

# Jewish News

January 9th, 2004

## Jewish and Arab patients

The Mt. Scopus Department of Pediatrics of the Hadassah Medical Organization had the honor and pleasure of hosting the Ishmael & Isaac delegation from Cleveland and other parts of the Midwest at the hospital in November. As described by Dr. Tom Abelson in his article "Seeing eye to eye with Ishmael & Isaac" (CJN, Dec. 11), our staff is striving to provide excellent care to all children of the region without regard to race, religion or nationality.

In our wards, Jewish and Arab patients share the same rooms along with their family members who stay with them, and we have invested significant effort in improving the dialogue between Jewish and Arab families. By dint of our efforts, most families come to realize that they all share the hope of a healthier, more peaceful future for their children.

The visit by the Ishmael & Isaac delegation made a significant impression on our staff and patients. It was heartening for our physicians and nurses to hear Palestinian families describe the excellent medical treatment and empathetic care they were receiving. Some of the families are still talking about the visitors from America and asking when they will return.

The Ishmael & Isaac project has shown that Arabs and Jews can cooperate in Cleveland, and this should be a model for other communities in the U.S. More important, the assistance being provided to medical institutions in the region will hopefully engender greater cooperation and lay the foundation for peaceful coexistence even outside the walls of a hospital.

Elitan Kerem, M.D.; Shaya Wexler, M.D.;

Muhanad Da'na, M.D.

Mt. Scopus Dept. of Pediatrics, Hadassah Medical Organization, Jerusalem