Emergency Operating Rooms

Saving Lives in War and Peace

The Need

Soroka Medical Center is one of Israel’s most active and advanced hospitals, and the only major medical center in the Negev. Soroka cares for a population of more than one million people including 400,000 children.

Since the ongoing hostilities in Gaza, the medical center has been operating under the threat of missiles and rockets launched by Gaza-based terrorist organizations. The tension reached a climax with Operation Cast Lead which began on Hanukkah, in December 2008 and direct threats and attacks have continued periodically for the past several years.

Just before IDF ground forces went into Gaza, Soroka shifted to emergency mode and made ready for the potential intake of a massive number of military casualties and civilians hit by rockets on the home front.

Missiles scored direct hits in Beer Sheva, as well as in other cities and towns in the Negev, and Soroka had to operate under direct enemy fire.

During the war, and under attack, we cared for more than 600 wounded, including 226 soldiers wounded on the front.

Soroka has only 8 fortified (protected from missile attack) operating rooms. During the war in Gaza, they operated round the clock.

The huge overload forced us to operate in underground and outdated OR’s
dating from the 1960s, which had recently served as storerooms. This was a no-choice, resourceful and lifesaving response.

The old OR’s are unfit for 21st century medicine, and cannot serve as a permanent solution during emergencies.

**Floor plan of the proposed Emergency Operating Rooms**
The Future OR's

The Medical Center has designated an area of 310 sq. meters (3,336 sq. ft.) for the construction of additional fortified operating rooms to be built according to the latest medical and security standards. The shell has already been constructed and stands ready awaiting completion of the OR's themselves.

"It is urgent that we upgrade the level of protection against missiles for critical locations in the medical center, to ensure that our facilities and ability to save lives stand ready for any contingency and for all emergencies. Time is of critical essence and delay is inconceivable. This is not a luxury. It is a necessity to save lives." Dr. Michael Sherf, Director General, Soroka Medical Center

Costs

The cost of completing construction of the protected OR complex including the two fortified operating rooms is $1,200,000. Soroka Medical Center has provided matching funding in the construction of the shell ($500,000) and will provide additional matching funding for the purchase of the full complement of operating room equipment ($1,300,000).

Donation and Donor Recognition

The new fortified OR complex can be named for a gift of $1,200,000. Full and prominent donor recognition will be provided at both the new OR's and on the Donors Wall of Honor at Soroka Medical Center, in addition to a dignified public dedication and naming ceremony.
Soroka Medical Center

Soroka Medical Center is among Israel’s largest and most advanced hospitals, and the country’s most active. Soroka is the only major medical center in the entire Negev, serving a population of more than one million inhabitants, including 400,000 children, in a region that accounts for 60% of the country’s total land area. Soroka serves as the teaching hospital of the Ben-Gurion University Medical School, whose Faculty of Health Sciences is located on the hospital campus.

On par with leading international institutions, Soroka is a recognized specialist in areas including early detection and treatment of breast cancer using minimally invasive procedures; revolutionary treatment of myocardial infarction involving genetic engineering; non-invasive removal of malignant tumors; leading research in the development of skin cell transplants; trauma rehabilitation of children and adolescents; pediatric infectious diseases; and much more.

Each year, Soroka cares for more than 500,000 outpatient and clinic visits, 200,000 emergency cases, 80,000 hospitalizations fill its 1,000 beds, over 32,000 surgical procedures are performed, and more than 14,000 babies are born. Its neonatal and pediatric departments provide family-centered intensive care with world-class survival rates.

Soroka’s Trauma Unit is the largest and busiest in Israel, always on call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Soroka serves as the regional trauma center for victims of terror and for all Israel Defense Force bases in and near the Negev. This need is unfortunately constant and increasing, most recently in the emergency security situation in areas bordering Gaza and for IDF soldiers in Gaza itself. More than 3,000 trauma patients are admitted to Soroka annually.

Soroka’s physicians travel in mobile units to care for patients in remote clinics as part of Soroka’s community outreach programs. Soroka educates the Negev’s diverse population in preventive care and public health. Soroka is also the largest employer in the Negev, with more than 4,000 employees, including more than 800 new immigrants on staff at all levels of responsibility.

Soroka Medical Center stands at the forefront of medical progress, and is currently upgrading and enhancing research capabilities and the healthcare it provides. Soroka’s staff is dedicated to advancing research and to providing the best medical and emergency care, while treating the patient as a whole human being.

Soroka Medical Center combines medical excellence, dedication, and the achievements of pioneering Israel, with significant opportunities to partner in meeting very immediate needs and having a very real impact on the lives of families and children.
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