

AFI news

AFI Meets in New York



Ms. Sarah Lehman of Pfizer and Dr. Albert Lefkowitz

At the meeting of Allergists for Israel (AFI) held at the Manhattan Club at Rosie O'Grady's, on March 4, 2002, Lyndon Mansfield thanked everyone for coming and recognized Pfizer and UCB Pharma for helping to sponsor the event. He then introduced Bill Silvers, who also expressed gratitude to Pfizer and UCB Pharma for their support. "I'd also like to thank Lyndon and Randee for helping to organize this, and APF and Regimedia. I had nothing to do with putting this evening together, and maybe that is why it's

so successful!" He went on to say how much he was looking forward to the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to "bond together more fully and help the field of allergy in Israel."

He gave the floor back to Mansfield, who proceeded to present a short history of the AFI. "Allergists for Israel was the dream, I suppose, of really one person that I love a lot. And because of his dreaming, some 20 years ago, we decided that we wanted somehow to express our caring for Israel and for the field of allergy in particular. And so an idea was born."

He continued, stating that he hoped that the message of the evening's gathering would be "that we do care and that we will try to do things to make things [in Israel] a little better if not perfect. After all, we weren't supposed to make it all perfect, but just to try to make it perfect. This is the contract of tikkun olam that Jews have with God."

He added, "With a lot of help from many people, including Pfizer and UCB Pharma, the projects that the AFI will undertake this year. I think are steps in the right direction toward making "chevra" again among our colleagues, our chaverim in Israel, and us here in America, who are perhaps a little insulated from some of the turmoil and difficulty."

He announced that with the funding obtained by AFI, the organization, under the leadership of Jonathan Bernstein, will institute a project that will allow four Israeli Allergy Fellows to come to the U.S. to spend a month at one of three centers: the University of California-Irvine, the University of Cincinnati, and a site in San Diego. "We'll see what other sites develop, but we hope to make it a unique educational experience for the Israeli Fellows," he said.

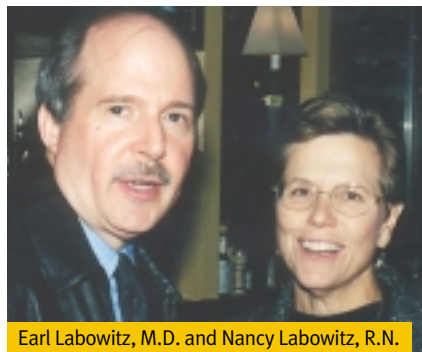
Mansfield's next announcement was that a number of AFI members would be going to Israel, on the suggestion of "our Israeli colleagues," as visiting lecturers in allergy and



Dr. Lyndon Mansfield, Chairman of AFI

asthma at some of the smaller medical centers. "We will start by going to Afula," he said, "not just for terrific falafel but also to lecture at Afula Medical Center, to help foster understanding of the diseases we are knowledgeable about." This project will be realized with the support, in part, of Pfizer. "If we do it well, hopefully we'll be able to raise the status of allergy and immunology as a medical specialty in Israel, and we'll get good press, we hope. And that's our goal, and obviously along the way we'll make some friendships, and we will build stronger bridges between us."

He then went on to discuss another project – a National Aerobiology Program for Israel. As of now, the funding for this project is not there, but Jack Pinnas and Jay Portnoy are willing to help set up a national aerobiology networking program for Israel. Mansfield reported that these two experts in the field will be counting on multiple sites in Israel.

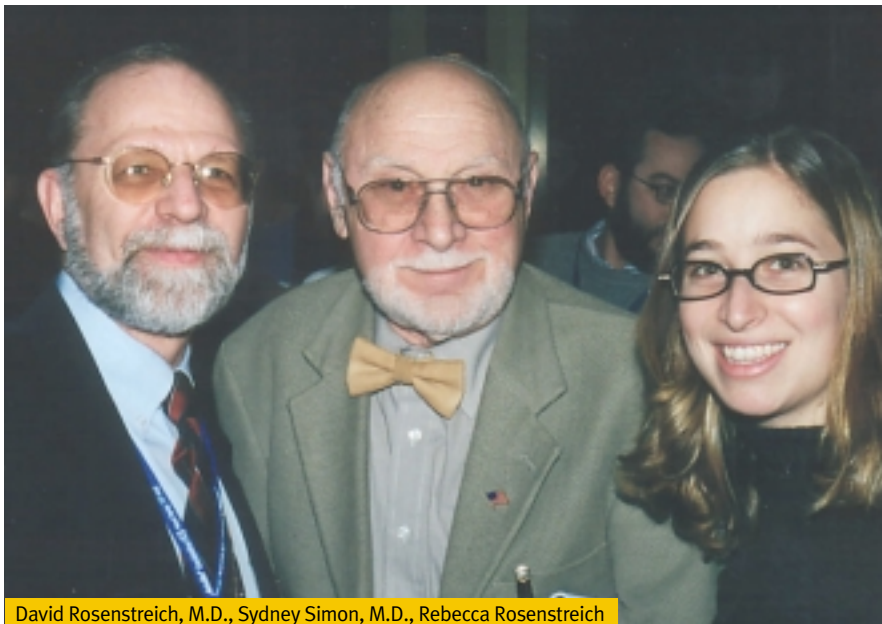


Earl Labowitz, M.D. and Nancy Labowitz, R.N.

In closing his report, Mansfield told the attendees about "an excellent project and one that I will attend to personally – that before the end of this year there will be a Web site for AFI." He said that an Internet site would make it possible for people in Israel to get information in Hebrew or English about allergy, and that the site would also provide links to other organizations throughout the world.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of Sarah Lehman from Pfizer's Zyrtec™ marketing team.

"For those of you that aren't from the Big Apple," she said, "I hope that you have a chance to get out into the city and see the great things that the city has to offer you. I'm actually glad that we had the opportunity to move your group from a hotel room to a nice restaurant so I hope you enjoy the fine fare. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you and as an organization committed to your specialty, we certainly look forward to opportunities in the near future. Enjoy the evening and thank you again."



David Rosenstreich, M.D., Sydney Simon, M.D., Rebecca Rosenstreich



Ms. Sarah Lehman and Dr Lyndon Mansfield

Following Lehman's remarks and recognition of others who helped with the event, Bruno Cohen, CEO of Regimedia addressed the group.

"I'm really happy to be here. I was not supposed to prepare a speech so I'll keep it short. Tonight is very special for me because this is the first event we have organized in the U.S. and I'm really happy to do this with Lyndon, the APF, and the AFI, of course. This is just a start. Thank you so much to so many people. "



Ms. Sarah Lehman of Pfizer

"I want to tell you about a very important event that we are organizing with Elie Wiesel on April 30th at the New York Academy of Medicine. It is a symposium on "Bioterrorism. New Threats: Perspectives from the US and Israel." We secured the presence of Brigadier General Arieh Eldad, who was until a few weeks ago surgeon general of the Israel Defense Force Medical Corps. Professor Eldad will discuss Israel's concepts for preparedness. Nobel Prize laureate Stanley Prusiner will lecture on the response of academic medicine to the bioterrorist threat. Many other distinguished speakers will join us and we really hope that you will be part of this event of great significance."



Dr. William Silvers, Dr. Paul Goldberg, and Jared Goldberg, medical student at NYU



Howard Druce, M.D. (Pfizer), and William Silvers M.D.