

Jesus was crucified and buried. We saw the Al-Aqsa Mosque which is the second oldest mosque in Islam and the third in holiness and importance after those in Mecca. We also had a chance to visit the Western Wall which has remained intact since the destruction of the Second Jerusalem Temple. It was my pleasure to participate in this tour and give WMA guests a taste of Israel. We were led through the Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Arab market (or, as we call it, *shuk*) and we tasted traditional Middle-Eastern cookies and drank freshly squeezed lemonade with mint leaves. In the *shuk* our senses were overpowered with the strong smells of coffee, tobacco and spices, the vibrant colors of the different fabrics and intricate tapestries, as well as the history of the place. Our tour ended at the historical City of David where ac-

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tors and musicians painted us a picture of what it meant to live in Jerusalem at the time of the Temple. This was a truly unique experience. We continued at the City of David with dinner and musical entertainment in the olive garden.

Israel, as a melting pot and home to people of all nationalities and religions was a fitting place to host the WMA, which itself is an amalgam of people from various countries, languages and cultures. Our common language, medicine, unites us and allows us to work together to reach common goals, making the WMA what it is—an outstanding organization.

WMA meetings in general and this year’s Council Meeting in Tel Aviv in particular, provided another great opportunity for physicians from around the globe to become acquainted with one another, socialize and discuss common issues and challenges in an informal manner. It was a pleasure and my privilege to host this year’s Council Meeting in our home country.

› **Dr. Yoram Blachar**

IMA President, May 2009



■ Dr. Yoram Blachar and Dr. Leonid Eidelman

The 41st Israeli Medical Association Congress

A new president was elected at the 41st Israeli Medical Association Congress, which was held in Jerusalem on 8-11th September 2009.

After 14 years of serving as president of the Israeli Medical Association, Dr. Yoram Blachar finished his role after 3 terms and was replaced by Dr. Leonid Eidelman.

In his farewell speech, Dr. Blachar reviewed the development of the work at the IMA since he started there as president.

Dr. Blachar believes that what makes our organization powerful is the integration of the work we do with the Israeli health system along with our rich activities as a union. As long as the IMA establishes itself as an organization that acts out of true concern for patients, it will continue to strengthen itself also for its member physicians.

In his inaugural speech, Dr. Eidelman emphasized the work that needs to be done to improve the position of the physicians in Israel as well as advancing medicine.

On behalf of the Israeli Medical Association we congratulate Dr. Eidelman on his election and we wish Dr. Blachar bon voyage on his new path.