

## Oyooni OCTOBER Trip 2010

1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

### BETHLEHEM:

**Clinical work at Dheishah camp: OCT. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>.**

First time to work in Deheisha Camp clinic, so first day was mostly spent setting up & laying down the ground work. They were very helpful,

allocated 3 nurses to help me.



All patients sent for screening were first seen by the GP, and if deemed needing retinal evaluations were then referred to me. Total number seen over 5 days were 58 patients, of whom 41 had medical files & 17 without. (min shanallah group!)

Of those, only one patient needed

lasering & was due to go Jerusalem.

The overall retinal findings, from the relatively small number seen were stable and not too worrying.

Meetings with Dr Essam, future Director of Diabetic Centre, Dr Jarrar, local ophthalmologist and a few of the clinic GPs & nurses were very fruitful & enlightening as to the overall situation at Dheishah camp.



Discussion with Dr Essam centered on the proposed Diabetic centre, **Al-Shams** and what stage it has got to. The building itself has been in existence previously and had got an extensive renovation & improvement. It is apparently ready to have the equipment installed in preparation for becoming fully operational. The present target for that is optimistically earmarked for the spring of 2011. All departments with the *exception* of the Ophthalmic are almost ready to move in, hence their need & desire for Oyooni to assist.

We had submitted already, last year, all the details requested for the Eye diabetic section to start operating, as a "Tertiary" referral centre. That included the list of what equipment & personnel needed with a plan of operation. All along, Oyooni would be more than happy to participate & be an active part of the centre.



Laid down the final touches with Doris, manager of Al Shurooq School for the Blind, for the setting up of the LVA clinic there. This will entail the purchase of required LVA equipment and other ancillary ones. Also encouraged the training of an allied health worker/teacher, in the field of Low Visual aids, by sending him or her to Amman for specialised courses. The final target date for full operation will be dependant on the above, but targeting autumn of 2011.



**JERUSALEM: OCT. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Accompanied the zyara group there, where we visited Burg al Luqluq, Sheikh Jarrah and Salwan districts.

Second visit to Jerusalem, 12<sup>th</sup>, was to:

- 1) Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), where I met with the director who showed me around & filled me in with all details about the hospital, its central role in Jerusalem as a main artery for specialized health services for Palestinians.

Also met with the founding team of Diabetologists, overseeing combined services for the West Bank. Welcomed Oyooni & the diabetic services & help it will be providing.



Oyooni is aiding in the setting up of the ophthalmic unit at the Al-Shams centre at Dheishah camp. AVH of Jerusalem plays an extremely vital and central role. It has been historically the "specialist centre", be it in cancers of ENT, kidney dialysis and diabetes, serving the Palestinian population in the West Bank, deprived now from entering Jerusalem with any kind of ease.

## 2) Al-Quds University, Child Institute:

[www.alquds.edu/centers\\_institutes/Child](http://www.alquds.edu/centers_institutes/Child)

Was invited to a place on the board of directors & asked to contribute to their proposed master's course to be run by Al Quds University. It will be in my capacity as an ophthalmologist with a special interest in neuro-ophthalmology and its application in learning disability, particularly, dyslexia.

## **RAMALLAH:**

Invited by UNRWA to attend a two day international conference, 9-10<sup>th</sup> Oct.2010, on Nutrition: A focus on Palestinian Children. Networking opportunity for Oyooni.

The third day, 11<sup>th</sup> was a workshop on Anaemia, which I participated in & contributed to, via round table discussion and brainstorming.

Anaemia plays a pivotal role in relation to eye diseases. It can & does affect it directly as well as the early diagnosis of anaemia can be often gleaned from the eyes. Ophthalmology can be an important diagnostic tool in many incidences.



Visit to Bir Zeit University, 14<sup>th</sup>, accompanying Zyara group, where I met with the dean of the faculty of nursing, Mr.

Discussed the possibility of lecturing to the students at the faculty on ophthalmic allied topics. Some of the students, he believed, might show an interest in volunteering with Oyooni, in the future.