



# IRAQI MEDICAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION USA

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June 1, 2008

Dear IMSA Members,

I would like to thank all of our members who, with great enthusiasm, attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual IMSA National Convention in the dynamic and lovely city of Chicago. The Convention was a smashing success by all standards, thanks to the hard-work and dedication of all of the members of the 2008 IMSA Board. The logistical details of the convention were arranged, supervised and executed by the Chicago Convention Committee composed of: IMSA Secretary- Dr. Arkan Alrashid, Board Member and IMSA Web master- Dr. Imad Almanaseer, IMSA Vice President- Dr. Zina Alathari, Mary Jane Schture and Ben Stickan. The CME Program was a superb first class effort thanks to the work of Drs. Zayd Eldadah and Saad Shakir who reviewed all of the abstracts, chose the speakers, and organized the entire program. Great thanks must also be given to all of the CME Lecturers for donating their knowledge and time to make the program a success. The IMSA Board has decided to have a National Convention every year in a city chosen by our members depending on the logistics and availability. We feel strongly about this, because it is all about getting together, having our families interact with one another, and accepting and embracing our differences and diversities with tolerance and respect.

In 1998, IMSA was established, by a handful of pioneering Iraqi physicians, with a vision based on a nostalgic yearning of the days and memories when Medicine in Iraq was something to be proud. This has all been lost between the many wars, international embargos, and the occupation of this wounded country. Since then, IMSA has evolved into a structured organization with bylaws and rules and regulations. Dear Colleagues, IMSA BELONGS TO NO ONE, IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US. It belongs to every active member who pays his dues, attends our conventions and CME meetings, joins one of our committees and supports our humanitarian programs to help Iraq and its broken healthcare system.

We have come a long way since 1998, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us, the IMSA Board is committed to transforming this organization into a first class, respectable, and professional association which represents all of us and that will make every Iraqi medical professional in this country proud.

Thank you and God bless,

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IMSA President

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