



Greetings, July 18, 2008 - Isaac P. Witz

Honorable dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored, pleased and proud to greet the participants of this symposium on behalf of the faculty and students of Tel Aviv University, the largest University in Israel.

As a member of the program committee of the German-Israeli Cooperation in Cancer Research I wish to share with you some details about the Research on Cancer performed at my University.

More than 300 basic researchers and clinicians and at least a similar number of graduate students perform research on various basic, clinical and translational research programs aimed to understand the biology of malignant processes and to develop means to diagnose, prevent and treat neoplastic diseases. The research is conducted at the main campus of Tel Aviv University and at the oncologic institutes of its 7 affiliated general hospitals.

Tel Aviv University is unique in its approach to coordinate cancer research.

The Cancer Biology Research Center was established in 1979, as a joint framework of the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine. The major aim of the Center is to promote cancer research at the University, and in particular to establish and support scientific interactions between basic and clinical researchers whose common interest is cancer.

Tel Aviv University cancer researchers are grateful to the German-Israeli Cooperation in Cancer Research for the support granted to them. We all feel that this program is not limited to the generation of knowledge and understanding of malignancy, a crucial and important task by itself, but fulfils also another important mission. It creates a spirit of teamwork and partnership between German and Israeli scientists manifested by a long lasting alliance between senior cancer researchers from both countries.

The German-Israeli Cooperation in Cancer Research was recently boosted by a great initiative aimed to include the younger generation of cancer researchers in this cooperation. Students from the DKFZ and from Israeli universities gathered in Pichl, Austria for a winter school in which senior scientists from both countries shared their experience and knowledge with a young and eager audience. The lively discussions that followed the presentations demonstrated very clearly a genuine curiosity and openness of the students to novel ideas and facts. The program of the winter school comprised a good blend of scientific and extracurricular activities. This, in turn, created the right circumstances and atmosphere for the establishment of personal relationships between the participants. I firmly believe that the winter school contributed significantly to strengthen and deepen the scientific ties between young colleagues from both countries. I take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the winter school, Professor Thomas Efferth and Professor Wolfhard Semmler for their challenging initiative.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to the organizers of this gratifying event that manifests the strength of the cultural, scientific and personal ties between Germany and Israel and for inviting me to take part in it.

