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JUDEO MEDICAL JOURNAL

Bimonthly

BIO- technology in Israel

APF NEWS

**I. Kelman Cohen,
APF's New President**



US MEDICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICE UPDATES

**Pharmacologic Treatment
Diabetes Mellitus**

ISRAEL'S R & D

Repairing the Irreparable



OUR AMERICAN HISTORY

**The Jews' Hospital
in New York, 1857**



MEDICAL ETHICS

**Three Jewish Physicians
of the Renaissance**

Editorial

THE WORD OF THE EDITOR

What is the special relationship of Jews to medicine? Are we health professionals somewhere, somehow, because we are Jewish and have this link to the past? How has Jewish medical ethics influenced society and culture as a whole? Where would modern medicine and human civilization be without the great Jewish scientific contributions and the development of Jewish hospital centers? Would there be an Israel without the aggressive cures for malaria in the early 20th century? These types of questions provide the template for our journal's mission. The discussions generated over the forthcoming issues are the answers.

We as health professionals need knowledge of the past and faith in the present in order to gain strength and vision for the future. In this issue and in those to follow, our journal will reinforce this special relationship. By joining the APF and reading our Journal, the health care professional can strengthen his/her relationship to the ongoing historic connection between Judaism and medicine.

This wondrous Jewish medical narrative begins with the claim that 213 of the 613 commandments in the Torah are health-related. It continues with the codification of oral law and the development of medical tractates. Jewish law is said to have hidden health benefits: consider, for example, the dietary laws. This journey takes Jewish physicians through Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Arabic and Spanish societies. These healers acted as translators and transmitters of medical writings, crossing borders, often translating first into Hebrew and then into a native language – a wandering Jew, spreading knowledge and avoiding persecution. Some, like Maimonides, served as spiritual icons and as medical servants to sultans, popes, kings and emperors, often



interceding politically, using the rulers' influence to guarantee the safety of the Jewish people. Medical oaths were penned in 800 AD and 1557 AD, which are as relevant now as they were then. The history of Jewish medicine parallels the development of society and culture. During the Inquisition, Jews avoiding persecution often practiced in secret. A Jewish physician is said to have sailed with Columbus. The Renaissance brought the printing press and with it the first Hebrew incunabula scientific publication. This was a translation of the Canon of Avicenna written in Arabic, a medical standard for centuries. Jewish physicians settled the New World, fought bubonic plague in Europe, and participated in the great enlightenment. Modern medicine includes such names as Erlich, Freud, Salk, and Sabin. Up to the year 2000 there have been as many as 45 Jewish winners of the Nobel Prize in medicine. The great majority of physicians in pre-W.W.II Vienna and Berlin were Jewish. Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War blamed Israeli Zionists and the United States for not allowing his country's children to receive supplies of penicillin. He did not think of or perhaps know that in 1945, Ernest Chain, a Jew, won the Nobel Prize in medicine for his work with penicillin.

Jonas Salk told me in 1995, four weeks before he died, that unconscious Judaism had the greatest effect upon his life. The continuum keeps moving.

In Ecclesiastes it says, "There is nothing new under the sun." As Editor of JMJ, my goal is for all of us to become better physicians and health care workers, with strength and vision for the future, inspired and strengthened by the Jewish medical continuum.

Aaron Feingold, M.D.
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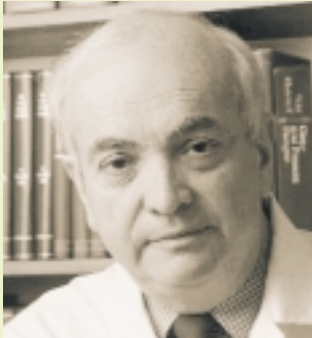
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Jewish medical students' DUELING SOCIETY

© Stanley B. Burns, M.D., and The Burns Archive, NY.

Würzburg, Germany 1908

A STRANGE CHAPTER IN JEWISH MEDICAL HISTORY

Over the centuries, Jewish medical students and physicians often formed their own clubs and societies. This was predominately because of exclusion from their 'host' countries' cultural, social, and educational organizations. Surely, among the most interesting organizations established by Jewish physicians were the dueling societies in Germany. Each German medical university had dueling Korps. The members wore distinctive outfits and hats in their school colors.

Most Western cultures go out of their way to cosmetically preserve and enhance the face. However, German men found the disfigured, scarred face a sign of true manliness. German-Jewish physicians, so as not to be distinguished from their Aryan 'macho' colleagues, formed their own dueling clubs, so that they, too, could have an honorable, visible badge of courage – a sword scar across the face.

In the 1870s, after the unification of Germany, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck promoted the establishment of dueling societies. However, the Versailles Treaty, ending World War I, prohibited the clubs. Hitler reinstated them under the Nazi regime.

In this 1908 photograph, we see members of the Würzburg Jewish Dueling Korps. Each of these duelers sports a bandage or visible scar of the face. The tall fellow on the right is Dr. Hugo Loew, a former patient of mine. Dr. Loew received a number of scars during his student duels. He was proud of this tra-

dition, as it created camaraderie among students. This photographic postcard was made to document his and his friends' initial wounds. Dr. Loew emigrated from Nazi Germany in the 1930s. His Germanic badge of courage and his participation in World War I did not deter Nazi policy. Dr. Loew died peacefully in 1979 at the age of 94.

Stanley B. Burns, M.D., F.A.C.S.,

a New York City ophthalmologist, is the creator, curator and proprietor of the Burns Archive. This collection of more than 700,000 vintage photographs has been the subject of numerous documentaries and exhibitions. Dr. Burns has authored nine critically acclaimed photo-history books and hundreds of articles. He serves as consultant to museums, corporations, the legal profession, individuals, and the media. Presently he is working on a catalogue of the collection and a photo-history of lynching and vigilantism.

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The Mission of the JMJ

The mission of this Journal is to provide updates on the science and practice of Medicine along with articles on Jewish culture, history, art, philosophy, and ethics in a medical setting.

For both our members and non-members to have a tangible connection to the fellowship through which they will be able to closely monitor and participate in its discussions and activities.

To establish a consistent channel of communication that will serve as a way to strengthen ties between our members and maintain a link to help us pursue our common interests.



The editorial focus of the Judeo Medical Journal is to present the Jewish perspective on medicine.

Examples of future topics:

- **The Humane Genome Project** and how it relates to Jewish medical ethics.
- **New Insights into diseases** that affect Jewish populations, for example:
 - Breast/Ovarian Cancer- the story of the BRCA genes.
 - Prenatal counseling for the Jewish couple.
 - A history of Tay-Sachs disease.
- **Medicine and Jewish Law** as it relates to:
 - Reproductive Medicine
 - Cloning
 - Physician-Assisted Euthanasia
- **Jewish Medical History**
 - History of Jewish Medical Institutions such as The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Weitzman Institute.
 - Profiles on Great Jews in Medicine such as Maimonides, Freud and each of the luminaries who comprise the 39 Jewish Nobel Prize winners in science and medicine from the past century.
- **Comprehensive updates** concerning Medicine in Israel

Our Ambitions for the JMJ

The circulation of the APF Journal currently stands at 15,000 Jewish American physicians of all specialties.

We are committed to building this circulation to reach the 75,000 American Jewish physicians.

Israel's Best-Kept Medical Secret

As Israel celebrates its 54th year, APF takes pride in her emergence as an internationally recognized world-class medical center.

We have been quietly at work since 1950 in support of the advancement of medical education, research and care at Israel's major medical centers as well as at many smaller medical institutions throughout the country. We share a special pride in the achievements of over 1,000 APF Fellows who have contributed so much over the past years and who read like a "Who's Who" of Israel's past, present and future medical leadership.

Recently described as "one of Israel's best kept medical secrets," APF is now reaching out beyond its core American physician membership, inviting all friends of Israel to help us



address Israel's health care challenges in ways that benefit the country as a whole.

Working with the Association of Deans of the Faculties of Medicine in Israel, the IDF Medical Corps, and medical leaders from institutions throughout the country, we are building a unique partnership between the American and

Israeli medical communities and directing financial and technical resources where they can make the most profound impact on the health of the Israeli people.

We invite you to join us.

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