

The Douglas M. Lucas Medal Awardee: Joseph Almog, Ph.D.

Dr. Joseph Almog was awarded the Douglas M. Lucas Medal at the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) Meeting in Hong Kong in August 2005. This award is presented to those who have made significant contributions to forensic science. There is no question that Dr. Almog is such an individual.

Dr. Almog is currently Professor of Forensic Chemistry at the Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. Before that, he was the Director of the Division of Identification and Forensic Science (DIFS) at the Israel Police National Headquarters in Jerusalem.

Dr. Almog is recognized in the forensic science community for his research and development of new reagents for the chemical development of latent fingerprints. In particular, he is known for his pioneering research in the chemistry of ninhydrin and its analogs and the application of that chemistry to the development of latent prints. This research has stimulated others throughout the world to formulate more effective reagents for the chemical detection of latent fingerprints.

Other topics on which he has published peer-reviewed research are the detection and identification of explosives and the application of field tests in conducting forensic work. The latter was the theme of his presentation at the IAFS Meeting and is the subject of his Commentary in this issue of *JFS* titled "*Forensic Science Does Not Start in the Lab: The Concept of Diagnostic Field Test.*"

He has published five book chapters and over 75 peer-reviewed papers and made numerous plenary presentations to international meetings. Dr. Almog is a firm believer in the need for forensic scientists to be researchers, and as Director of DIFS he encouraged those who became directors to continue their active research. To this day, Dr. Almog considers this one of his most noteworthy contributions to the field.

It is with great honor that *JFS* publishes Dr. Almog's Commentary and in doing so recognizes his significant contributions to forensic science as the Douglas M. Lucas Medal Awardee for 2005.

Michael A. Peat, Ph.D.
Editor, *JFS*