

An achievement for Israel in the international arena:

Dr. Yoram Blachar elected as president of the World Medical Association

Defeated two other candidates by an overwhelming majority

An achievement for the State of Israel: The World Medical Association (WMA) General Assembly elected Dr. Yoram Blachar, president of the Israeli Medical Association, as the next president of the organization. He was chosen after an overwhelming victory, defeating two other candidates from New Zealand and India. Dr. Blachar recently ended two terms as chairman of the WMA council. His election as the president of the organization is a rare achievement that confirms the deep admiration that the WMA has for Dr. Blachar's accomplishments and the standard of medicine in Israel.

The World Medical Association is the umbrella organization of the medical associations worldwide. 84 countries are members representing approximately nine million physicians. The organization was established in 1947, following the horrors of the Second World War, in order to define doctors' ethical and behavioral codes.

The WMA often deals with ethical dilemmas relating to medicine. Among the better known decisions of the organization are the Hel-



Dr. Yoram Blachar addresses the WMA participants

sinki Declaration that illustrates guidelines for experimentation on human beings, the Tokyo Declaration banning the torture of people and the Geneva Declaration that defines the ethical code of doctors. Currently, the WMA is revising the Helsinki Declaration.

Adv. Leah Wapner, the IMA's secretary general, stressed that by

choosing an Israeli doctor, the WMA recognized the vast contribution of the IMA to the organization. Among its enterprises, the IMA has drafted declarations regarding guidelines between physicians and the pharmaceutical industry, traffic injuries and genetics and medicine, helped revise the international code of medical ethics, and is currently playing a prominent role in the revision of the governing bylaws.

In his election speech, Dr. Blachar listed the many initiatives he hopes to further on behalf of the organization, such as increasing the participation of countries not yet members, including Arab and African nations, working on projects specific to particular countries such as TB and malaria and preserving the WMA's status as the leading body on medical ethics. Dr. Blachar stated that he sees the role of the president as serving as a bridge between nations and their medical professionals, and finding new and cost effective ways to reach out. He added that he is proud to be part of a profession that spans beyond borders. ■

Congratulatory greetings to Dr. Yoram Blachar upon his election as WMA president

Fabulous, a truly great achievement which must reflect so well on Israel also.

Alan Naftalin, UK



We in NZ are very proud and ask you to extend to Yoram and the IMA a hearty Mazal Tov.

*Best wishes,
David Hoadley, New Zealand*



Congratulations on this achievement. It is so important to have an Israeli as President of the International MA.

Just for the history: WMA started in Rennes with Doctor MARQUIS about 100 years ago.

Best wishes to Yoram Blachar for his new responsibilities.

Bernard LOBEL, France



Great news.

Josef Zorski, Sweden



Kol hakavod and Mazal Tov

Willy Lipshutz, Belgium



On behalf of the Dutch chapter, the warmest congratulations to Yoram Blachar, with his election. We are very proud that "our" president has been appointed!

Regards,

Robert Levi, Holland



Please pass my congratulations to Yoram Blachar. His election is a great happiness after all battles against the threat of boycott. Wishing him much success in his new job and work for Israeli Academia.

*Mazal tov,
Wishes, Hava Bugajer, Austria*



Dear Yoram,

My warmest congratulations on your election as President. I am absolutely delighted!

Hope to speak to you soon.

Regards

Dr. Delon Human

Former Secretary-General, WMA



Mazal tov, mazal tov,

Henri Goldstein, Denmark



Congratulations.

Eduardo Bumaschny, Argentina



Wonderful to hear that Dr Yoram Blachar has been elected president of the World Medical Association, a great personal tribute to him as well as recognition of the great contribution Israel makes in the field of medicine and medical research.

Joy Wolfe, Life President Manchester Zionist

Council and UK representative of StandWithUs



We are very happy about Dr. Blachar's election. Please send for him congratulations of the Brazilian Chapter of IMA.

Best regards

Abram Topczewski, Brazil



I would like to congratulate Dr Blachar on such an international honour given to him in spite of all the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel attacks. This is wonderful for the image of Israel and of course a personal success as well.

Dr Richard Haber, Sydney Australia