Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Annual Meeting of the Israel Neurosurgical Society which will be held in conjunction with the Israel Spine Society and the Israeli Trauma Association at the magnificent Pastoral Kfar Blum hotel which is located in the Upper Galilee, Israel.

The main focus of the conference will be head and spinal injuries, but the organizers will be happy to accept interesting talks on related subjects.

As this meeting will be held off the beaten track, a pre-conference tour will be specially designed to include transportation to Pastoral Kfar Blum. Following the Meeting, there will be a unique tour to Amman and Petra in Jordan. We strongly recommend you take advantage of this opportunity to visit the breathtaking Red-Rose City.

As in previous meetings, we hope that this event will provide the opportunity to reconnect and meet with colleagues and to strengthen professional and personal ties among our members.

We hope that you will be able to join us.

Sincerely,

Zeev Feldman
President
Leon Levi
Secretary
Mony Benifla
Treasurer
TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Afternoon Sessions
Dinner Get-together
Evening

Thursday, March 12, 2015
Morning Sessions
Lunch
Afternoon Sessions
Dinner
Evening Social Event

Friday, March 13, 2015
Morning Sessions
Afternoon Participate in optional tours/departures for the center

Meeting Secretariat:
Target Conferences Ltd.
PO Box 51227, Tel Aviv 6713818, Israel
Tel: +972 3 5175150, Fax: +972 3 5175155
e-mail: neurosurgery@target-conferences.com
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Nachshon Knoller  
Chair, Spinal Surgery Division, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Ramat Gan

Mony Benifla  
Pediatric Neurosurgery Unit, Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem

Zeev Feldman  
Pediatric Neurosurgery Unit, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Ramat Gan

Ran Harel  
Spine Unit and Radiosurgery Unit, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Ramat Gan

Leon Levi  
Dept. of Neurosurgery, Rambam Medical Center, Haifa

Guy Rosenthal  
Dept. of Neurosurgery, Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem
CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline - January 18, 2015

The organizers are pleased to announce a call for abstracts for oral presentation.

For abstract submission click here

Please note that Johnson Prize is only relevant for local Israeli residents.

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed for acceptance based on their scientific merit. Inclusion of abstracts in the scientific program is dependent on payment of registration fees.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Abstracts must be submitted using the online submission link. Please do not fax, mail or email your abstracts.

2. All abstracts must be submitted in English.

3. Abstracts should be no longer than one A4 size page (350 words).
GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE
Pastoral Kfar Blum, Israel

Pastoral Kfar Blum is the Meeting venue. In the land of mountain streams, amidst the greenery, bounded by sky and water, there is one hotel that offers a unique experience.

Surrounded by the beauty of the Galilee, facing the Golan and Galilee mountains and just a few steps from the Jordan River, you will find Pastoral, a fountain of peace and tranquility. This is a place where the pioneers' tradition of hospitality meets the sounds of classical music, where harmony emanates from the human soul and from the depths of the earth. Lush greenery, endless lawns, charming shady spots and inviting sitting areas await you. Take a break from the busy city to visit northern Israel – the birds of the Hula Valley, the mountain streams, the peacefulness and green surroundings are all part of the relaxing atmosphere you will enjoy as a guest at Pastoral.

SPA FACILITIES
Opening hours: 08:00-20:00
The spa facilities offer a Turkish bath (Hamam), Finnish wood sauna, rotating pail, reflexology foot-basins and water delights (“rain-cave”). Entry to the spa and use of its facilities is free of charge for hotel guests. Treatments should be pre-booked and are at a separate cost.

LANGUAGE
The meeting will be conducted in English.

REGISTRATION FEES

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<th>Till 9/2/2015</th>
<th>As of 10/2/2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>US$ 350</td>
<td>US$ 400</td>
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Fee for participants includes: Participation in scientific sessions, program book, coffee at breaks, two lunches on session days and attendance at official social events.

CANCELLATION POLICY
Our refund policy is based upon receiving notification as follows:

- Received until January 31, 2015 - full refund less US$75 handling fee
- Received after February 01, 2015 and before February 28, 2015 - 50% refund
- Received from March 1, 2015 - no refund
LETTER OF INVITATION
Upon request, the Secretariat will send a personal letter of invitation to the applicant to participate in the meeting. It should be understood that such an invitation is only meant to help participants raise travel funds or obtain a visa, and does not represent a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide any financial support.

VISAS
Prior to booking your flight ticket, please ensure that your passport is valid until 30 September 2014. Participants from some countries require a visa to enter Israel. We suggest that you check this with your travel agent or on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

EXHIBITION
A commercial exhibition will take place within the framework of the meeting.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING
The temperature in the Galilee region in March can be up 23 during the day and as cool as 10 degrees in the night. There is a chance of rain. We suggest you bring warmer clothing for the evenings, as well as comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunblock for the touring. Please also remember to bring swim wear for the spa facilities.

CURRENCY
We suggest that you exchange a small amount of money to New Israel Shekels on arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. Optional additional arrangements such as touring and accommodations made whilst in Israel can be paid for in foreign currency or foreign credit card in order to avoid the local 18% VAT.

ACCOMMODATION
Target Conferences is holding rooms at the Pastoral Kfar Blum, the official meeting hotel.

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<tr>
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<th>2 night rate</th>
<th>1 night rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>US$ 505</td>
<td>US$ 270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Room</td>
<td>US$ 595</td>
<td>US$ 320</td>
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Rates are per room, per night, and include a dinner as well as full Israeli buffet style breakfast and service charge.

If you are interested in accommodation during the Meeting and/or touring options (outlined below) please click here. Should you require additional accommodation (in Tel Aviv prior to or following the meeting or the like) and/or touring, please write to: neurosurgery.reg@target-conferences.com

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT
Official check-in to the hotel on Wednesday is from 15:00. The hotel will do its utmost to allow participants an earlier check-in as rooms become available. Participants will be able to leave their luggage with the front desk until rooms become available. Check-out on Friday is until 12:00. Check-out on Saturday is at the end of the Sabbath (pending availability and on request).

PAYMENT
A deposit of one night per room is required and full payment for tours. The balance is payable (less deposit) upon your arrival at the Hospitality Desk with a 3% surcharge. If full payment is made together with reservation (or at least one month prior to arrival) there will be no surcharge.

Payment must be submitted to Target Conferences. Target Conferences accepts direct bank transfers* and all major credit cards.
**Bank Transfers** should be made to the following account:
Target Conferences Ltd.
Bank Leumi
Gordon Branch (Branch Number 804)
87 Ben Yehuda Street, Tel Aviv, Israel
Account number: 379000/70
Swift Code: LUMIILIT
IBAN IL 180108040000037900070

*Please ensure that the name/s of the participants and meeting name (NEUROSURGERY) are clearly stated on the bank transfer.

Bank transfer charges are the responsibility of the payer and should be paid at source in addition to the registration package fees.

**CANCELLATION OF ACCOMMODATION AND TOURS**
- Up to 45 days prior to arrival: full refund less handling fee of US$50 per room
- Less than 45 days prior to arrival: no refund of deposit on accommodation, full refund for tours
- Less than 15 days prior to arrival: no refund on tours or accommodation

**IMPORTANT NOTES**
Personal travel, luggage and health insurance is recommended. Please purchase this from your local travel agent.

All tours are booked on the express condition that Target Conferences shall not be responsible for and shall be exempt from all liability in respect of any loss, damage, injury or accident to any person or his or her luggage or any other property, for any reason whatsoever.

**TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION**

**ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

**TRANSPORT**

**Flights**
Participants should book their flights to Ben Gurion International Airport (near Tel Aviv) with their travel agent, or directly on the internet. Direct flights to Tel Aviv exist from most major airports in North America, Europe, India, China, Thailand, Brazil and Africa by El Al Israel Airlines, as well as by other international carriers.

**FROM BEN GURION AIRPORT:**
Participants arriving to Ben Gurion International Airport on March 9 to take the tour, should take a taxi directly to the hotel in Jerusalem.

Participants arriving beforehand and not taking the tour, may want to take the special bus that will be departing from the Arlozorov Train Station on the morning of March 11 and travelling directly to the conference at Kfar Blum. Further details will be communicated on a person to person basis once registration has been made.
OPTIONAL PRE AND POST MEETING TOURS
These tours are planned for groups of at least 15 people. Should we not reach 15, alternative offers will be made.

PRE-MEETING TOUR A - JERUSALEM

Monday, March 9, 2015
All day:
Arrivals and overnight at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (or similar)

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Day tour of Jerusalem, the old and the new. Tour includes view from the Mt of Olives, walking tour in the Old City with visits in the Jewish and Christian quarter. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (or similar)

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Morning tour of Beit Shean and then transfer to Pastoral Kfar Blum

Rate for single room: US$695
Rate for double room (2 people): US$980

Rate includes:
- 2 overnights at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem or similar
- 2 days of touring in an airconditioned vehicle with the services of an English speaking licensed guide
- Entrance fees as per itinerary

Rate does not include:
- Lunches and dinners
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Jerusalem
- Incidentals
- Tips to guide and driver
PRE-MEETING TOUR B - BEIT SHEAN

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
All day:
Arrivals and overnight at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem (or similar)

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Morning tour of Beit Shean and then transfer to Pastoral Kfar Blum

Rate for single room: US$435
Rate for double room (2 people): US$660

Rate includes:
- 1 overnight at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem or similar
- 1 day of touring en route to Pastoral Kfar Blum, in an airconditioned vehicle with the services of an English speaking licensed guide
- Entrance fees as per itinerary

Rate does not include:
- Lunches and dinners
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Jerusalem
- Incidentals
- Tips to guide and driver
POST-MEETING TOUR C - JORDAN

Friday, March 13, 2015
Following sessions, depart hotel for the Sheikh Hussein Border crossing into Jordan. 
On to Amman for visit, see the original map of Madaba, and continue for overnight

Saturday, March 14, 2015
Departure for Petra, the Red Rose City. Spend an exciting day visiting this breathtaking site. 
Overnight in Petra.

Sunday, March 15, 2015
Depart for a Jeep ride in the desert before continuing to the border crossing between Jordan and the Southern city of Eilat in Israel. 
Overnight at the King Solomon Hotel, Eilat

Monday, March 16, 2015
Fly back to the center for outbound international flight.

Rate for single room: US$1335
Rate for double room (2 people): US$2140

Rate is based on a minimum participation of 15 people

Rate includes:
- 1 overnight at the in Amman at Le Meridien (or similar) on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis
- 1 overnight in Petra at the Movenpick (or similar) on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis
- 1 overnight in Eilat at the King Solomon hotel (or similar) on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis
- 2 days of touring in an airconditioned vehicle with the services of an English speaking licensed guide
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Group flight from Eilat to Tel Aviv

Rate does not include:
- Lunches
- Transfer to the international airport in Tel Aviv
- Incidentsals
- Tips to guide and driver
- Visa fees
- Border taxes (about US$60)

Note: Passports must be valid at least until October 2015 in order to participate in this tour. 
Visas to Jordan are obtained at the border crossing, and Target Conferences will require passport information in advance.