also purchase different technologies from the Israeli chain, which were developed by Assistant Medical Director Dr. Nahum Kovalski, including a software for transferring images and

diagnoses from the emergency centers to doctors and hospitals at a higher resolution.

According to initial estimates, the move will cost the Kenyans hundreds of thousands of dollars. At this stage it is unclear how many emergency medical centers they will want to establish.

Teams headed by Dr. Kovalski visited Kenya over the past year in order to assist the local health system with technological knowledge.

According to Kovalski, this important goal of advancing health services in Africa will help save many of the country's citizens who are currently lacking suitable treatment.



Assisting local health system with technological knowledge. Kenya (archives) Photo: AP

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# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



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### Upcoming Meetings in Israel

December 4 - 6, 2011

### 7th International Meeting Intensive Cardiac Care

Tel Aviv, Israel

October 30-November 1, 2011

#### Topics

#### Co-Chairmen

Joseph S. Alpert, USA

Alexander Battler, Israel

Yonathan Hasin, Israel

Zaza Iakobishvili, Israel, *Secretary*

Doron Zahger, Israel, *Scientific*

*Secretary*

Ofra Raanan, Israel, *Nursing*

*Coordinator*

- Next Generation DES
- Coronary Navigation and Guidance
- Innovation in Percutaneous Valvular Therapy
- Bifurcation Stenting
- Multidetector CT and Next Generation MR
- How to Succeed in Entrepreneurship in Medicine
- Device Based Heart Failure Interventions
- Structural Heart Disease: ASD/PFO/PDA
- Endovascular and Carotid Innovations
- Interventional Accessory Devices
- Acute MI
- CTO Club
- Innovation in Simulation
- Vulnerable Plaque Symposium
- Biotechnology and Cellular Engineering
- Structural and Functional Imaging of the Vulnerable Plaque
- Novel Stent Technologies

The Meeting will feature three parallel medical streams, with over 100 presentations, including: satellite symposia, keynote and plenary lectures, debates, clinical interactive case presentations and poster presentations over two days. In addition to the medical streams, there will be a parallel nursing stream. The program is diverse and includes content that will satisfy all participants interested in acute cardiac care.

<http://www.icimeeting.com>

<http://www.isas.co.il/cardiac-care2011/>

**Closing date for 200 word  
submissions – October 9th, 2011**



[ici.medicalfutures.co.uk](http://ici.medicalfutures.co.uk)

### ICI Meeting 2011 Innovations in Cardio- vascular Interventions



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7

FALL 2011 תשרי תשע"ב

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

The 11th International Dead Sea Symposium (IDSS) on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Device Therapy  
February 26-29, 2012

International Convention Center,  
Jerusalem, Israel

It is a real pleasure for me to invite you once again to the 11th International Dead Sea Symposium (IDSS) on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Device Therapy and its 20th Anniversary which will be held Jerusalem, February 26-29, 2012 at the International Convention Center.

20 years ago we started this quest called IDSS with the aim of creating a biannual meeting, point for all involved in the cardiac arrhythmias field worldwide... [Read more](#)

### Main Topics

Clinical & Basic EP	CHF
Arrhythmia Prevention	Cardiac Pacing
Sudden Cardiac Death	ICD

[www.idss-ep.com](http://www.idss-ep.com)

(See last page of this Newsletter for an exciting Fellows Case Competition to be presented at this meeting!)



FIHS is on the web at <http://friendsihs.org/index.html>.

FALL 2011 תשרי תשע"ב

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Israel Heart Society in Association with the Israel Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery

April 16-17, David  
Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

The conference will include plenary joint sessions of the Israel Heart Society with the **European Society of Cardiology** and the **American College of Cardiology**. These will include state-of-the-art lectures on the latest advances in cardiology including heart failure challenges in Europe, the implementation of the "Heart Team", novel valvular therapies, heart diseases in women, and novel anti-thrombotic therapies in acute coronary syndromes. We will also continue the tradition of a joint session with **AFICARDIO**, the French-Israeli Association of Cardiology.

These three major sessions, as well as the Keynote Neufeld Memorial lecture at the opening ceremony, will be conducted in **English**.

A detailed program including both invited and local speakers will be announced soon. We welcome you to submit your abstracts and to join us at this very special Conference. We hope very much that you will take the opportunity to participate in this very high level scientific meeting and look forward to welcoming you on a wonderful visit to Israel in April 2012.

**Abstracts submission deadline November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Invited guest lecturers



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



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**Samuel J. Asirvatham, MD, MBBS**  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, [USA](#)

**C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, F.A.C.C**  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA,  
[USA](#)

**Blasé A. Carabello, MD, FACC**  
St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX,  
[USA](#)

**Shaun G. Goodman, MD, MSc, FRCPC,**  
**FACC, FAHA, FESC**  
St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON, [Canada](#)

**Michel Komajda, MD, FESC**  
President of the European Society of Cardiology  
(ESC)  
Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, [France](#)

**Michael J. Mack, MD, FACC,**  
President of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Cardiovascular Research and Cardiovascular  
Medicine  
The Heart Hospital, Dallas, TX, [USA](#)

**Fausto J Pinto, MD, PhD, FESC, FACC,**  
**FSCAI, FASE**  
Vice-President, National Cardiac Societies &  
Affiliates, ESC  
Lisbon Cardiovascular Institute, Lisbon, Portugal

**Maurice E Sarano MD**  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, US

**Lars Wallentin, MD, PhD**  
Uppsala Clinical Research Center University  
Hospital, Upsala, [Sweden](#)

**William Wijns, MD, PhD, FESC, FAHA**  
Cardiovascular Center Aalst (OLV Hospital),  
Aalst, [Belgium](#)

<http://www.israelheart.com/en>



**FIHS Heart Beats**



**ForeWord Clarion Reviews**

**THRILLER**

**The Black Widows**

**Doug Zipes** iUniverse 978-1-9362-  
3647-3 Five Stars (out of Five)

In this tense, fast-moving thriller, murder victims are turning up with their chests slashed. NYPD Detective Zach Dayan, an ex-Israeli cop, needs plenty of wit to connect the seemingly unrelated cases from around the country. Working with his junior partner Harry Scarpia, he witnesses autopsies and queries a cardiologist friend for advice—while young Harry may succumb to the wiles of a sexy suspect who has a great body and a .45-caliber handgun she calls Boom Boom. Before getting into police work, Zach had spent two years as a medical student, which serves him well in this case. The first autopsy scene may remind mystery fans of Tess Gerritson's gasp-inducing cadaver cut-ups—this is meant as high praise. There is also a spectacular scene where an unknown assailant runs Zach's car off the road and sends him to the Emergency Room. Meanwhile, what are the killings about? All of the victims have something sought by a pair of apparently harmless Jewish women, Ruth and Sarah. Author Doug Zipes takes readers through a number of

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9

FALL 2011 תשרי תשע"ב

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



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sharp twists that come back to the Black Widows, a secret group of Arab women whose husbands have fallen in the service of jihad. Nothing will suit these women but utter, blind vengeance against the West, and the individual killings are but a prologue to a main event the world will never forget. Meanwhile, Zipes weaves in plenty of back-story without slowing the overall pace.

The only concern about *The Black Widows* is the sense of a world divided between the good guys of the West and the bad guys of Islam. The world doesn't need or benefit from such stark divisions. Fortunately, Zipes slightly softens that impression late in the book. Many of the chapters feature Zach Dayan's first-person point of view, and he comes across as a decent man whose ex-wife Miriam and children still love him. Other chapters show the shadowy Wahad, who assists the Black Widows in exacting their vengeance. In his path of discovery, Zach comes in for serious unpleasantness while tension escalates at a brisk pace that moves literally to a cliff's edge.

Zipes himself is a cardiologist and a *Saturday Evening Post* columnist. Readers will sense that he knows his way around morgues and ERs. *The Black Widows* equals the quality of traditionally published thrillers in every way and stands out as one of the best in a sea of thrillers.

Bob Sanchez



### Membership

This is also a reminder regarding membership dues for the Friends of the Israel Heart Society. The basic dues are **\$50**. You can register through our website <http://friendsihs.org/Register.html> or send a check directly to:

**Friends of the Israel Heart Society  
c/o Debbie Burg  
8626 Central Park  
Skokie, IL 60076**

Please include your email address to assure you do not miss an issue!

We are particularly grateful to those who can be sponsors at any one of the levels indicated below:

**\$250 Silver member**

**\$500 Gold member**

**\$1,000 Platinum member**

**\$5,000 President's club**

Your support enables us to continue growing our programs, including the ACC meeting, support for Israeli fellows to attend the AHA/ACC meetings, and to grow other programs.

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

For those who are interested in directed donations, we have the following opportunities:

\$500 Sponsor an issue of the FIHS newsletter

\$1000 Partial sponsorship of an Israeli fellow to attend the AHA meeting

\$1000 Partial sponsorship of an Israeli fellow to attend the ACC meeting

\$2500 Sponsorship of an Israeli fellow to attend the AHA meeting

\$2500 Sponsorship of an Israeli fellow to attend the ACC meeting.

We would like to thank our Platinum, Gold, and Silver Members for their past and future support!



### Featured Research:

#### **A Comparative Analysis of Major Clinical Outcomes Using Drug-Eluting Stents Versus Bare-Metal Stents in a Large Consecutive Patient Cohort**

Tamir Bental,\* MD, Abid Assali, MD, Hana Vaknin-Assa, MD, Eli I. Lev, MD, David Brosh, MD, Shmuel Fuchs, MD, Alexander Battler, MD, and Ran Kornowski, MD

**Objectives:** To ascertain the long-term safety, efficacy, and pattern of use of drug-eluting stents (DES) in routine clinical practice.

**Methods:** We analyzed a registry of 6,583 consecutive patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), of whom 2,633 were treated using DES (DES group) and 3,950 were treated using bare-metal stents (BMS group). Propensity score was used for stratified analysis of outcomes and for matching. Outcomes were total mortality, myocardial infarction (MI), repeat target vessel revascularization (TVR) rates, and risk-adjusted event-free survival.

**Results:** Follow-up time was 6 months to 5.18 years (mean: 3 years). Patients in the DES group were more likely to be diabetic and had use of longer or more stents, treatment of more lesions and of more proximal main vessels. After propensity score matching, the cumulative mortality was 12.85% in the DES group versus 14.14% in the BMS group (P = 0.001). Use of DES reduced the occurrence of MI (5.17% vs. 5.83%, P = 0.046), of clinically driven TVR (9.76% vs. 12.28%, P < 0.001) and of the composite endpoint of death/MI/TVR (23.38% vs. 26.07%; P < 0.001).

**Conclusions:** Our risk-adjusted event-free survival analysis indicates a prognostic benefit for DES utilization that sustains up to 5 years following PCI.

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS

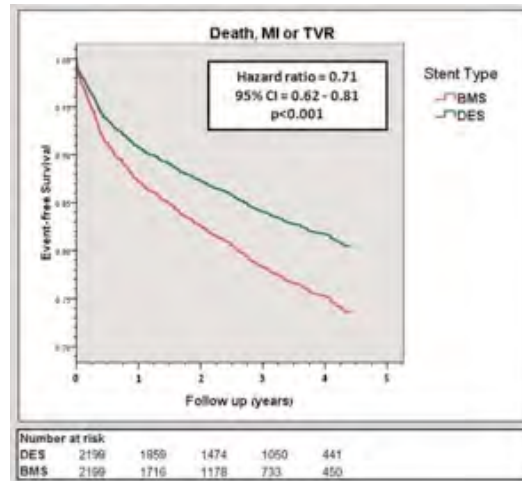
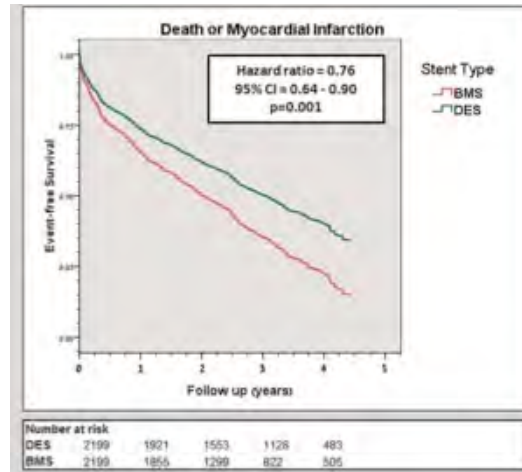
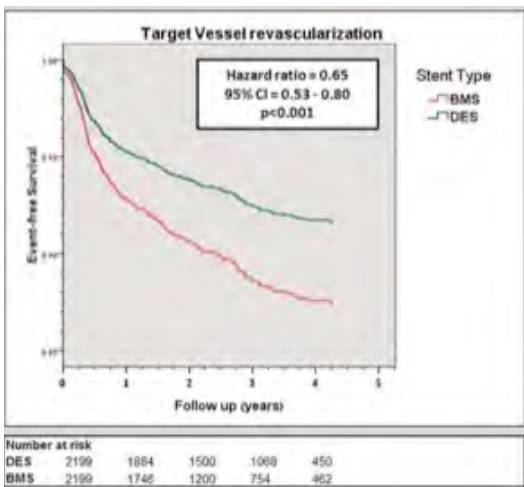
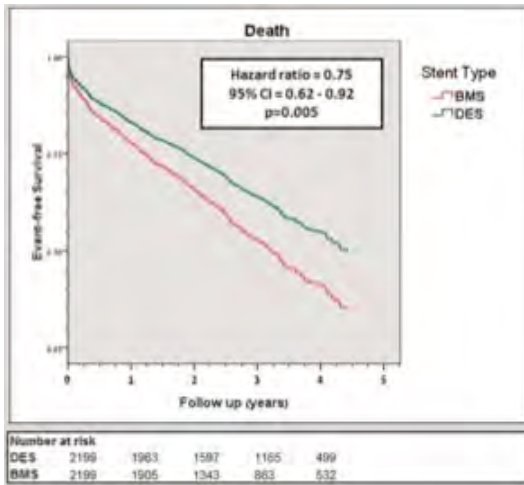


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ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



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Cardiology Department, Rabin Medical Center  
(Beilinson and Golda/Hasharon Hospitals), Petach-  
Tikva, and "Sackler" Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv  
University, Israel  
Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions  
76:374–380 (2010)



### Featured Cardiology Program

The Cardiology Department of Hillel  
Yaffe Medical Center, Hadera, Israel

In 1957, following the establishment of  
the State of Israel and the mass  
immigration of the initial years, several



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

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simple wooden shacks were erected on the coastal dunes near Hadera, and served as the governmental hospital for the region. It was named in honor of the pioneering physician - Dr. Hillel Yaffe (1891-1936). In the course of time, as the area developed and its population increased, the hospital also developed and expanded.

Hillel Yaffe is a Government Hospital located between Haifa and Tel Aviv along Israel's costal shore. It serves a population of approximately 400,000 inhabitants - from Zichron Ya'akov in the north to Netanya in the south and from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to Um el-Fahem and the "Green Line", the pre-1967 border, in the east. The patient population mirrors the diverse Israeli population. Our patients come from urban areas, rural settlements, and among them are veteran residents, new immigrants, Jews and Arabs. It is a moderate sized general hospital of 485 beds and is affiliated with the Bruce

Rappoport School of Medicine at the Technion in Haifa.

In 1981 Dr. Benjamin Peled and Dorit Dori, RN opened a 4 bed intensive coronary care unit, and headed the cardiology department until 2002. Currently the heart institute, headed by Prof. Avraham Shotan and head nurse Dorit Dori, consists of the following units and services: Intensive Care Unit, Invasive Cardiac Unit, Noninvasive Cardiology Unit, Clinical Research Unit, Electrophysiology Service, Heart Failure and Outpatient Clinics. A certified cardiologist Prof. Pierre Chouraqui heads the hospital's Nuclear Medicine department, and a certified pediatric cardiologist Dr. Eias Kassem is on the faculty of the pediatrics department. The staff of the heart institute consists of 13 physicians including 8 board certified cardiologists, 40 registered nurses and 10 technicians, secretaries and other academic staff.

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13

תשרי תשע"ב 2011 FALL

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



Dr. Simcha Meisel and Dorit Dori RN

The core of the department is the ICCU which has 7 intensive care beds and 3 intermediate beds. The ICCU is headed by Dr. Simcha Meisel and head nurse Dorit Dori.

In 2010 we admitted 1208 patients, of these 302 (25%) were acute MI patients and 115 (10%) patients with other acute coronary syndromes. The other patients were admitted for rhythm disturbances including device implantation and cardioversion, heart failure, valvular diseases and elective catheterization. Among our patients are very high-risk patients, including post-resuscitation patients many of whom undergo primary

PCI and hypothermia treatment, and end-stage severe heart failure patients. The CCU staff is one of the most experienced in our hospital. Almost all our nurses have graduated advanced intensive cardiac care courses and many have additional high academic education.

We have one catheterization suite in our hospital where both cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology activity, mainly device implantation, are performed.



Dr. Aharon Frimerman in Cath Lab

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14

FALL 2011 תשרי תשע"ב

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

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Dr. Aharon Frimerman heads our cardiac catheterization unit and its head nurse is Rinat Malka. In 2010 we performed 898 diagnostic catheterizations, 559 of these patients underwent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). An additional 97 patients were referred to cardiac surgery. Our patients that undergo cardiac catheterization represent a high-risk population as (over 70% need additional intervention). In addition to Dr. Frimerman, whose main activity is cardiac catheterization, we have two experienced interventional cardiologists – Dr. Meisel and Dr. Shochat. Our interventional team was among the first in Israel to adopt the radial approach, and currently we use it in about 90% of our catheterizations including primary PCI.



Dr. Mark Kazatsker

Dr. Mark Kazatsker heads our electrophysiologic service. In 2010 he implanted 174 devices (12 ICDs, 10 CRTs and 34 CRTDs). When inserting CRT/CRTD Dr. Vladimir Khalameizer, the head of EPS unit in Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, joins our team to implant the device. Dr. Kazatsker also runs a large outpatient clinic and a busy consultation activity, especially prior to and following surgery among patients who carry a cardiac device. Recently acting in cooperation with Dr. Morris Topaz, the head of our plastic surgery unit, we introduced a unique approach to treat an infection in the device pocket. It includes surgical debridement, local

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

administration of high dose antibiotics and 10-14 days of constant vacuum suction. This is probably the first experience in the world in using this approach. We have treated over 20 episodes (few cases repeatedly) with 90% avoidance of device extraction.



Dr. David Blondheim, Mina and Anat – echo technicians

Dr. David Blondheim heads the non-invasive unit. Dr. Aya Asif – the deputy head of the heart institute, besides her administrative responsibilities, performs concomitantly with him this unit activity. In 2010 we performed 3,021 transthoracic echocardiograms, 346 transesophageal echocardiograms, 248 stress/dobutamine and 214 ergometry

tests. We have just acquired a 3-dimensional echo machine, and are a beta site for another echo company involved in developing new technologies in echocardiography. Thus, the unit provides comprehensive echocardiographic analyses for complex situations.



Dr. Aya Asif

Dr. Michael Shochat and Ilana Aloni RN head our research unit. It was opened about seven years ago, and currently is one of the largest in the country. We are involved in numerous industry funded clinical trials with reputation we have a high rate of recruitment and a high quality execution of the trials. Among the current studies: ACS – ATLAS II,



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



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## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

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SOLID, IMPROVE IT, M&M; AF –  
ARISTOTEL, ENGAGE, RELY-ABLE,  
HF – ASTRONAUT, RED-HF; PE &  
DVT – AMPLIFY, AMPLIFY-EXT.

In addition we conduct our own  
investigator-initiated trials (see details  
below).

Dr. Michael Shochat heads our heart  
failure clinic. These are mainly NYHA  
class III-IV patients, implementing  
modern diagnostic modalities like bio-  
impedance and BNP, and intermittent  
intravenous therapies in the general day  
care department. Recently we have  
focused also on patients with pulmonary  
hypertension patients, performing right  
heart catheterization and utilizing  
modern therapies.

### Academic activity

We take pride that our staff includes a  
clinical associate professor, a senior  
lecturer, and 3 lecturers on the Faculty of  
Medical School of the Technion, of  
whom 3 members are in the process of  
upgrading (associate professor and 2  
senior lecturers)

Our department also takes an active part  
in the education of medical students,  
nursing staff, medical residents and  
cardiology fellows, continued medical  
education of cardiologists, internal  
medicine and general practitioners.

Our staff members have taken an active  
role and served in the leadership of  
several of the national working groups of  
the Israeli Society of Cardiology

### Research

While participating in industry-funded  
studies we have developed also our own  
initiated research.

**Dr. Simcha Meisel** – The impact of  
BNP measurement on admission,  
hospital course and management and  
long-term outcome.

Measuring collateral flow in ACS  
patients and total coronary occlusion –  
pathophysiology, measurement and  
prognostic value, as well as introducing  
a new acute collateral flow index.

Transient ST elevation myocardial  
infarction.

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Currently with his leadership we are preparing a large retrospective and prospective database of all the ACS patients who were hospitalized in our CCU. Several medical students have already joined the project for their MD thesis.

**Dr. Aharon Frimerman** – The study of coronary slow flow, especially in patients with non-significant or without angiographic coronary artery disease – pathophysiology, measurement, clinical importance and intervention.

Interventions to reduce ischemic damage.

High resolution ECG in ACS – defining patterns and predicting outcome- A new modality of coronary arteries and lesions dimensions measurement, on line in real time, angiography stabilization and enhancement for better balloon and stent positioning and deployment. And co-registration of angiography, IVUS and OCT.

**Dr. Michael Shochat** – Developing a novel bio-impedance system. Its

implication in early detection of heart failure development during acute MI and subsequently early intervention and prevention of clinical overt HF.

Additionally utilizing bio-impedance with and without BNP in clinical evaluation and management of ambulatory. Investing over 2 decades in this project has resulted in important clinical results, numerous presentations and abstracts and several published articles.

**Dr. David Blondheim** – Participating in the development of echocardiographic strain measurements at GE R&D center in Israel and its utilization at our institute.

Measurement and function of the atria in various cardiac conditions.

Echocardiographic measurements in normal pregnancy and evaluation of dyspnea in pregnancy – utilizing novel modalities.

The impact of medications and timing of administration on echocardiographic measurements.

FIHS is on the web at <http://friendsihs.org/index.html>.

18

תשרי תשע"ב 2011 FALL

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



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Interobserver variation of evaluation of various clinical cases – a national multicenter study.

Validation of an automatic module for assessment of wall motion abnormalities based on longitudinal strain.

**Dr. Mark Kazatsker** – The recently created large clinical database of our busy device clinic will serve as a source for several publications and medical students' MD theses.

The above-mentioned novel approach towards infected device.

Extraction of old electrodes.

**Prof. Avraham Shotan** – Active participation in national surveys. Co-organizer ) with Prof. Moshe Garty) and member of the coordinating team of HFSIS (HF survey in hospitalized patients in Israel). ACSIS (ACS survey in Israel) – several publications.

Cardiac problems in pregnancy.

Organizer with Prof. Uri Elkayam (chairman) and co-chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> international meeting in cardiac

problems in pregnancy (CPP) 2010 –

Valencia, Spain. Co-chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> international meeting CPP 2012 – 5/2012, Berlin, Germany.

The Israeli National Coordinator for EuroHeart Survey – Registry on Heart Failure and Registry on Pregnancy and Heart Disease.



Prof. Avraham Shotan



### “Shocking” Case Report

This is a case report from the featured Program of the Quarter. We warn you, don't try this at home!

#### **Saved by the Shock: A Very Unusual Application of a Defibrillator**

Mark Kazatsker, and Simcha R. Meisel  
*J. Am. Coll. Cardiol.* 2011;57;1709

FIHS is on the web at <http://friendsihs.org/index.html>.

19

FALL 2011 תשרי תשע"ב

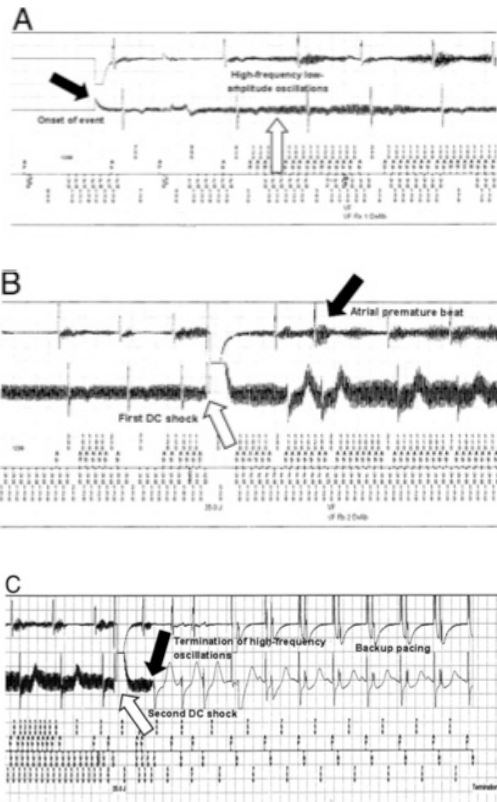
# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



fibrillation as expected, and did not perturb appropriate myocardial depolarization. The device discharged twice (B, C) after detection of high-frequency vibrations, with their disappearance shortly after the final shock. The patient resumed daily activities after this “shocking” experience, grateful to the device for an “off-label” life-saving shock delivery.



### Highlighting Joint Programs

This is a new section where we will highlight ongoing Interchange Programs taking place at American sites. Thanks to Board member Richard Popp for directing this program and allowing us to publicize it:

#### **Feldman Family Foundation Visiting Professors Program**

#### **Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California, USA**

Program Director: Richard L. Popp,  
M.D.

Purpose: The aim of the professorship is to allow senior Israeli physicians, in the mid-portion of their careers, to have sufficient time away from clinical duties to update their general skills and/or to acquire specialized

**A**n 83-year-old man with a cardioverter-defibrillator took a shower and for support grabbed a metal water pipe accidentally connected to a live 240 V feed. With the passage of electricity, he developed severe muscle twitching with tightening of his grip on the pipe. The defibrillator discharged twice, resulting in a jolt, thrusting him out of the shower, with disengagement from the electrified pipe. Interrogation of the device revealed normal electrical activity of the heart during the event, with ventricular and atrial premature beats and simultaneous high-frequency, low-amplitude waves due to the muscle fasciculations (A). The near-electrocution did not induce ventricular

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20



# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל  
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



## OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

knowledge that they will transmit to their colleagues and students on their return to Israel. Physicians from any field may apply. Each visiting professor will have a program tailored to his or her needs by the Program Director and a collaborating Stanford Faculty sponsor, who will ensure the quality of the visiting professor's day-to-day activities. The experience of living in the United States for 6 months is an additional aspect of the program.

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I would also encourage Israeli programs to let our membership know about happenings and offers for training in Israel:

### Opportunity – Meir Hospital

The opportunity to do a 3-year fellowship in Cardiology is available at an Israeli Hospital.

Program includes active CCU, Interventional Cardiology, Echocardiography, Nuclear Cardiology and an active program in Preventive Cardiology.

Suitable for Trainees with Internal Medicine background.

If interested e-mail:  
morris.mosseri@clalit.org.il

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תשרי תשע"ב 2011 FALL

That's it for this issue of the newsletter of the Friends of Israel Heart Society. Special thanks as always to Mort Lebowitz MD and Batia Ziv for being our "eyes and ears on the ground" in Israel. Special thanks in America to Debbie Burg, our entire FIHS Staff!

Have any ideas to make this a better tool for our Society? Share them with us!

Tell your friends that we want them to join our mission to be a bridge between Israeli Cardiology and the world. If you have any questions, comment, criticisms (my favorites!) please email me at [jackstroh@usa.net](mailto:jackstroh@usa.net). Thank you for reading, and looking forward to hearing from you! We at FIHS wish you all a Happy and Healthy New 5772!

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**Please read the following  
description on the next page  
of the Fellow's Case  
Competition, with  
presentations to take place at  
the 11<sup>th</sup> International Dead  
Sea Symposium on Cardiac  
Arrhythmias and Device  
Therapy- Good luck to all  
Fellows!**



Conference website: <http://www.idss-ep.com/>

**11<sup>th</sup> International Dead Sea Symposium (IDSS) on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Device Therapy**  
February 26 to 29, 2012 Jerusalem, Israel

## FELLOW'S CASE COMPETITION

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and Scientific Board for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Dead Sea Symposium, we invite fellows to submit a case for the 2012 Fellow's Case Competition. The case should involve either a challenging diagnostic or therapeutic issue or a novel diagnostic or therapeutic approach related to pacemakers, ICDs, or electrophysiology. Cases will be selected for presentation to a panel of experts at the conference. The fellows selected to present the cases will be awarded a \$2000 educational grant at the meeting to be used for conference travel and expenses.

### *Who is eligible?*

Fellows in Good Standing with an ACGME-approved Cardiology or EP program.

### *Instructions for case report:*

The case report should have a title page with the title of the case report, the submitter's name, the submitter's institution name, contact address, program office phone number, submitter's phone number (please provide two) and the submitter's email address. The text of the case report should be no more than two pages, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Times or Helvetica 12-point font may be used. The report should begin with the case description and should include a brief discussion of the challenging or novel aspect of the case. A maximum of three references may be cited (but are not necessary). Up to two figures may be included. The figure legends should accompany the figure(s).

### *What to submit:*

Please submit one copy of

1. The case report
2. Your CV
3. Letter from your program director affirming your status as a fellow in Good Standing in an ACGME-approved Cardiology or EP program.

### *Who to submit to:*

Please submit one copy electronically (.doc) to Jeffrey Goldberger, MD/Valaree Williams Walker at [valaree@northwestern.edu](mailto:valaree@northwestern.edu) and [j-goldberger@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-goldberger@northwestern.edu)

**Subject Line:** 2012 Fellow's Case Conference

### *Address correspondence to:*

Jeffrey Goldberger, MD (Fellow's Case Competition)  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
251 E Huron St  
Feinberg 8-503  
Chicago IL 60611

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

Please send an email with your intent to submit a case by November 1, 2011. ALL materials must be received by November 16, 2011; 5:00pm (central time). Selected fellows will be notified by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**This program was made possible through unrestricted educational grants from St. Jude Medical and the Friends of the Israel Heart Society.**

The IDSS is supported by Biotronik, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and St. Jude Medical.