

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



Editor's Note: Welcome to the Fall 2016 FIHS Newsletter. We wish all of our readers and members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

This issue will include its usual features- a message from our President, Jeff Goldberger, announcements of Cardiology Meetings, and recently published research from Israel.

In addition, we are excited to announce our first Israel Cardiology Mission to coincide with the 64th Annual International Conference of the Israel Heart Society 2017 in Tel Aviv (see announcement for the Mission at the end of this newsletter).



Medical Mission 2017!

The Friends of the Israel Heart Society is organizing a Medical Mission to Israel April 2017, coinciding with the 64th Annual Conference of the Israel Heart Society in association with the Israel Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery, under the auspices of the Israel Cardiology Association.

Join cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from all over the world on a unique mission to Israel where you will meet top Israeli cardiologists, visit the Cardiac facilities we have been featuring in our Newsletter for years, and hear from members of the Israel Heart Society about the challenges and unique advantages of practicing cardiology in the Holy Land.

Participants will be staying at luxury hotels and enjoying the local cuisine at top-flight restaurants. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity to mingle with your Israeli peers and tour the Holy Land.

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For more information, turn to the last page of this Newsletter!

Please note- description of new technology in our Newsletter does not constitute an endorsement. We just want to give our readership a sense of the vast scope of Israeli ingenuity in the fields of Cardiology.

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 from around the world who 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 email is jackstroh@usa.net) and feel free to forward this Newsletter.



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Message from the President

We extend to all the Friends of the Israel Heart Society our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

The Friends of the Israel Heart Society was founded just over ten years ago by Dr. Douglas Zipes. In his initial communication about this new organization, Dr. Zipes noted "The main goals of this new association are to encourage international cardiologists and scientists to come to meetings in Israel, to encourage and support invited outstanding speakers to participate in educational programs in Israel, to encourage and support fellows from Israel to train abroad (and in the future perhaps international fellows to train in Israel), to encourage companies to perform clinical studies in Israel, and to support Israel in international associations and societies."

The Friends of the Israel Heart Society has been fortunate to support many of these goals over the years. This year, we provided two travel awards for Israeli cardiology fellows to attend the American College of Cardiology meeting. We supported the Fellow's Case Competition for the 2016 International Dead Sea Symposium in which five fellows from the US were awarded travel grants to attend the meeting and present their challenging case – for most, their first trip to Israel. We recall the various responses over the past years to attacks on the Israeli academic community and our response to the inappropriate use of the medical literature to attack Israel published in the Lancet in 2014. It is remarkable that the follow-up to this last event was a first ever visit by Dr. Horton to Israel which was followed by another collaborative visit. The value of our support to our Israeli colleagues is palpable and is greatly appreciated.

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What's next? We have the opportunity to expand upon the initial goals set for our organization. While there has been a healthy presence of US faculty at the gamut of Israeli cardiology meetings, we are for the first time putting together a US mission for cardiologists to attend the Israel Heart Society meeting in April 2017 (see announcement in this issue). I have had the pleasure of attending these meetings on several occasions. They are high quality meetings in which there is ample opportunity to interact directly with the world's leaders in cardiology. This is a perfect opportunity to combine a great educational experience with a spiritual visit and vacation in Israel. I encourage you to help us make this first mission a successful one by joining us this year!

After discussions with the Israel Heart Society leadership, it has become clear that an important avenue of support, and one of our original missions,

is to help guarantee the pipeline of fellowship training that Israeli cardiologists obtain here. This space is too small to describe all of the mutual benefits that arise from this interaction, but we can all easily recall many mainstream cardiac technologies whose origin is from Israel. The high level of cardiology expertise coupled with the culture of innovation in Israel drives this development. We can help by fueling the training of the next generation of cardiologists! We will be working with the Israel Heart Society leadership and local chapters to help foster funding programs for these fellowships. Please contact me if you are interested in spearheading this in your area.

We are now entering our eighth year of the newsletter. Special thanks to Jack Stroh for his continued energy and enthusiasm for leading the newsletter and kudos to all the contributors

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WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP to reach the many cardiologists or other cardiac-related specialists who are still unaware of the Friends of the Israel Heart Society and would be interested in our activities! 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.

It is also a good time to check if you have renewed your membership for 2016 – we would be delighted if you would consider a sponsorship level of support. We appreciate, in particular, those of you who have joined at one of the sponsorship levels. All the information is available on our website. Annual membership can be paid through the FIHS website at:

<http://www.friendsihs.org/index.html>.

Finally, I want to thank all of our members who have donated their time and effort for the

benefit of the Israel Heart Society. Please remember that our members are encouraged to send in news – personal and/or professional – to include in our **FIHS Heart Beats** section.

Thank you for your continued support!
Once again, best wishes for a happy and healthy new year,

Jeff Goldberger, M.D
President, Friends of the Israel Heart Society



Meetings

International Conference for Innovations in

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Cardiovascular Systems- 2016

December 4-6, 2016

Tel Aviv, Israel

ICI Meeting 2016- the premier International Conference for Innovations in Cardiovascular Systems (heart, brain, and peripheral vessels) and High- Tech Life Science Industry.

The ICI Meeting is an acclaimed forum which aims to explore, fuel, spark and be involved in the innovations that will shape the future of our cardiovascular systems and beyond. Over the last 2 decades, Israel has become a medical "start up nation." ICI's dynamic environment which allows rich exchanges on innovations has contributed to this process by facilitating global interaction between physicians, entrepreneurs, academia and industry and by building bridges leading to innovation.

The route of the ICI Meeting takes you through the ICI Academy of Innovation Day- a full day pre-conference educational workshop

satellite, which trains participants in the entire medical innovation process. We then continue to a 2 day conference focusing on advanced technologies to save hearts and lives.

The popular "Technology Parade" offers biomedical technology start-ups from around the world the opportunity to present their latest developments. The unique "Wall-to-Wall – East Meets West" sessions concentrate on China-Israeli cooperation in the field.
Meeting Directors- Rafi Beyar and Chaim Lotan

<http://2016.icimeeting.com/>

10th International Conference on Acute Cardiac Care

January 15-17, 2017

**David Intercontinental Hotel
Tel Aviv, Israel**

The 10th International Conference on Acute Cardiac Care will be held in Tel Aviv on January 15-17, 2017.

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The Cardiology Conference 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. The Cardiology Conference will be held under the auspices of the Israel Heart Society (IHS), and in collaboration with the ESC Acute Cardiovascular Care Association, the ERC European Resuscitation Council, the Israel Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care of the IHS, the Israeli Association for the Advancement of Cardiac and Intensive Care Nursing, the Israel Society of Internal Medicine and the Israel Society of Anesthesiologists.

Chairmen:
Joseph S. Alpert
Yonathan Hasin
Doron Zahger

<https://www.isas.co.il/cardiac-care2017/>

**The 64th Annual
Conference of the Israel
Heart Society in
association with the Israel
Society of Cardiothoracic
Surgery under the
auspices of the Israel
Cardiology Association**

April 25-26, 2017

In conjunction with our first
Medical Mission (see the end of
this newsletter for details on
how to attend)

David Intercontinental
Convention Center, Tel Aviv

<http://2017.en.israelheart.com/>



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***** Research-

Heart Failure After Myocardial Infarction Is Associated With Increased Risk of Cancer

JAmCollCardiol2016;68:265–71

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<http://content.onlinejacc.org/article.aspx?articleid=2532919>

BACKGROUND Heart failure (HF) is associated with excess morbidity and mortality for which noncardiac causes are increasingly recognized. The authors previously described an increased risk of cancer among HF patients compared with community controls.

OBJECTIVES This study examined whether HF was associated with an increased risk of subsequent cancer among a homogenous population of first myocardial infarction (MI) survivors.

METHODS A prospective cohort study was conducted among Olmsted County, Minnesota, residents with incident MI from 2002 to 2010. Patients with prior cancer or HF diagnoses were excluded.

RESULTS A total of 1,081 participants (mean age 64 ± 15 years; 60% male) were followed for 5,327 person-years (mean 4.9 ± 3.0 years). A total of 228 patients developed HF, and 98 patients developed cancer (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer). Incidence density rates for cancer diagnosis (per 1,000 person-years) were 33.7 for patients with HF and 15.6 for patients without HF (p 1/4 0.002). The hazard ratio (HR) for cancer associated with HF was 2.16 (95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.39 to 3.35); adjusted for age, sex, and Charlson comorbidity index; HR: 1.71 (95% CI: 1.07 to 2.73). The HRs for mortality associated with cancer were 4.90 (95% CI: 3.10 to 7.74) for HF-free and 3.91 (95% CI: 1.88 to 8.12) for HF patients (p for interaction 1/4 0.76).

CONCLUSIONS Patients who develop HF after MI have an increased risk of cancer. This finding extends our previous report of an elevated cancer risk after HF compared with controls,

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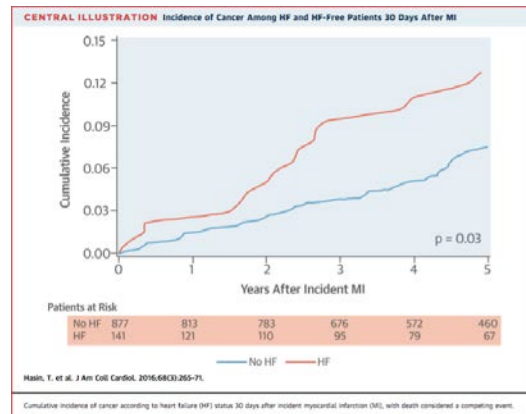
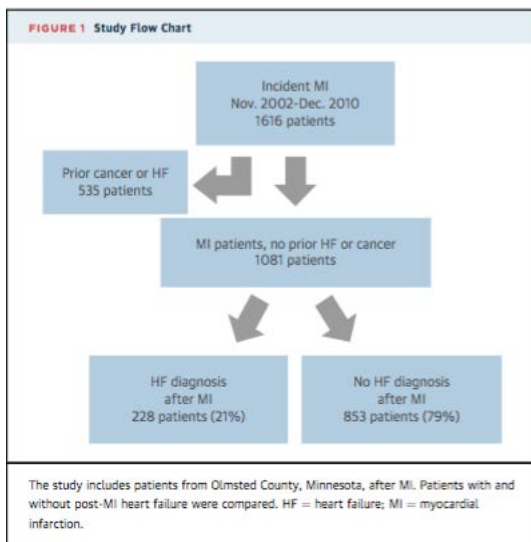


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and calls for a better understanding of shared risk factors and underlying mechanisms.



Israel Cardiology News

Multi-Racial Complex Ablation at the Baruch Padeh Medical Center, Tiberias, Israel



TABLE 3 Type of Cancer by HF Status During Follow-Up

| | Without HF (n = 70) | With HF (n = 28) |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Respiratory | 12 (17.1) | 8 (28.6) |
| Digestive | 10 (14.3) | 8 (28.6) |
| Male reproductive | 15 (21.4) | 1 (3.6) |
| Skin | 8 (11.4) | 2 (7.1) |
| Other | 8 (11.4) | 2 (7.1) |
| Breast | 8 (11.4) | 1 (3.6) |
| Hematologic | 5 (7.1) | 4 (14.3) |
| Urinary | 4 (5.7) | 1 (3.6) |
| Female reproductive | 0 (0.0) | 1 (3.6) |

Values are n (%).
HF = heart failure.

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Dr. Suissa (right) and Dr. Steiner, Baruch Padeh Medical Center, Tiberias, Israel.

The Division of Cardiovascular Medicine Performs a complex ablation procedure at -80 to cure an arrhythmia of an 18 year old boy

Muhamad of a village in the Galilee was 18 years old recently. Despite his young age, during the course of the last six months he had trouble even performing routine activities. "I felt my heart beating very fast and that I was about to pass out. Even climbing stairs became an issue during these attacks."

After one such attack, Muhamad was examined in the Emergency Department of the Baruch Padeh Medical Center by Dr. Hillel Steiner, the director of the Arrhythmia Unit in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine who found that the boy had an "electrical short circuit" of the heart with an abnormal second connection between the atria at the top of the heart with the ventricle at the bottom. This creates an endless loop which can cause the heart to beat at very fast rates. We performed a first study which discovered that this second pathway was dangerously close to the normal electrical system of the heart. We were concerned that treatment with conventional energy sources would also damage the normal fibers and would end with a young boy needing a pacemaker for the rest of his life. We then decided that we would do this procedure using the cryo (freezing) technique.

On Tuesday, 19.1.2016 Dr Steiner and Dr Moshe Swissa of the Kaplan Medical Center performed this unique procedure. They introduced a catheter whose tip was initially brought down to -30 degrees. "We then had one minute to see if the pathway is eliminated without hurting the conduction system of the heart. During this minute, we can still rewarm without permanent damage being done. After careful mapping, we found the correct point, and after one minute, we brought the temperature of the catheter down to -80 degrees for four minutes in order to freeze the second pathway. During this time we tensely monitored his ECG to see that his heart continued to beat. After four minutes we saw that we had succeeded with his pulse remaining normal while being cured of any arrhythmias. One day after the procedure, Muhamad was feeling good and went home, now without any restrictions on playing sports or at his job, and without having to take any further medications.

This might look like a routine ablation procedure, but nothing in the Middle East is routine!! The patient is Muslim, Nurse Daud Latif is Druse, the technician Khalid Taha is Muslim, and the physicians (Drs. Steiner and Swissa) are Jewish.

<http://www.maariv.co.il/news/israel/Article-524171>



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Canadian Med Students Join Forces with Israeli Humanitarian NGO 'Save a Child's Heart'

<http://www.thetower.org/3436-canadian-med-students-join-forces-with-israeli-humanitarian-ngo-save-a-childs-heart/>



Ontario Health Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins had an exciting announcement as he took the podium at a Canadian Embassy-sponsored networking event in Tel Aviv in mid-May. He told the 200-plus guests about two medical miracles he'd just observed in Israel: Save a Child's Heart Foundation (SACH) and the PillCam.

While many in the crowd of Canadian and Israeli government, business, academic, and research representatives already knew about Given Imaging's camera-in-a-pill alternative to colonoscopy, few knew that a new partnership between the Ontario government and SACH had been announced hours before the soirée.

Hoskins had come to the Tel Aviv Port gathering from SACH's home base, the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, where the international humanitarian organization carries out its mission to provide quality cardiac care to children from developing countries.

The joint venture will put an emphasis on global health and global surgery integration by placing Ontario medical students or postgraduate

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trainees in cardiology, neonatal ICU and heart surgery as clinical interns at Wolfson.

The Canadians will learn, observe and participate in SACH's care of children from many disadvantaged countries.

Approximately half of the children treated by SACH are from the Middle East, including the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Iraq and Jordan. More than 30 percent are from African countries and the rest are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas.



Hoskins tells ISRAEL21c that the program is meant to start

immediately for second-year medical students and residents. He says a number of Ontario medical schools are interested in the joint venture.

At Wolfson, he met hospital director Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich and SACH leading physicians Dr. Lior Sasson, Dr. Sion Hourri, Dr. Akiva Tamir and Dr. Hagi Dekel. SACH Canada representative Jessi Birenbaum and SACH executive director in Israel Simon Fisher also were there.

SACH – which is also a registered Canadian charity — deals with a unique case mix of congenital heart disease, often in advanced stages, and rheumatic heart disease that is rarely seen today in developed countries.

Many of the patients from Africa and Asia also suffer from parasites, malaria or

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tuberculosis and need concurrent treatment at the Israeli hospital.

“The Ontario students and trainees will see kids with cardiac problems that they wouldn’t see in Canada. They’ll be exposed to heart diseases and health problems they wouldn’t otherwise see,” Hoskins tells ISRAEL21c.

But exposure to unusual medical cases is only one of the reasons Ontario’s Health Ministry is keen on the partnership.

Hoskins stresses the value of the opportunity for Ontario medical students and postgrad trainees to be part of a global humanitarian effort that treats kids of any race, religion or gender, despite distance or regional tensions; to meet the children, their parent or nurse-caregiver; and to learn of the

social, educational and economic hardships they face at home.

“Save a Child’s Heart is an example of the generous contributions that Canadians and Israelis can make when we work as partners. I am proud of the work we are doing together and look forward to continuing to build on this important partnership,” said Hoskins, a medical doctor and cofounder of the War Child Canada, charity that helps thousands of children in conflict zones.

He says one of the highlights of his visit at Wolfson was meeting an Ethiopian surgeon and a Gazan doctor. They are being trained by SACH medical teams so that they can establish pediatric cardiac clinics in their communities.

Hoskins tells ISRAEL21c that seeing Gazan pediatric patients

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in an Israeli hospital was an even more powerful message for him as it shows how Israeli doctors truly uphold the Hippocratic Oath to treat the ill with warmth, sympathy and understanding.

“It’s not just exposure to illnesses you can’t see in Canada but the whole package. Being exposed to the Israeli healthcare system where every person’s life has value and they put that into practice here,” says Hoskins.

“And SACH is a pretty amazing program. You can tell how committed the doctors are.”

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Afghan baby’s heart surgery story captures hearts worldwide

Holon-based Save a Child’s Heart nonprofit got help from

goodhearted strangers in arranging the complicated journey to Israel for a complex surgery.

By Abigail Klein Leichman
August 16, 2016

<http://www.israel21c.org/afghan-babys-heart-surgery-story-captures-hearts-worldwide/>



California Rotary Club member Fary Moini, formerly a cardiology nurse from Iran, volunteered to care for Yehia. Photo courtesy of SACH

Baby Yehia has enormous chocolate-brown eyes. His family, Afghani refugees living in Pakistan, nicknamed their huggable little boy “Yaya.”

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They almost lost Yaya because he was born with multiple severe heart defects that doctors in India and Pakistan could not repair – or at least not for a price the family could afford.

Yaya is now a 16-month-old walking miracle. Pediatric cardiologists from Israel's Save a Child's Heart nonprofit organization, based at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, performed a complex eight-hour operation, paid for by donors, on July 31.

Yaya and his father are staying in SACH housing as he heals, and they should be able to return home in two or three weeks to meet Yaya's newest sibling, born just before the surgery.

Since 1995, SACH doctors have repaired the hearts of more than 4,000 children from 51 countries, at no charge. About half these children

are Palestinian Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza. Others, like Yaya, live in countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, including Iraq and Syria. No children from Afghanistan had been treated by SACH previously.

Arranging to bring sick kids from hostile countries is complicated. In Yaya's case, the process involved determined, goodhearted people in several parts of the world.

Cutting through fears and red tape

The wheels were set in motion last April, when an English-speaking relative of the family in Afghanistan reached out to his Facebook friend Anna Mussman of Haifa.

Mussman is a retired US State Department employee who worked in Afghanistan administering

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educational and cultural programs. In the 1970s she lived in Haifa, where she returned after her retirement, and taught high school English. One of her students was Simon Fisher, now executive director of SACH.

“I realize helping a child from a country with which Israel has no diplomatic relations is not easy, but perhaps possible,” she emailed Fisher.

Fisher asked Mussman to get hold of a medical report for the SACH team to review. The Israeli doctors felt that despite the risk, Yaya could indeed benefit from surgery.

“I got back to Anna and informed her that we were willing to accept him,” Fisher tells ISRAEL21c. “But the father was very concerned because hospitals in Pakistan and India had said it was an extremely high-risk surgery. He was petrified for the life

of his son and also of coming to Israel.”

Mussman appealed to Fary Moini, a member of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club in California. Formerly a cardiac nurse in Iran, Moini is involved in relief projects in Afghanistan including, most recently, the training of doctors to use Israeli device **MobileODT** to screen women for cervical cancer.

“Anna called me and said she needed me to convince the parents to send the child to Israel,” says Moini, who is not Jewish. “I found some friends to talk to the parents and that’s how the communication between me and Anna and a doctor in Afghanistan started.”

The family agreed, and returned to Afghanistan to take care of paperwork, medical tests and myriad other bureaucratic details on their

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side, with assistance of the Turkish Embassy in Kabul. SACH, a non-governmental organization, arranged the rest with help from the Israeli government.

“It took a joint effort among our Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry and Ministry of Defense because of obvious security issues involved in bringing a child from a country that doesn’t have diplomatic relations with Israel,” says Fisher.



Fary Moini accompanied Yaya throughout his journey and his surgery. “I’m just in

love with this child,” she says. Photo courtesy of SACH

Coming together to do good

Another roadblock came up: Yaya’s mother was pregnant and therefore couldn’t accompany her son. The father was willing, but needed a woman to help him with childcare. However, due to Afghan restrictions on unmarried males and females traveling together, nobody could be found.

“So I told Anna to put my name down. I was ready to go to Kabul and pick up the child and bring him to Israel,” Moini tells ISRAEL21c from Holon, where she continues caring for Yaya. Ironically, Moini had never changed a diaper before, but she learned fast.

After a long and complicated journey from San Diego, she arrived in Istanbul just ahead of Yaya and his

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dad – the morning after the military coup – and together they continued to Israel, where Mussman greeted them.

“I met them at the airport because I was very nervous about their arrival,” she tells ISRAEL21c. “We didn’t know if they would get out.”

Fisher found a Pashto-speaking Israeli – through a former army buddy of his – to communicate with Yaya’s father. The cousin in Afghanistan located an Israeli who speaks Urdu, and the two men volunteered to come to the hospital and translate.

“This is a story about people from all over the place, and from different walks of life, who came together to do good,” Fisher says. “The father found that the people here were supportive and warm, and you can see he is much more relaxed now.”

The SACH staff continuously trains cardiology teams from other countries and from Palestinian Authority territories – more than 100 people who are now saving children in their own countries. One such trainee, Ethiopian surgeon Yayehyirad Mekonnen, made the first incision in Yaya’s little chest.

The surgery was a success. “He’s doing fantastic,” says Moini. “He’s running around and eating. I’m constantly trying to put weight on him so we can send him home soon.”

She discovered that she and Yaya share a birthday, April 28.

“I’m just in love with this child; he’s so vibrant and smiley. God bless Save a Child’s Heart – if they didn’t accept Yaya, he would have died.

This medical team at Wolfson is incredible, everyone from the chief

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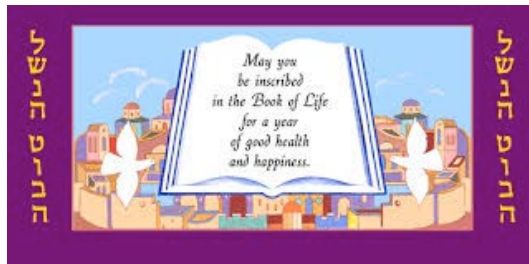
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surgeon, Dr. [Lior] Sasson, to the staff and volunteers.”

SACH is supported by agencies, charities and individuals in Israel and across the world, including the European Union’s Partnership for Peace Program, USAID, and the German foundation Ein Herz fur Kinder.



I would also encourage Israeli programs to let our membership know about happenings and offers for training in Israel: Please email these to me at jackstroh@usa.net.



FIHS Heart Beats 

Are you a member of FIHS and have major news you would like to

share with our readers? Have you published a book or been honored by your Society? Share it with us all! Please email these to me at jackstroh@usa.net.



That’s it for this issue of the newsletter of the Friends of Israel Heart Society. Special thanks as always to **Batia Ziv** for being our “eyes and ears on the ground” in Israel. Special thanks in America to our Society Administrators- **Janice and Larry Brown!**

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.



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

FIHS 2017 Medical Mission to Israel



Intercontinental David Hotel, Tel Aviv Israel

The 2017 [Friends of the Israel Heart Society Medical Mission](#) to Israel is official. Join colleagues from Israel and around the world for the [64th Annual Conference of the Israel Heart Society, April 25 - 27, 2017](#).

We have arranged three options, all of which include the Conference. Some include extra time to tour together. This is a unique opportunity to meet with colleagues from Israel and elsewhere with extra time to collaborate, socialize and see Israel.

There are three options. Click on the links below for more information about each. Click here to [Register](#) for any of the options.

[Option One](#)

Five Nights - Tel Aviv and Cramim Sunday April 23 to Friday April 28, 2017

Three nights at the stunning Intercontinental David Hotel in Tel Aviv including the IHS Conference and two nights at the Cramim Spa Hotel in the heart of the Judean wine country.

[Option Two](#)

Five Nights - Tel Aviv Sunday April 23 to Friday April 28, 2017

Five nights at the stunning Intercontinental David Hotel in Tel Aviv including the IHS Conference with time to enjoy the beach and night life of Tel Aviv and to meet with medical professionals and researchers in Tel Aviv.

[Option Three](#)

Seven Nights - Tel Aviv, Cramim and Jerusalem Sunday April 23 to Sunday April 30, 2017

Three nights at the stunning Intercontinental David Hotel in Tel Aviv including the IHS Conference, two nights at the Cramim Spa Hotel in the heart of the Judean wine country plus two nights at the luxurious Mamilla hotel in Jerusalem.

All include optional private tours of Tel Aviv to see Neve Tzedek, American Colony, old Jaffa and the Jaffa port plus a special tasting tour in the Carmel market.