

Vitally Important MRI Equipment for Pediatric and Adult Diagnoses Soroka Medical Center

Background

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanning is a medical imaging technique used to diagnose a broad range of serious medical conditions, from torn ligaments to malignant tumors. MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields and radio waves to generate images of the inside of the body without exposing patients to radiation.

Soroka Medical Center currently has 1.5 MRI scanners. One of these has been in use for fourteen years, so it is no longer at the cutting edge of MRI technology, while the other was added four years ago, and is shared with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. In order to provide timely and crucially important MRI services to the ever-growing population of the Negev, we are in need of additional, advanced MRI equipment.

The Need

Soroka Medical Center is the only medical center in the Negev region, and treats more than 700,000 patients annually. The Negev covers 60% of Israel's landmass, and includes a population of over one million, including more than 400,000 children.

And yet, in our region the ratio of MRI devices to the population is the lowest in the entire country. Other regions of Israel have significantly more devices relative to population size than Soroka does. We lag behind by international standards as well; in other developed countries, there are between 7 and 38 MRI devices per one million residents. In the Negev, there is one per million. This situation is untenable and detrimental to

the health and wellbeing of our population. It must be remedied as soon as possible by the acquisition of an additional MRI at Soroka Medical Center for the best possible diagnosis and care of our patients, young and old.

Currently, with access to only 1.5 MRI scanners, backlogs of some 100 patients per month occur regularly and accumulate, forcing our patients to wait months to undergo MRI examinations that in many cases are urgent.

In addition to the physical harm to which this may lead, this situation also causes them and their families stress and unnecessary suffering. At present, some 2,000 patients are waiting for an MRI scan at Soroka,



and the demand for MRI scanning is rising by approximately 6% annually.

For certain sectors of the population, in particular children, MRI testing is nearly always preferable to CT scans, which expose patients to radiation and have been associated with the future development of cancer. The

Israeli Ministry of Health strongly warns against exposing babies and children to radiation if possible. The MRI device we use to diagnose children is the one we share with Ben-Gurion University, so our access to it is limited. An additional MRI device will allow us to perform at least thirty percent more MRI scans on children than we are able to perform today. The new scanner will be located adjacent to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, allowing us to perform MRI examinations safely on children who are in critical condition. Pediatric hemato-oncology patients will also be able to undergo MRI examinations with less exposure to infections thanks to the location of the new device.

Many vital tests are currently not being conducted at Soroka due to the lack of an additional MRI scanner. Among these are breast imaging for young women at high risk of breast cancer, arthrography for imaging joints, urgent brain scans immediately following stroke, and imaging of the prostate as well as pelvic and abdominal organs to detect cancer. The absence of an additional MRI scanner results in many patients not receiving timely diagnosis and care, and also necessitates the use of other forms of imaging that expose them to radiation unnecessarily.

The limited availability of MRI scanning is taking a toll on the health and welfare of the residents of the Negev. This is an intolerable situation. We need your help to provide our patients with access to the cutting-edge, safe diagnostic means that they so need and deserve.



Naming Opportunity and Donor Recognition

Your generous assistance will make a significant difference in the lives of our patients, the adults and children of the entire southern half of Israel. An additional MRI scanner will allow us to perform more testing with state-of-the-art equipment, significantly lessen the time patients must wait for examination and diagnosis, and thereby alleviate their anxiety, lessen their suffering, and contribute greatly to their receiving speedy treatment. The health, welfare, and quality of life of patients will all benefit significantly.

The cost of a new, advanced MRI scanner is \$2,270,000. The cost of renovations for the needed infrastructure to accommodate the new equipment is \$930,000. Total project cost is \$3,200,000

The entire new MRI project can be named for a generous gift of \$1,600,000.

A prominent naming plaque will recognize your donation and acknowledge your generosity. A dignified public ceremony will be held to dedicate the new MRI in the presence of the donors.

*Thank you for your consideration of this
vitaly important project*

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