



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency specialists helping bridge the gap to peace

Sydney, 1 November 2017: Experts from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH) will travel to Israel later this month to deliver an emergency medicine course to specialists caring for children affected by trauma and terrorism.

Hosted by Hadassah Medical Organisation, Jerusalem (Hadassah) and Project Rozana International (PR), the four day course (13 – 16 November) will be attended by 10 Palestinian and 10 Israeli doctors and nurses.

The course will involve lectures, workshops and simulation training, with a strong focus on the importance of teamwork and communication between medical and nursing specialists.

Dr Matthew O'Meara, Senior Staff Specialist in the SCH Emergency Department and NSW Health Chief Paediatrician is one of the three experts travelling to Jerusalem.

"No matter where you work, emergency medicine is challenging and no two days are ever the same," said Dr O'Meara.

"Our experience in Australia may differ to our colleagues in Israel, however we are all driven by our commitment to caring for sick and vulnerable children and their families.

"Teaching may be the purpose of our trip but we are equally interested in learning from the experiences of colleagues in Israel and supporting the peace building work of the Hadassah Hospital."

The Chair of Project Rozana and President of Hadassah Australia, Ron Finkel AM, said there was much that trauma specialists from both countries can learn from each other.

"We are particularly pleased that specialists from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick will be visiting Israel as they are among the most highly-regarded in their field, internationally."

The course has been prepared by Dr O'Meara, Dr Arjun Rao and Nurse Educator Jane Cichero of SCH, in collaboration with Dr Saar Hashavya, the Head of Pediatric Emergency Services at Hadassah Hospital's Ein Kerem campus, together with his medical colleagues.

In 2015, Dr Hashavya completed a year-long fellowship in paediatric emergency medicine at SCH.

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For more information, please contact:

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About

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, part of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network is a tertiary facility for paediatrics and child health, caring for seriously ill and injured children from NSW and beyond.

One of three tertiary centres for child health in NSW, SCH provides the most complex and comprehensive range of services in paediatric and adolescent medicine and surgery, treating children with conditions including cancer, trauma, HIV/AIDS, congenital abnormalities, disabilities, heart disease and respiratory disorders.

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick is part of the Randwick Hospitals Campus, adjacent to the adult Prince of Wales Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women and the Prince of Wales Private Hospital, located in close proximity to the University of New South Wales. Together, they are the largest complex of teaching hospitals in Australia with facilities comparable to any in the world.

The Hospital's philosophy of putting children first and foremost continues to be at the forefront of every aspect of care. Today, the Hospital attends to almost 37,000 children via its Emergency Department, admits more than 18,000 children for care and provides more than 283,000 outpatient occasions of service each year.

For more information: www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au

Hadassah Hospital was established in Jerusalem in 1918 by Henrietta Szold, a pioneering woman who wanted to bring world-first healthcare to Palestine. Since then, it has achieved a number of significant milestones, including a nomination in 2005 for a Nobel Peace Prize, the first time any medical facility in the Middle East had been so honoured. Its philosophy of accepting the 'other' without preconditioned has been adopted by all hospitals in Israel.

It has two hospitals in Jerusalem, at Mt Scopus and Ein Kerem, and provides an extensive outreach program throughout Israel and increasingly to centres around the world requiring both critical and non-critical care. Hadassah medical staff and researchers collaborate with their colleagues internationally and are responsible for more than 50% of all hospital-based research in Israel.

For more information: www.hadassahaustralia.org

Project Rozana was established in Australia in 2013 by Hadassah Australia. In the space of four years it has become an international enterprise with affiliates in the United States, Canada and Israel.

Its purpose is to train Palestinian health workers in order to build the health capacity in Palestinian society; to treat Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza when funding from the Palestinian Authority has been exhausted; and to provide free transport from Gaza and the West Bank border crossings for mainly Palestinian children to hospitals in Israel. It also assists in funding treatment of children from centres of conflict in the region, including Syria.

For more information: www.projectrozana.org

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