

Report from the 11th Scientific Assembly of The Israeli Association of Emergency Medicine

The 11th Scientific Assembly of The Israeli Association of Emergency Medicine took place at the Tel-Aviv Hilton on March 6-7 2006. The meeting Began on the evening of March 6 as a leadership conference attended by ED directors and head nurses, with the participation of senior representatives from the Ministry of Health (including the Associate General Director and the Chief Nurse), the Israel Medical Association, and the head of the Organization of State Employed Physicians. The theme of the meeting was "Burnout in Emergency Medicine," and was moderated by Dr. Jack Asherov. At the session, Professor A. Lindner promoted two important visions to senior representatives of the IMA: First, the need for a special residency track for pediatricians who want to specialize in emergency medicine. Second, that emergency medicine training in Israel must be structured as a primary residency – as is internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics and as it is in the USA.

The 2nd day (March 7) was the main, full day conference. Over 350 attendees were present - mostly Israelis, but with attendees traveling from diverse regions including the USA, Canada and Nigeria. Attendees included emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, family physicians, emergency nursing staff and EMS paramedics. There were 18 pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies present in a designated showroom area.

The conference opened with welcome speeches from the chairman of the conference and the chairman of The Israeli Association of Emergency Medicine (Dr. Jacob Or), followed by a short speech from Professor A. Lindner from The Israeli Medical Association. This was followed by awards to two special guests for exceptional services to the advancement of emergency medicine in Israel: Dr. Abraham

Berger, Beth Israel Medical Center and Dr. Steven Friedman, University of Toronto.

Two keynote lectures were delivered: Professor Stewart P. Swadron spoke on Head CT for The Emergency Physicians. Professor Yoel Donchin the spoke on Human Errors in the ED.

After the plenary session there were three parallel sessions: Trauma; Sex, Drugs and Rock'n Roll (toxicology and public health); and cardiology. A second plenary session followed: Game Theory: Intuition, Logic, and Decision Making in EM, delivered by Dr. Kobi Assaf. Three more parallel sessions completed the scientific conference: infectious diseases; poisonous animals; and domestic violence.

A highlight of the conference was a hands-on ultrasound workshop which ran repeatedly throughout the day. This brief practical course was initiated by Dr Yosef Leibman and coordinated Dr. Leibman, Dr. Tom Ashar, Dr. Jessica Goldstein, Dr. Avi Alpert and Dr. Zev Wimpheimer. The sessions allowed a high volume of physicians to gain hands-on experience in FAST ultrasound and use of ultrasound as an aid for arterial and venous catheterization.

A post-conference survey of attendees demonstrated broad interest and satisfaction with the program. We expect next year's conference (Israel, March 2007) to attract an even larger overseas attendance, and to be as interesting and enriching as this one was.

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Chairman, 11th Scientific Assembly of The Israeli Association of Emergency Medicine