

Editorial

Open Letter

The Gastroenterology and Hepatology teaching hospital

Dr Makki H Fayadh FRCP (ED)
Consultant physician & Gastroenterologist
President/ Iraqi Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology
The Gastroenterology and Hepatology teaching hospital

Dear Colleagues.

In the aftermath of the war we witnessed a lot of changes in the structure of the medical system in our country.

The allied forces representatives in the ministry of health ordered to down grade our center and link it to the neighboring hospital as a small unit and discussions are done now to change the name to (The Gastroenterology and Hepatology teaching hospital).

Now Iraqi gastroenterologist are feeling the test of Democracy! And freedom!

Let us describe for you what your colleagues in Iraq are feeling these days.

The war affected our center drastically and especially damages were done to all the facilities including windows, doors through the shelling of the neighboring ministry of defense which was followed by looting which included loss of the air-conditioning facilities and some of the medical equipment and the only two operative laparoscope's.

The damages were done to the center after the allied forces entered the medical complex and the center was looted after withdrawal of the solders from the center but luckily we could preserve most of the important endoscopic and operative instruments and we maintained our work without interruption.

Gastroenterology and Hepatology practice in Iraq was done in a specialized Centers and clinics covering the country with the central control through our main Center in Baghdad (the specialized center for Gastroenterology and

and close to Baghdad medical college in the medical city campus in Baghdad.

Our Center (The Gastroenterology and Hepatology teaching hospital) is a tertiary referral center and the services include:-

1- SPECIALIZED CLINICS IN :-

Gastroenterology / Hepatology / GI Surgery / GI Oncology / Pediatric Gastroenterology

2- ENDOSCOPIC PROCEDURES :-

Upper GI Endoscopy / Lower GI Endoscopy sigmoidoscopy / colonoscopy / ERCP with interventional procedures (stenting, stone extraction, internal and external drainage)

3- INTERVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES:-

Endoscopic / Radiologic / ultrasonic (Hemostasis, dilation, external and internal stenting, polypectomy, mucosectomy, drainage procedures, tumor ablation).

4- EDUCATION ACTIVATES :-

A- WEEKLY TEACHING ACTIVATES

Journal club

GI Radiology meeting

GI medical meeting

GI pathology meeting

Video /cd conferences

Grand tour (combined medical and surgical)

B- POST GRADUATE BOARD STUDY IN GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

(medical and surgical study three years after passing board specialization in medicine and surgery).

C- TRAINING for GI pathology/GI Radiology/ GI Oncology/ GI Endoscopy/ Hepatology.

Hepatology activities are in close collaboration with the center and is stationed in the same building.

The activities of this society is very wide covering national hospitals with local and international connections and is a member of Arab/ International/ European societies and associations (OMGE, OMED, ESGE, PAAG).

The society publish the Iraqi Gastroenterology and Hepatology Journal .

In this war we suffered from the destruction from the allied forces through air raids, shelling and looting in the aftermath because of the absence of security.

We kept working in spite of all these tragic events.

We call for help from all National / Arab / Local / International (Centers, Societies, Associations, work groups) to :-

- 1- Restore the activities as before .
- 2- Upgrade the activities through local and international training programs.
- 3- Establish scientific links with all international centers.

- 4- Visit to the hospital and society by all international societies and organizations and centers to help in upgrading all the services in Endoscopy, Hepatology, GI surgery, Pediatric Gastroenterology and nutrition, GI oncology / and for future programs of advanced hepato biliary and pancreatic surgery and to established the liver transplantations program which was in the final steps of negotiations with International groups before the war.

We hope that colleagues from all international societies will stand beside our society and the new hospital and thier help is needed in restoring the activities to the pre war situation and to upgrade all the specialities in the center.

While writing this introduction the good news came with instructions that upgrading and rename our center as th Gastroenterology and Hepatology Teaching Hospital and to be the 5th hospital in the medical city teaching complex in Baghdad

My best regards....

Editor in chief