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EDITORIAL

The publication of *Korot* 2007–2008 has to our regret been seriously delayed. There has, however, already been considerable interest toward the next issues, and thus we trust that Volume 20 will appear within the annual timetable.

The main part of this issue of *Korot* consists of research reports from a workshop on the subject “History as Argument in Biomedicine: Representations of National Socialist ‘Euthanasia’ Between Politics and Historiography, ca. 1945–2000.” This workshop was part of a research project in the context of the Coordinated Research Program “Cultures of Memory” (*Sonderforschungsbereich “Erinnerungskulturen”*) located at the University of Giessen, Germany. The meeting took place in Beit Hagath in Ein Karem, Jerusalem, on January 29th, 2007.

Other themes presented in this volume include questions on the experimental method and on reproductive choices as seen in Talmudic literature, on medieval Jewish physicians in the Arabic cultural area, on Karaite physicians, and on the relationship between modern medicine and the Kabbala, ending with the early stages of the medical profession in *Eretz Israel*. They thus cover nearly 2,000 years of Jewish medical history.

The volume is, as usual, bilingual (English and Hebrew), with contributions from Germany, France and Finland, in addition to Israel.

Korot is unique as the only journal devoted to Jewish aspects of the history of medicine and science. To quote Prof. Leibowitz (ז”ל), one of the first initiators of *Korot*, the purpose of the publication is:

...preference for topics based on sources not readily accessible to our colleagues abroad in their researches. Avoiding, as far as possible, a narrow parochial approach, we hope to enlarge

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the knowledge of medical historical facts and concepts in a field often regarded as somewhat esoteric.¹

It is our hope that the present volume of *Korot* has succeeded in this endeavor.

Our special thanks are due to Dr. Kenneth Collins for his kind assistance in the proofreading stage.

Our next issue will emphasize the subject of Jews and medicine in the Renaissance period, e.g., Tuviah Cohen and Yosef Shlomo Delmedigo. Our readers are warmly invited to submit articles connected with these subjects, but also any other historical essays related to Jewish aspects of the history of medicine and science, for publication. Letters to the editor and brief historical notes are also welcome.

Helena Paavilainen
Guest editor

1 J.O. Leibowitz, "Editorial," *Korot* 7 (1977).