

Dear Friends,

2023 was a complicated year for all of us. The events of its last three months overshadowed our work in the previous ones.

While the atrocities of October 7th and the war which has followed has locked in our collective attention over the last months of 2023, we had many notable accomplishments over the course of the year to share with you:

- **2023 Stats**
 - More than 3,400 children underwent over 112,000 treatment sessions and assessments at ALYN Hospital in 2023, a record year despite the war.
 - During the year we treated:
 - 1,500 children with orthopedic injuries
 - 440 children with brain injuries
 - 121 cancer survivors
 - 18 children with severe burns
- **Teaching students:** We continue to expose the next generation of Israel's medical, nursing and clinical therapeutics students from most Israeli colleges' and universities' pediatric rehabilitation programs.
- **Training advanced professionals:** We held professional training sessions at ALYN for continuing education including:
 - Senior nursing staff through the prestigious Ministry of Health course in Administration and Public Policy
 - Physicians training in Entrepreneurship and Innovation as part of the Global Health Clerkship by the Israeli Medical Association
 - Trainees of all medical professions specializing in Cultural Competency
 - Hebrew University Public Health Global program
 - Training at ALYN in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Education to train educators from all parts of Israel in approaches to teaching children with complex special needs. These courses help create a more accessible environment in schools across Israel. 2023 saw the completion of the 3rd such course for educators of children with brain injuries. A similar training course for educators of students with Cerebral Palsy will launch at the beginning of 2024.
 - Physiotherapists from Hebron in hydrotherapy received training towards the establishment of a pediatric rehabilitation center there.
- **Participating in professional meetings** to present the research and programs of ALYN, including the **mHealth Conference** in Tel Aviv for the promotion of medical innovation.
- **Preparing for the opening of a new service** in cooperation with Hadassah Medical Center: **The Young Athletes Sports Injury Rehabilitation Center**, which has already begun welcoming its first patients.
- **ALYNnovation** signed new design partnership agreements with three therapeutic device startups: **Replay Robotics, Kemtai, and VRSteps**. ALYNnovation also began clinical trials with four existing

partners: **Tzora, Wide, Cognishine**, and **Headovations**, and is about to begin clinic trials with a fifth partner, **Gravity Rehabilitation**.

- **ALYN PARC Helmsley Pediatric and Adolescent Rehabilitation Research Center** is building partnerships with leading researchers in the field of trauma and resilience in children and adults, for the purpose of improving existing platforms that have proven successful (for example in the war in Ukraine).
- **PELE celebrated 5 years** of helping children with tailored technical solutions and had a record number of requests for solutions that children with disabilities face to independence in their everyday lives: 143 requests!
- Inaugurated a newly renovated **Imaging Room** with a new modern x-ray machine.
- Opened the doors of the **Gilat Theater Program** which brings interactive performances to ALYN's children each month.
- Our **Maslul Sports Center opened a new Dog Therapy program** for children with special needs in Jerusalem and Mevasseret Zion, and added even more children to the groups with the help of volunteers.

From Simchat Torah onwards, our focus turned to how we as ALYN Hospital can help in response to the state of hostilities:

- **Protecting our patients:** As the war broke, ALYN first made sure we can provide ongoing care to our patients.
 - We took immediate steps to provide enough accessible shelter and **expand the available "Safe Areas"** to ensure the safety of our children during rocket or missile attacks.
 - We **built new shelters** in areas previously intended for logistic use.
 - We **moved our whole Outpatient Clinics operation** from the top floor of the Hospital down to spaces closer to the shelters.
 - We **provided remote therapy sessions** to patients unable to attend in person due to the situation.
- **Giving a helping hand:** We outsourced medical and allied health staff to help Sheba-Tel Hashomer Medical Center in their rehabilitation departments which are overwhelmed by wounded soldiers.
- **PELE** has been actively creating solutions for children whose families have been evacuated from the North and the South of the country, as well as for soldiers and young adults injured in the attacks of October 7th and the war.
- Of more than 80 therapeutic device startups that applied, two **ALYNnovation** partners, Cognishine and Kemtai, were selected by Sheba-Tel Hashomer Medical Center to be integrated into their work with the rehabilitation of injured soldiers.

- **We supported our own staff members** by providing emotional support through our dedicated social workers and psychologists. We assisted our employees who were called to serve in the front lines and their family members, helped those who have lost members of their families to the attacks, and concurrently invested in rebuilding and maintaining the trusting relationship between Arab and Jewish employees within the hospital.
- **We supported Israel's struggling agriculture industry** - more than 100 ALYN Hospital employees picked citrus fruit to help farmers in need of helping hands due to the shortage of workers. We organized a bulk purchase by employees of organic vegetables grown by farms in the South, and chose to give our employees houseplants from the hothouses of the evacuated kibbutzim to support them.

Looking ahead to 2024:

- Our **Physical Therapy Department**, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, will be holding a training course to improve the skills of physical therapists from across the country working in early childhood development programs with young children who require the use of ventilators.
- The **Maslul Sports Center**, which offers afternoon sports programs for children with special needs, will be expanding programs in more Jerusalem suburbs, enabling even more young people to benefit from its activities.
- We are eager to start renovations, which will change the hospital- starting with its lobby, school and day care – please stay tuned!

2023 was a year of continuing growth and productivity, helping more children at the hospital and advocating for their inclusion in society. We are resilient, but need your help to reach even more children and make an even greater difference in 2024 and beyond.

We are praying for the end of the war, the safe return of the hostages and the recovery of those recuperating in body and spirit from the events. We pledge to keep ALYN Hospital a vibrant, forward-looking and caring environment, to put the needs of the children first as we are here to ensure that they can dream of a better future.

With gratitude,



Maurit Beer MD

ALYN Hospital Director General