



The Canadian
SHAARE ZEDEK Hospital Foundation
a hospital with a heart

fall 2009 heartbeat

Laparoscopic Advances in Treating IBD

By Heather Brodie

Crohn's Disease (CD) is an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks the gastrointestinal tract, causing inflammation and a wide variety of symptoms. It may affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract. It is classified as a type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Although IBD is found throughout the world, it seems to be more common in North America and Northern Europe. It is estimated that in North America, CD affects between 400,000 and 600,000 people.



Left to right: Dr. Ari Silbermintz, Dr. Lenna Rachman, Dr. Dan Turner, Ms. Ronit Dadosh, Dr. Ari Bergwerk

Shaare Zedek has proven itself as an expert in the treatment of IBD, as it has been found to be a condition that exists in higher than average numbers amongst Ashkenazi Jews. With Jerusalem serving

as one of the most diverse Jewish population centers in the world, and Shaare Zedek being the city's only major centrally located hospital, the Medical Center receives a large number of cases.

Under the direction of Dr. Petachia Reissman, Director of the Department of General Surgery at Shaare Zedek, the center has quickly assumed a national reputation for excellence in the performance of laparoscopic surgeries aimed at the treatment of CD and IBD. Laparoscopic (or minimally invasive) surgery is a modern technique in which an operation is performed through small incisions (vs. the larger incisions needed in traditional surgical procedures), resulting in reduced blood loss, pain, and a shorter recovery time. In particular, the

hospital surgically treats approximately 120 cases each year of CD, both complicated and general.

With the hospital's increasing number of patients facing CD and IBD, Shaare Zedek is also dedicating itself to researching the effects of the surgical care of affected patients. At present the specific research is focused on recurrence of CD and IBD in patients after laparoscopic surgery versus open section surgeries.

Patients who undergo the procedures at Shaare Zedek are closely monitored, including intensive follow-up to assess the effectiveness of the operation on their condition. Significant attention is being paid to collecting all relevant data in order to compare the findings to data from patients who underwent open section surgeries both at Shaare Zedek and other Israeli institutions. Additional dedicated research under Dr. Reissman's guidance would further enable Shaare Zedek to play an even more central role in the proactive treatment of IBD cases both in Israel and around the world.

Firmly committed to expanding its clinical research and treatment activities in the growing area of laparoscopic surgery, the hospital is currently embarking upon a significant expansion of its surgical facilities. The Surgical Operating Complex will be completely outfitted with ultra-modern equipment with a large focus on laparoscopy equipment. All design elements of the new Complex are being coordinated under the direction of Dr. Reissman, drawing on his experience as a leading surgeon in many top-level medical centers around the world, to guide Shaare Zedek into this next generation of medicine.

Spotlight:

The New Wohl Surgical Operating Complex

With the completion of Shaare Zedek's emergency room (ER) in 2004, rebuilding of the Surgical Operating Center has become one of the hospital's top development priorities.

Even before completion of the ER, demand was heavy for the Surgical Operating Center's operating theatres, which are used by all the surgical departments of the Hospital. Today, there are seven operating theaters in use, with five measuring 385 sq ft and two measuring 535 sq ft. Heating and air conditioning systems are outdated, the recovery room is crowded and outdated and the overall design of the Surgical Operating Center is inefficient by today's standards.

The new Wohl Surgical Operating Complex, upon which construction is projected to be completed in 2010, will feature twelve state-of-the-art operating theaters. Heating and air conditioning systems will be updated and the recovery room will double in size. The operating theaters will be built according to the highest standards, including digital technology, advanced lighting and accommodation for robotic equipment in the future. Administration areas, offices and physicians' rooms will be fully separate from the operating theaters on a floor directly above the Complex, thus freeing up a substantial amount of space for the expansion and renovations.

Like the present facility, the Wohl Surgical Operating Complex will remain on the Hospital's second floor, and will be easily accessible to the Department of Emergency Medicine. The Complex will therefore be able to efficiently receive emergency surgical cases. As the second floor is located underground, it can continue to function even in wartime.

More than 18,000 operations a year are carried out at Shaare Zedek by thirteen different departments: Back Surgery, General Surgery, Head & Neck Surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic, Maxillofacial and Reconstructive Surgery, Hand Surgery, Urology, Vascular Surgery, Gynecology and Gynecology-Oncology. Shaare Zedek has taken its place as an international center for laparoscopic surgery (minimally

invasive surgery utilizing the insertion of a fiber optic cable), offering advanced surgeries currently carried out in only a handful of centers worldwide.

Shaare Zedek is a leader in a wide range of surgical techniques and procedures that until just a few years ago required major surgery. For example, urological surgery to correct congenital deformities; arthroscopic surgery (minimally invasive surgery requiring two minor incisions - one for a minuscule camera and one for a surgical instrument) to correct joint damage; pelvic floor surgery to correct urinary incontinence; specialized surgery to solve infertility problems; and laser surgery to prevent snoring, to name just a few.



Experiencing the Hospital with a Heart Firsthand

Michael Mills, an ophthalmologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of the retina, and Chaim Bell, an internist, researcher and assistant professor at the University of Toronto, have been devoted supporters of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation for over four years through their work with the On the Run committee. They have served as co-chairs of the event for the past three years. Michael feels that On the Run is a perfect event for him to be involved with, as it is an activity that almost anyone can do and it draws family and friends together. Chaim has been running for many years and finds it enjoyable on a social and fitness level. They both continue to stay involved with Shaare Zedek for a number of reasons. Michael strongly believes that "We should give back to our community and our people. Shaare Zedek Medical Center is an institution dear to my heart that helps people get well in a challenging environment. Visiting and healing the sick and injured are important mitzvahs and we need to help the people at Shaare Zedek do their job." Chaim stays actively involved with Shaare Zedek because, as he says, "I think Shaare Zedek is a great cause because of its ability to embrace all the diversity in Israel while maintaining a modern focus."

This past spring, Chaim and his family visited Israel to celebrate Pesach. While there, they made a trip to the Medical Center to see the tangible results of the dedication and hard work of the volunteers. Michael and his family will also be travelling to Israel this year for a Bar Mitzvah. While there he plans to meet with



some of the physicians and staff at Shaare Zedek to see their work first-hand and truly grasp the difference that the Canadian Foundation has made to the hospital.

Both of these doctors exemplify the true spirit of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, and they have truly made a difference and impacted the lives of others. The Canadian Foundation looks forward to continuing working with them in the years to come. On the Run 2009 will be taking place Sunday, September 27 at East Don Parklands. To register or for more information visit www.hospitalwithaheart.ca.

October 2009

Shaare Zedek launches its brand new website



New Tribute Cards

More User Friendly

Manage your own account and address book

Online Store

Recent Events

July 14, 2009: On the Green

- New Leadership's Annual Golf Tournament was held at Copper Creek Golf Club on a beautiful July day. Over 100 golfers came out to support Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Many thanks to event chairs Erin Budd and Jarrod Saltzman and their whole committee.

August 10, 2009: Downtown Toronto speaker event

- The first in a series of speaking events in the downtown core was aimed at exposing Shaare Zedek to a new audience. The event featured high-tech entrepreneur David Ossip and was hosted at Miller Thomson LLP by Jeff Carhart, a long-time supporter of Shaare Zedek. Series chair Matt Liebowitz should be commended for a great first effort and we look forward to many more of these events throughout the year.

August 12, 2009: Professor Avraham Steinberg speaking event in Montreal

- This event was held at the home of Ami Drazin and Dr. Aviva Aspler in conjunction with Mizrahi Canada. Professor Avraham Steinberg from Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem spoke about balancing Jewish medical ethics with healthcare legislation in Israel.

Upcoming Events:

September 27, 2009: On the Run

- New Leadership's 5th Annual Family Fitness Day at East Don Parkland

To register for this event visit www.hospitalwithaheart.ca

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To make a donation or see how you can become more involved with The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, visit us on the web at www.hospitalwithaheart.ca or please contact our office at:

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