Since February 2013, the Ziv Medical Center has admitted over 60 wounded Syrians suffering shrapnel and bullet wounds, burns and crush injuries leading to fractures and lacerations. Many show signs of inadequate nutrition, fatigue and anxiety besides their physical injuries.

Heart rending cases appear daily. To date, the youngest Syrian casualty is a three year old girl who arrived with her mother, both suffering from shrapnel wounds and open fractures. A nine year old boy hospitalized in Ziv's Ophthalmology Department, lost his eye after sustaining shrapnel wounds during the bombing of his village and a fifteen year old girl arrived with an amputated leg. The patients attest to the inhumane conditions they suffer, with dozens of shells being fired into their villages daily.

Seriously wounded citizens who reach the border are transferred to the Ziv Medical Center, where the medical staff is experienced in treating casualties of conflict. In addition, the hospital's multi-ethnic medical and paramedical staff are able to communicate and provide treatment to Arabic speaking patients, making Ziv an obvious location for providing humanitarian medical assistance.

Following initial treatment, most patients spend several days in the Intensive Care Unit, and are then transferred to the appropriate departments where they are provided with round the clock dedicated treatment, Arabic speaking social workers and their personal needs are seen to. Their hospitalization stay is extended beyond routine recovery time, as conditions essential to their recovery once returned to their homes cannot be assured.

Dr. Oscar Embon, Director of Ziv Medical Center, has been extensively interviewed by the media concerning the prompt and caring treatment provided to Syrian citizens. Attention has been drawn to the hospital by print and television outlets as well as by internet reports. Dr. Embon, states "It is the task of our medical staff to save lives and offer treatment to patients, regardless of their nationality or religion. This is a humanitarian issue. We do not stop to examine whether the injured are civilians or which side of the fighting they support." Dr. Amram Hadary, Head of Ziv's Trauma Unit adds, "The patients are in critical condition. We don't question who they are. It is irrelevant. They are treated with the best facilities we are able to offer."

Wishing our friends and supporters a Shana Tova. May it be a year in which Ziv is able to expand its services, offering the most advanced medical treatments to its community of patients.

Dr. Oscar Embon, Director and Mr. Meir Moskovitz, Chairman of the Society of Friends of Ziv Medical Center.
The opening of Bar-Ilan University’s Faculty of Medicine has had a significant impact on the recruitment of excellent physicians both for the new fields we are developing and for filling vacancies of retiring senior physicians.

- **Dr. Majdi Halabi, Director, Cardiology Department**
  Dr. Majdi Halabi graduated from Tel Aviv University’s School of Medicine specializing in internal medicine, cardiology and interventional cardiology at Rambam, where he worked as an attending interventional cardiologist. Dr. Halabi was a fellow at the Interventional Cardiovascular Laboratory in NHLBI/NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

- **Dr. Lili Lunsky-Hayari, Director, Pediatric Surgical Unit**
  Dr. Lili Lunsky-Hayari, graduated from the Technion Medical School in Haifa, specializing in general and pediatric surgery at Rambam Medical Center. With 20 years of experience in pediatric surgery, Dr. Lunsky-Hayari previously served as Deputy Head of Rambam’s Pediatric Surgery Department.

- **Dr. Lidia Izakson, Director, Adult Psychiatric Department**
  Dr. Lidia Izakson graduated from the St. Petersburg School of Medicine, specialized in Psychiatry at Ziv, and took advanced clinical courses at the Western Psychiatric Institute in Pittsburgh, USA. Dr. Izakson was Deputy Director of Ziv’s Adult Psychiatric Department for eight years.

- **Dr. Itzhak Koifman, Director, General ICU**
  Dr. Itzhak Koifman, graduated from the Technion, specializing in anesthesia and general intensive care. Dr. Koifman has 26 years of professional experience. Prior to joining Ziv’s medical staff, he held the position of senior physician in the ICU at the Rambam Medical Center.

- **Professor Eric Shinwell, Director, Department of Neonatology**
  Professor Eric Shinwell is a clinical Neonatologist and an internationally recognized researcher, contributing major advances in the field of Neonatal Lung Disease. Previously at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, he currently is Chairman of the Forum of Directors of Neonatology Departments.

**ADVANCED TREATMENTS AT ZIV**

**Premature Baby Incubator Operation**
Dr. Lili Lunsky-Hayari, Head of the newly established Pediatric Surgery Unit, assisted by medical teams from Ziv’s Anesthesia and Neonatal Departments, operated on a premature baby weighing only 1200 grams. The baby, who was born suffering from a rare intestinal congenital anomaly, malrotation with midgut volvulus, was operated on in his incubator, the first to undergo such an urgent, delicate operation at Ziv.

**The Pediatric Surgery Unit** provides a wide range of surgical services to newborns and children under the age of 18, including gastro-intestinal diseases and chest operations, surgery relating to congenital defects, hernias and undescended testes, trauma, pediatric oncological surgery, and minor invasive operations (laparoscopy). In addition, the new Unit will include a clinic which will provide consultations and diagnosis in complex cases, pre-operative preparation and follow-up.

**Successful Dental Implant Course**
Specialists from Ziv’s Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit, headed by Dr. Alejandro Roisentul, facilitated a course for dentists, focusing on new trends and initiatives, installation and rehabilitation of dental implants, a first of its kind held in the north.

Eighteen dentists from around the country participated in the course which included theoretical lectures, combined with presentation of clinical cases, a broad survey of current research papers and new methods of treatment, as well as practical experience upon artificial models.

**NEW SENIOR APPOINTMENTS AT ZIV**

Research Grants for Medical Clowns
At an impressive ceremony at Bar-Ilan University’s Faculty of Medicine in Safed, organized by the Magi Foundation and the Ziv Medical Center, the Adelis Foundation awarded 11 research grants to leading research teams from hospitals and academic institutes.

Among the recipients of the research grants was a team from the Ziv Medical Center and the Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee. Ziv’s team consists of Professor Anthony Luder, Head of Ziv’s Pediatric Department and Vice Dean at the Faculty of Medicine and Ms. Shoshi Ofir, a leader among the Medical Clowns at Ziv.

The Magi Foundation and the Society of Friends of the Ziv Medical Center initiated and supervise the Dream Doctors project at the Ziv.

**WITH A SMILE**

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“Hypertension Specialist”
The European Society of Hypertension granted the title of “Hypertension Specialist” to Dr. Raymond Farah, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine B, at a ceremony held in Milan in June. Only 15 physicians in Israel have been awarded this honorary title from the European Society of Hypertension (ESH).

The Best
At the end of March, three of Ziv’s physicians were named on “The Best”, the Israeli newspaper Ma’ariv’s list of leading experts in different occupations in Israel, including the medical field:
- Dr. Ilana Farbshtein, Head of Ziv’s Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services;
- Dr. Osama Hussein, Head of Ziv’s Department for Internal Medicine;
- Prof. Assy Nimmer, Director of Ziv’s Liver Disease Services.

Mom’s To Be
Over 120 pregnant women, many accompanied by their spouses, attended a conference designed to provide them with information about nutrition during pregnancy, the birthing process, natural birth, breastfeeding and the transition from being a couple to being parents. The conference was held in Karmiel’s Auditorium, with Mr. Adi Eldar, Mayor of Karmiel, opening the festive morning.

Treating Precocious Puberty
Ziv’s Brainin Center for Juvenile Diabetes and Endocrinology, headed by Dr. Orna Dally Gottfried, hosted a workshop for pre-adolescent girls and their parents, to clarify the phenomenon of precocious (early) puberty. Dr. Dally Gottfried noted that early diagnosis can be made by relatively simple methods, and if caught in time, medical treatment delaying puberty to the normative age can be provided, thus alleviating the psychological, physiological and social hardships associated with precocious puberty.

Saving a Life on the Sabbath
Ziv, in cooperation with the Meuhedet Health Services, initiated a conference on the subject of Medicine and Halacha (Jewish Law). The conference focused on issues relating to the implementation of modern medicine while adhering to Halachic laws, with a special emphasis on issues relating to life saving medical assistance on the Sabbath. Emphasis was placed on the value of continued cooperation between the medical team and community rabbis and their role in raising awareness and understanding in their communities regarding these issues.

Post Trauma Support Group
Recognizing the importance of addressing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in our region, Ziv has been operating support and care groups for PTSD victims for the past three years. Mr. Alan Cohen, a psychologist in Ziv’s Mental Health Department and responsible for the support groups, remarked that to date, most of the participants have been victims of war, terrorist attacks, and random violence. A special group is soon to open, focusing on victims of sexual assault.

Unique Pilot for Ethiopian Patients
Ziv was chosen from among a number of hospitals in Israel to lead a unique pilot project initiated by the Ministry of Health in which telephone translation will be provided to Amharic and Tigrinya speaking patients. Ms. Lili Fraimchuk, a nurse in Emergency Medicine is the coordinator of this cultural and linguistic accessibility project.

“Health Day” in Sajur
Ziv Medical Center offers “Health Days” in the Arab sector in which new developments in the medical field are discussed with the residents. The most recent “Health Day”, held in the Sajur Village, was initiated by Mr. Zuheir Farraj, Director of Ziv’s Pharmacy Services, hosting 80 participants of all ages. On the spot blood pressure measurement was offered, with a number of residents being surprised by their results. They were referred to their family physicians for follow-up tests.

"Open Fractures"
Dr. Alexander Lerner, Head of Ziv’s Orthopedic Department co-authored a chapter in a revised second edition of "The Basic Principles of External Skeletal Fixation using the Ilizarov and Other Devices", a basic text book in the field of orthopedic surgery, published by Springer Verlag.
"C.A.O.S"  
Dr. Alexander Lerner, Head of Ziv’s Orthopedic Department, initiated the Second International Galilee Orthopedic Conference in cooperation with Professor Meir Libergal, Head of the Orthopedic Services in the Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, in May. The conference focused on Computer Assisted Surgery and Innovations in Orthopedics. Among the experts attending were world renowned orthopedic surgeons, Professor Mehmet Kocauglu from the University of Istanbul in Turkey and Professor Gerald Wozacek from the University of Vienna in Austria.

Advanced Gynecological Surgery Conference  
The Third International Conference on Advanced Gynecological Surgery, organized by Dr. Naama Marcus-Braun, head of the Urogynecological service at Ziv and Dr. Inbar Ben-Shachar, head of Ziv’s Department for Obstetrics and Gynecology, was held in April. A highlight of the conference was the live screening of two simultaneous complex operations from Ziv’s operating rooms, performed by two leading surgeons from France, Prof. Peter von Theobald from the ‘Hôpital Félix Guyon’, CHU Réunion, and Prof. Christophe Pomel from the Jean Perrin Cancer Center in Clermont-Ferrand.

ASSIST US IN REALIZING OUR DREAMS

Constructing the Radiotherapy Unit

The foundation for the Radiotherapy Unit is laboriously being excavated and construction of the exterior shell is scheduled to begin later on this year. A generous donation from an anonymous donor was recently received, greatly assisting us with this undertaking.

Still Urgently Needed!

Ziv faces the challenging task of raising an additional US$7 million to cover the costs of construction and equipment for the Radiotherapy Unit as well as US$1.25 million for our Child Health Center’s reinforced auditorium doubling as an in-patient ward.

Support for Syrian Casualties

Ziv Medical Center provides the best possible facilities to assist wounded Syrians, however, as the number of arrivals increases, there are often disruptions to the hospital’s routine work. Beyond the initial trauma care, most of the casualties need surgery, and indeed, many require repeated surgical procedures, expensive diagnostic examinations such as CT tests, ultrasound, etc.

We urgently require external sources of funding for equipment for 3 intensive care beds, additional medical staff (anesthetist, orthopedic surgeon, emergency room nurse and Arabic speaking social worker) as well as personal hygiene kits for the wounded.

“Fundraising Stars from Kibbutz Machanayim”

Over the past years, youngsters from Kibbutz Machanayim have organized an annual bazaar for raising funds to assist Ziv’s fight against cancer. Dr. Nagib Dali, Head of the Hematology Institute thanked the youngsters for their outstanding effort and their amazing donation of 30,000 NIS.

“How to Donate”

- Donations may be made via the Society of Friends of Ziv Medical Center:  
  Registered Israel Charity No.: 58-000-510-6  
  P.O. Box 35, Zefat 13100;  
  Tel: 972-4-6828732; Fax: 972-4-6923418;  
  E-mail: sieffsoc@netvision.net.il

- Donations from the United States may be sent via:  
  PEF – Israel Endowment Fund, Inc. A registered US 501(C) (3) charity  
  317 Madison Ave., Suite 607, New York, NY 10017  
  (please add: recommendation for Society of Friends of Rebecca Sieff Hospital - Ziv Medical Center, Zefat, Israel)