

SCOTTISH PALESTINIAN HEALTH FACULTY



NEWSLETTER NO 7

Welcome to the 7th newsletter of the Scottish Palestinian Health Faculty – 43 pages sharing the experience and views of Scottish and Palestinian health professionals.

There are reports of visitors to Scotland, including Dr Ang Swee Chai, co-founder of MAP (Page 14), Wafa Dakwar from MAP's Lebanon team (Page 16), Dr Alaa Hasan, a Breast Radiologist from Nablus (Page 33) and Dana Sayy, a young doctor from Bethlehem on a Clinical Observership in radiology and oncology (Page 28)

It is always good to extend the SPHF network in Scotland, so a special welcome goes to Fergal Doherty and Stephen Mcleod reporting on the Applied Psychology Programme which is a major plank in the Glasgow-Bethlehem Twinning Arrangement (Page 23).

Jean Bowyer Brown writes on Neonatal Care in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza (Page 18) while Andy Ferguson reports on the progress of the Foundation for Family Medicine in Palestine (Page 31). Graham Watt summarises recent data from the UN on demographic trends in Israel and Palestine (Page 8)

Plus news of an honorary degree, a very successful fundraising concert in Edinburgh and the establishment of the Runa Mackay Legacy Fund (Pages 3-5).

Finally, there is a list of SPHF colleagues who contributed to the first six editions of the newsletter (Page 37) and an index of their contributions (Page 38).

Previous newsletters (1-6) can be accessed on the Scottish Palestinian Forum website at <http://www.scottishpalestinianforum.org.uk/scottish-palestinian-health-faculty-newsletters>

Graham Watt

graham.watt@glasgow.ac.uk

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NEWS

Honorary Degree

Congratulations to Professor Alison Phipps, who contributed to SPHF Newsletter No 6, on the award of a well-deserved Honorary Degree from the University of Edinburgh.



Concert Remembering the Nakba And Raising Funds For MAP

Well done to Colin Cooper for organising this concert which raised over £9000 for MAP (see page 36).



**A NIGHT FOR MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR
PALESTINIANS**

Featuring
**Aidan O'Rourke (fiddle) and
Brighde Chaimbeul (small pipes)**
Tommy Smith - Saxophone
Nada Shawa (dance)

IN SUPPORT OF
MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

St Mary's Cathedral,
Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

Tickets from [CitizenTicket.com](https://www.citizensticket.com)
£10.00 minimum
Scan the QR code for tickets

Saturday 13th May at 7.00pm
(duration 90 minutes)

Scotland supports Palestine 2023

SCAN ME



The Runa Mackay Legacy Fund

Alyson King, Runa Mackay's god daughter has donated £30,000 to the University of Edinburgh to establish the Runa Mackay Legacy Fund which over a ten year period or so will fund a variety of small projects following the example and life of Runa Mackay.

Alyson worked previously as Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beirut but has now taken up post as His Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She is pictured below at her first meeting with the President of the DRC.



Who Wrote What and When

After six editions of this newsletter, with over 240 pages written by over 30 contributors, a list of contributors and an index showing their contributions is included on pages 37 and 38. Newsletters 1-6 can be viewed at <http://www.scottishpalestinianforum.org.uk/scottish-palestinian-health-faculty-newsletters>

SECOND MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH PALESTIAN HEALTH FACULTY

Three years after the inaugural meeting of the SPHF at the Ox and Finch restaurant in Glasgow in 2020, a second meeting was held on the morning of 3rd June 2023 at the Common Ground, a refugee facility next to the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

Following presentations by Gerry O'Hare, Majdi Ashour and Graham Watt there was a general discussion followed by a culturally appropriate lunch.



Attending, clockwise from front left

Gerry O'Hare, senior cancer nurse, Vale of Leven Hospital
Majdi Ashour, PhD student University of Edinburgh
Les Scarth retired child psychiatrist
Graham Bryce, retired child psychiatrist
Roddy O'Kane, neurosurgeon, Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow

Roseann Maguire, research associate, University of Glasgow; host to visiting Palestinian health workers

Abdulla Alhasso, clinical oncologist, Beatson Oncology Centre

Ahmed Alani, colorectal surgeon, QEUH

Ali Hamad, medical student, University of Glasgow

David Sedgwick, retired surgeon, Belford Hospital, Fort William

Jala Rizeq, lecturer in clinical psychology, University of Glasgow

Hamish Mcleod, professor of clinical psychology, University of Glasgow

Apologies were received from :-

Philippa Whitford

Lesley Morrison

Jane Macaskill

Bashir Oudeh

Janet Litherland

Ishaq Abu Arafah

Alison Phipps

Gavin Francis

Ruth McKee

Mhoira Leng

Annette McCulloch

Jonathan Hicks

Luise Yax Valle

An informative and convivial time was had by all, and it was agreed to hold a similar meeting before the end of the year.

QUIZ

Who is the surprise secret artists who drew this Saltire on the Separation Wall at Abu Dis in East Jerusalem. See Page 35



SAFETY IN NUMBERS

When you can measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, You know something about it.

Lord Kelvin

The recent events in Jenin are the latest in a long sequence of violence, involving 6335 Palestinian deaths and 409 Israeli deaths since 2008 according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

22% of Palestinian deaths and 10% of Israeli deaths were in children, defined as being under the age of 18, with four times as many boys as girls in both places.

The morbidity figures are even more stark, with 149,241 Palestinian casualties and 6946 Israeli casualties, defined as needing medical attention for physical injury. Psychological casualties are not included in these figures.

The other issue which gets media coverage, and informs opinions in the wider world, is the development of 144 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Golan Heights, including about 450,000 Jews in the occupied West Bank, about 200,000 living in East Jerusalem (where they comprise 39% of the population) and about 20,000 on the Golan Heights.

Recent history shows that the outside world has had little influence on these developments. Israel has overwhelming military, economic and political power in a hugely unequal relationship with Palestinians and seems impervious and to some extent reinforced by external criticism. Attacks on Israel result in massive retribution.

Palestinians do have one power confounding Israel's superiority, however, namely their continued and continuing presence in large numbers.

The UN estimates that the current populations of Israel and the Occupied Palestine Territory are 9,166,628 and 5,364,210, respectively, but only 75% of the population of Israel is Jewish and 21% is Palestinian (or Arab-Israeli, according to which nomenclature is preferred). The remaining 4% comprises other non-Jewish groups, which like Palestinians, have a second-class category of citizenship, including the right to vote and access to health care, but not including the right to buy land or a right of return for family members. There is also less investment in the economies, environments and educational resources of non-Jewish areas, with predictable effects on population health. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, Palestinians living in Israel generally prefer living in Israel to living in the West Bank.

The above UN figures confirm that, living between the Jordan Valley and the Mediterranean coast, there are 7,289,202 Palestinians (50%), 6,874,971 Jews (47%) and 366,665 others (3%).

By 2050, the UN estimates that the populations of Palestine and Israel will be 9,704,205 and 12,720,000, respectively, while the numbers of Palestinians and Jews will be 12,375,405 and 9,540,000.

This trend is explained by the current demographics of the populations of Palestine and Israel.

The median age of Palestinians is 21.9 years while the median age of Israelis is 29.9 years, reflecting the 9 year difference in life expectancy between Palestinian and Israel men (73.2 v 81.8 years) and the 10 year difference between women (74.4 v 85.1 years). Only 2.9% of Palestinians are aged over 65 compared with 12.0% of Israelis.

46% of Palestinians are under 18, compared with 34% of Israelis. On average Palestinian women have 4 children in their lifetime while Israeli women have 3. While the Palestinian population is growing by 2.25% per year, the rate in Israel is 1.64%.

The statistics of violence and settlements have made little impact on this underlying trend. Whatever the future holds, there are going to be large numbers and a majority of Palestinians. While lacking military, economic and political power, they have power in their presence and future on Palestinian land.

Supporters of Palestine do good work in supporting life under occupation, including the consequences of military attack, environmental degradation and constrained economic development, but another explicit strategic and long term objective should be to invest in the future of the Palestinian population, nearly half of whom have not yet reached adulthood.

Graham Watt



TRAVEL NEWS

On 29th June the *Lochaber Times* reported a hold-up at Laggan Locks for vessels travelling through the Caledonian Canal, including the *Hamdala*, a Norwegian fishing boat touring European ports this summer to highlight the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

2 NEWS



The Freedom Flotilla's crew enjoyed an unscheduled feast of Scottish favourites while waiting on the bridge to be fixed.

Bridge fault causes weekend closure on Caledonian Canal

A mechanical fault at Gairloch Swing Bridge caused a temporary closure to the Caledonian Canal over the weekend, writes Fiona Scott. Specialist teams from Scottish Canals were called out on Friday June 23 and worked hard to resolve the issue. The bridge reopened on Monday.

Boaters were advised to transit the Caledonian Canal from coast to coast over the period and those with a limited time schedule for their transit were asked to consider alternative routes.

Scottish Canals apologised for the inconvenience adding: "We will provide our customers with the opportunity to reschedule their visit and value their patience as we carried out essential works to this heritage asset."

One group travelling the canal last week were quite laid back about the impromptu break in their itinerary. Freedom Flotilla's boat *Handala* had been travelling the length of the Caledonian Canal as part of a tour of European ports this summer to raise awareness of the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

After being stuck at Laggan Locks at the north-east end of Loch Lochy over the weekend the crew agreed that "there were worse places to be stranded".

Norwegian skipper Robin Stensson and some of the crew had obtained food and drink from the store at the garage in Invergarry and proceeded to have a meal on the barge moored on the other side of the canal.

Despite the setback there was a great spirit among the whole crew who also enjoyed sampling some Scottish produce of raspberries, strawberries, ice cream, and Nevis Bakery shortbread.

More on the *Handala* expedition in next week's *Lochaber Times*.



The Hamdala in the Banavie Basin at the top of Neptune's Staircase with Ben Nevis in the background

On July 6th the newspaper provided more information about the Handala's crew and voyage.

NEWS 11
LT

Crew float important message during Lochaber stop

Freedom Flotilla's boat Handala eventually passed through Fort William last week following an unscheduled stop in Spean Bridge due to a mechanical fault at Gairloch Swing Bridge.

The flotilla is a coalition of groups from over a dozen countries whose mission is to raise awareness of the plight of Palestinians in Gaza.

Throughout this year, Handala will be sailing to ports throughout northern Europe and is scheduled to head to the Mediterranean in 2024.

This most recent leg of the journey saw the bedecked vessel on her way from Norway and the Faroes to Glasgow and then Ireland.

During their stay in Lochaber, crew members enjoyed generous hospitality and assistance offered by David Sedgwick of Fort William.

David is a retired surgeon from the Belford Hospital, who has been part of a team teaching medicine in the West Bank and Gaza for more than 10 years.

He said: "I had a great evening meeting the crew at Laggan Locks.

"I was joined by Robin Stensson and some of the crew who had just returned from obtaining food and drink from the store at the garage in Invergarry.

"Norwegian skipper Arne and Gerd were on the first flotilla to Gaza and were captured. Despite the setbacks on this journey there was a great spirit amongst the whole crew."

The change of plans also allowed a crew member travel to Glasgow for a presentation with a number of speakers.

Others were interested to learn about the history of the Highlands - in particular similarities between the Highland Clearances and the 'ethnic cleansing' of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories.

Crew members of the Handala, which is marked with the theme of this year's flotilla 'For the Children of Gaza', say they have been given great support along the canal and have been invited to speak on June 27 in Inverness to the Highland Palestine group.

Trip coordinator Alex McDonald, from Houston, USA, told us: "Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on Earth, with over two million inhabitants in an area approximately six miles wide by 25 miles long.

"Most are children and two thirds of the people in Gaza are refugees whose homes are in Israel - they are denied the right of return to Israel, a violation of international law.

"The blockade, which the Freedom Flotilla highlights through its actions, restricts Palestinian access to medical care and supplies as well as the ability to export their products - resulting in a devastated economy and extremely high unemployment.

The crew would like to welcome all those who have welcomed them, especially the Scottish Trades Union Congress, Scottish Palestine Campaign for their support in arranging events in Scotland aimed at raising awareness of the situation in Palestine.



What the paper did not mention was the food, support and solidarity shown to the crew during their enforced stopover by David Sedgwick, retired general surgeon at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, who has longstanding experience of surgical training in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as he reported in the previous edition of this newsletter.



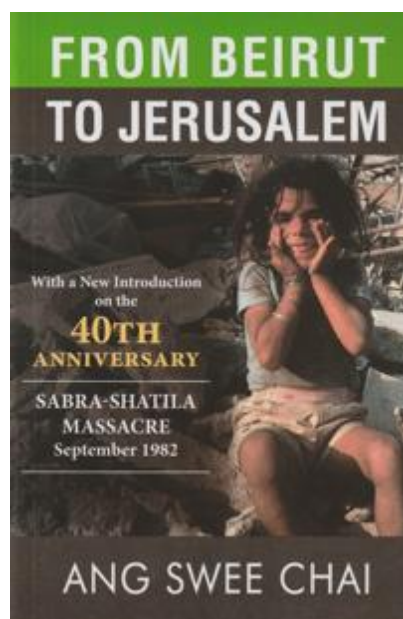
David Sedgwick

One of the strengths of the Scottish Palestinian Health Faculty and network was that it was possible to alert David to the Hamdala's situation almost as soon the news reached colleagues gathering in Glasgow to welcome the Hamdala on its mission.



Dr Ang Swee Chai speaking to the audience at the Glasgow Youth Hostel

This group included Dr Ang Swee Chai, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the London Hospital, co-founder of the UK charity Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) and veteran supporter of the Palestinian people. Swee's visit was too good an opportunity to miss, so an impromptu meeting was held at the Glasgow Youth Hostel in Park Circus, where Swee recounted to a fascinated audience her experience of the Sabra and Shatila massacre of Palestinians in Beirut in 1982, which had opened her eyes to the plight of the Palestinians and led to a lifetime of advocacy in support.





Dr Ang Swee Chai getting ready to leave Glasgow.

Eventually the Hamdala was released from the Caledonian Canal but time constraints prevented it from visiting Glasgow. A rally was held nevertheless at Yorkhill Quay, next to the Riverside Museum, while the Hamdala steamed south.

WAFDA DAKWAR VISITS GLASGOW

Wafa Dakwar, Senior Programme Manager in MAP's Beirut Office visited Glasgow in May to present at the annual conference of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.



It was an afternoon one-hour-session where MAP and the RCPCH global health team presented the work they are doing in the "*preventing, identifying, and managing and managing developmental delays and cognitive disabilities for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon*". The presentation covered the Lebanon context, the situation of Palestinian

refugees within this context, the importance of early childhood development and an introduction to MAP's work. The presentations covered the intervention logic, methodology, plan, and partnerships with key relevant stakeholders, including UNRWA, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Palestinian Disability Forum. They then focused on what is being done to meet the needs and respond to challenges. The session was very successful, with good engagement from attendees, many of whom asked how they can help.

Graham Watt, Gerry O'Hare and Colin Cooper took the opportunity to take Wafa out for a meal during her short stay in Glasgow, along with Dr Jean Bowyer Brown, Consultant Paediatrician, former MAP Trustee and long serving advisor to MAP's child health projects in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza (See Jean's article on Page 18).



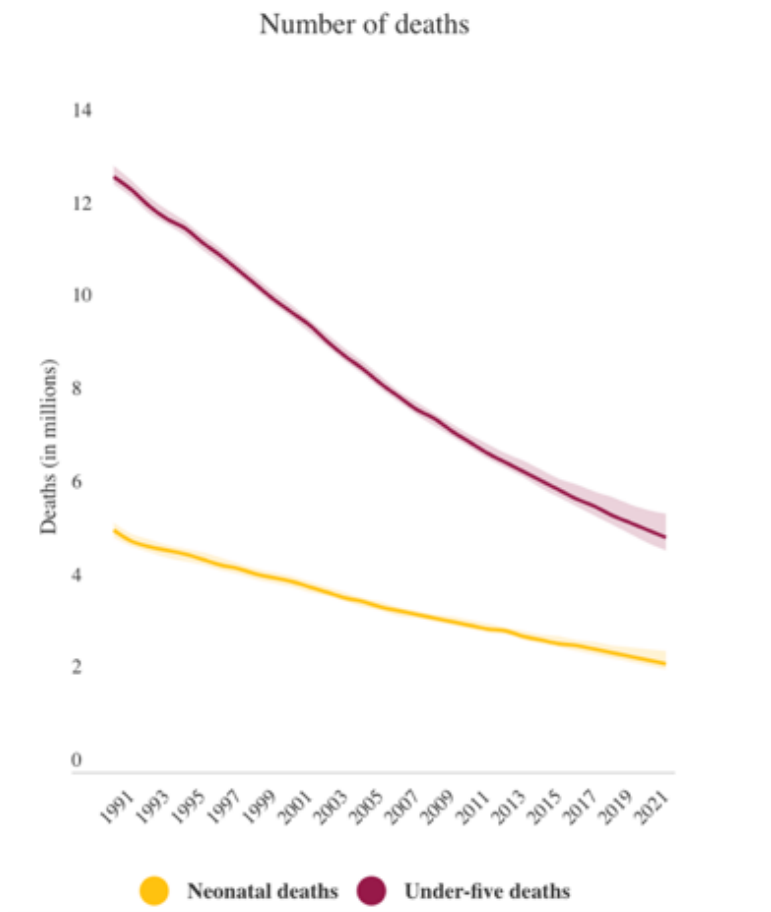
Wafa Dakwar on the north bank of the Clyde standing in front of Melanie Coyne, MAP's Senior Programme Manager in its London Office (See Melanie's article on Page33)

Note

On discovering that Jean Bowyer Brown was born in Glasgow and had Aberdeen relatives, it was only natural to ask her to write for the SPHF Newsletter. Read on.

NEONATAL CARE IN PALESTINE

Of all the children in the world who die in the first five years of life (5 million in 2021), half die in the first 28 days. In Palestine it is 60%, since relatively greater progress has been made in improving the care and survival of older children than that of newborns. Many die of preventable or treatable conditions, particularly prematurity, birth asphyxia and sepsis; so improving the care given in the first weeks of life can have a great impact on the survival and life chances of many children.



UNICEF global data on deaths in children under 5 years
and babies under 1 month of age (Jan 2023)

The graphs show steady improvement in the global numbers of children dying since 1990 but progress is slower for newborns

For this reason, MAP has chosen neonatal care as one of its priorities and has programmes in Gaza, the West Bank and in Lebanon. I have been fortunate to visit the neonatal units in all three areas for MAP this year and am struck by the different challenges they face. It will not surprise you that the level of clinical skill among doctors and nurses is of huge importance but, equally, leadership, strategic thinking and collaboration dictate how effective external help can be.

In Gaza there are no doctors with accredited neonatal intensive care training, though hard-working paediatricians do their best. This means that very small or sick babies do not always get the sophisticated care they need and, if they survive, tend to progress rather slowly to discharge. Similarly, the nurses have, in general, not had the benefit of specialty neonatal training, due in part to the difficulty of getting permission from the Israeli authorities to leave for Jerusalem or elsewhere.

In spite of this, MAP has been able to support basic neonatal training for doctors and nurses with regular teaching since 2008 and have catalysed the development of an efficient network including all the six MOH hospitals in the Gaza Neonatal Network (GNN). Collaboration with the MOH, and between hospitals, allows mothers and babies to be transferred to the most appropriate unit and has improved transport, data collection and mutual learning.

They have also set up a comprehensive screening and treatment programme for retinopathy of prematurity - a cause of avoidable blindness. But their urgent need is to be able to send out senior trainees for three-year Fellowships in Specialist Neonatal Care so that they can bring back modern ideas and skills and set up their own neonatal training programmes. Lack of permits from the Israelis has been a stumbling block so far.



A father in Gaza informed about the screening of his baby's eyes



A consultant ward round at Al Makassed Hospital with the Fellows

Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem has the most advanced neonatal intensive care unit in Palestine, run by four consultants - all fully trained in Canada. The majority of their nurses have a High Diploma in Neonatal Nursing. They offer high quality care and neonatal training to residents and to senior trainees - Fellows- who can then apply to the Arab Board for recognition in the speciality. What they lack is a collaborative network to support inter-hospital transfers, allow training posts in different hospitals and coordinate quality improvements throughout the West Bank. Proposals have been developed and discussed but need more active support from the MOH. There is great scope for expanding training posts to selected hospitals such as Ramallah and Hebron by creating more Fellowships. The private sector also offers important neonatal care in the West Bank and the ideal network would include all those units.



Jean Bowyer Brown (left) visiting the Alia Hospital in Hebron

The situation in Lebanon is different as low-cost hospital care for Palestinians depends on the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRCS) (and on UNRWA funding) and is not under the jurisdiction of the Lebanese Ministry of Health. Patients have historically had little faith in the services provided by the PRCS but are largely unable in the current financial crisis to pay for other care.

MAP, working with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health UK, has started a five-year programme designed to raise the standard of care for all newborns by developing a broad ranging training programme, so that all babies in the six hospitals receive good initial care, with more advanced care for those that need it.

Several hospitals aspire to develop intensive care capacity but the staffing is critically low and resources very limited, so a strategic approach to concentrate resources is needed. By working with the staff over a period of time the hope is it will be possible to develop more effective collaboration between the hospitals, the maternity services and UNRWA.

Meanwhile the doctors and nurses are enthusiastic about the opportunities to learn.



A successful workshop in Beirut on the layout and planning of neonatal units

MAP teams in each area are able to provide support for ongoing training and quality improvement, and the co-ordination to develop better long-term strategies together with many different organisations.

Dr Jean Bowyer DM, FRCP, FRCPC
Consultant Neonatologist



CLASSICO-BETHLEHEM-TOWING!

(The title of this short piece will be explained in due course!)

In April 2015 Fergal Doherty discussed with Educational Psychology colleagues in Glasgow City Council (GCC) the absence, due to occupation etc, of a post graduate Applied Child Psychology course in Palestine. The task from the Twinning Project of GCC for the first visit was to locate the closest fit of colleagues in Palestine in pursuit of this aim. Not an easy task in the world of occupation and a plethora of long-term and temporary NGOs! Indeed, it took him up until the last two days of the initial ten-day personal visit with Fergal's wife, Lilo, to identify the Bethlehem Guidance and Training Centre (GTC) for Children and Families as the closest fit to the Council's Psychological Service in combination with NHSGG&C's Specialist Children's Services (SCS).

It is clear from previous Newsletters that many of the initiatives between Scotland and Palestine have been built on the work and contacts that others have previously pioneered - and this one was no different! In that, those colleagues and comrades associated with the Lajee Centre in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem (e.g. Salah Al-Ajarma and Mohammed Alazarq) very helpfully gave Fergal, and Lilo the necessary first contacts on arriving there in April 2015. Indeed Salah and his wife Rasha became firm friends cemented through the regular visits and hosting of the young Dabka Dancers from Aida. Lilo's contact with Rasha continues since Salah's too early death in 2022. No visit there was complete without a football match between Lajee United and Twinning Rovers which the youngsters of Lajee kindly allowed us to regularly draw!



Sadie Doherty (in yellow) being received by the Mayor of Bethlehem to renew support for twinning arrangements, October 2016

One must recognise at the outset the critical (including financial) role played by GCC - and the Lord Provost's International Secretary Laura Lambert - along with the Bethlehem Municipality, and MAP, in supporting the task of bringing together of: (i) the psychologists and allied health professionals and other professionals in the NHS and the City Council; (ii) the academics at the Universities of Dundee and Glasgow; and (iii) their equivalent partners, GTC etc, in Palestine. Leading to the innovative theory and practice eight years later of an applied child psychology post-graduate course (in the broadest sense) covering psychological and other applied approaches (e.g. Allied Health Professionals) in the Palestinian context. That remains one of the highlights of this 'journey' - the cold contacting, on Fergal's return, of many of these colleagues and the warmth and support, shown to the Palestinian people, in them agreeing unanimously, and without hesitation, to become involved and staying the course!



Lord Provost of Glasgow, Eva Bolanger, and GTC Board launch the Applied Psychology in Palestine Programme, June 2018

Listed below are the teams that GCC; GG&CNHS and Bethlehem Municipality pulled together to progress this project. It included many other contributions, too many to list, but the colleagues below could be considered the 'Diehards' who have seen the project through to this important juncture. The initial visit was from three Palestinian colleagues to Scotland followed by six going both ways.

(As an aside: the initial Scottish delegation was greeted at Tel Aviv Airport by our Palestinian driver with a large sign stating Classico Bethlehem Towing rather than Glasgow Bethlehem Twinning. Fortunately, our resident SLT Kirsty spotted it as we marched past him! The term has stuck!)

- Specialist Children Services & Scottish Government Policy Adviser [Stephen McLeod (NHSGG&C)]
- Educational Psychology [Professor Beth Hannah (University of Dundee) & Dr Anne Grieg (Argyll & Bute Council) and Fergal Doherty, Principal Psychologist (GCC-retired)]
- Clinical Psychology [Professor Hamish McLeod (University of Glasgow) & Simon Smith (NHSGG&C) and others]
- Child Psychiatry [Dr Graham Bryce (NHSGG&C- retired)]
- Allied Health Professionals [Kirsty Smart & Heidi McLeod (NHSGG&C)]
- Clinical and Forensic Psychology [Dr Ruth Stocks (NHSGG&C)]
- Research [Rachel Harris (NHSGG&C)]
- Project Manager [Jackie Wray (NHSGG&C)]
- Administrators [Gemma Brown & Vikki Kerr (NHSGG&C)]

From the Bethlehem Municipality side, the team below is also only the core of a much wider group of colleagues from the GTC and wider in Palestine that have led the project from the beginning.

- Clinical Psychology [Dr Caesar Hakim (Clinical Director (GTC))]
- Chairpersons [Dr Nael Abdelrahman (Board Director (GTC), Dr Mariam Awad)
- Managing Directors [Fadia Saleh, Ghalib Ghatas, Rula Shomali, (GTC)]
- Applied Psychologists [Murad Butman; Wesam Muqbil; Hunaida Iseed; Rania Ghneim Murkarker; Hunaida Isseed; Nida Awad , (GTC)]
- Occupational Therapist [Dania Odeh (GTC)]

The journey from then until now has included many professional visits both ways: from the first visit to Glasgow in May 2015 of Dr Nael Abdelrahman, Fadia Saleh and Dr Caesar Hakim to the Scottish team visiting in September of that year with an average of one visit each way since then, including 2 Glasgow Lord Provost visits to Bethlehem – Sadie Doherty in October 2016 and Eva Bolanger in June 2018 - and with a long list of joint conferences, Council and Municipality formal events; many meetings with academic and practitioner colleagues etc, both here and in Palestine.

This juncture in July 2023 marks - if not the end-point of this work with the development and completion of three years testing of an Applied Post Graduate Psychology Training Programme. Each of the five core modules was co-produced with our Palestinian colleagues and delivered locally in Arabic, with GTC senior staff taking the lead. This is a recognition that this particular phase of the postgraduate Applied Psychology in Palestine (APiP) Project has been successfully concluded.

Fergal Doherty and Stephen McLeod



When the day's work is done



Developing an Applied Psychology internship for Palestine

Learning from a collaborative partnership between Glasgow & Bethlehem

McLeod, S¹, Hakim, C.², Harris, RA³, Doherty, F⁴ & McLeod, HJ⁵

¹ Mental Health Directorate, Scottish Government; ² Guidance & Training Centre for the Child and Family, Bethlehem, Palestine; ³ NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; ⁴ Glasgow City Council; ⁵ University of Glasgow

Working collaboratively in a Global partnership

The mental health and wellbeing of most young Palestinians is currently not well served. One reason for this is the undersupply of appropriately trained and experienced clinicians. A coordinated effort is required to build workforce capacity sustainably. A collaborative project is meeting this need involving the Guidance & Training Centre for the Child and Family (GTC) in Bethlehem, Palestine; and Specialist Children's Services NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Glasgow Psychological Services, and the Universities of Glasgow and Dundee, in Scotland.

A year-long multidisciplinary internship will pilot the first applied psychology training in Palestine. The materials and curriculum will be coproduced by professionals in Bethlehem and Glasgow.

Photos



Programme Launch Event 2018



Eva Bolandor, Lord Provost of Glasgow and Dr Nasir Abdul Rahman, President GTC



GTC Staff Awarded School Counselling Training Certificates

Background

Improving the Mental Health of Children and Young People in Palestine is a critical public health priority. The negative impact of the occupation on Palestinian society is severe and pervasive, and children and young people are particularly affected. Material hardship is compounded by the uncertainty in all aspects of life, and the constant threat of violence, resulting in societal impact of the consequences of complex trauma.

Responding to the mental health needs of children and families is hampered by workforce capacity restrictions arising from very limited access to high quality applied training and supervision of practice. This Programme will increase the supply of well-trained applied psychology professionals who will be better able to support Palestinian families and improve mental health outcomes for children and young people.

Producing a Shared Understanding of Training and Development Needs

The competencies needed by Psychologists in Palestine were specified using survey data collected from Psychologists working in Bethlehem, and via an in-depth analysis of training needs and potential curriculum conducted with GTC Psychologists during a visit to Glasgow. These guided the co-production of modules for pilot testing. The initial test involved nine training sessions delivered to GTC staff in 2017. By 2018 the traineeship project team included a number of experts from GTC & several organisations in Scotland. Each training module is led collaboratively by a GTC staff member and representatives from the Scottish team.

Applied Psychology internship

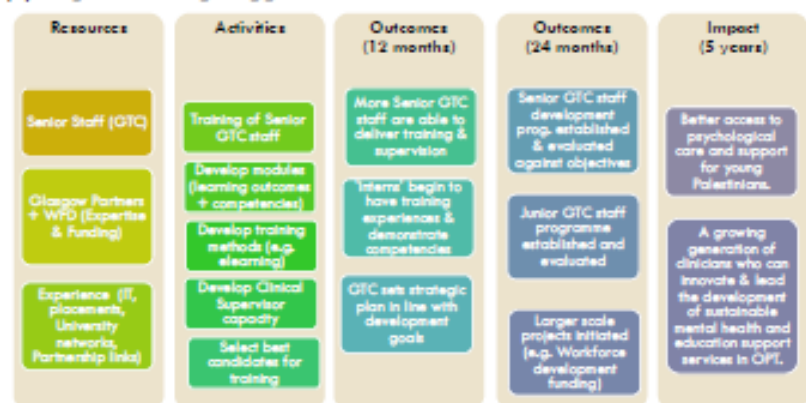
The training programme will comprise four modules run over a one-year full time basis (about 40 hours per week, including both taught and practical components).

An extended test of the draft traineeship started in October 2019 and will continue through to June 2020.



Figure 1: Overall programme structure

Evaluating the process This logic model provides an overview of the program theory explaining how resources and activities will contribute to a chain of results with the intended impact of better access to psychological care and a growing generation of trained clinicians in Palestine.



The project has a comprehensive evaluation to test the logic model and the workings of the collaborative partnership. Data sources include professionals' reflective notes, focus groups, learner outputs from the internship, standardised competency tools, Supervisor evaluations, and Patients' views questionnaires.

Intended Project Outcomes

To evaluate the development and implementation of the pilot Traineeship that will be completed early in the project. This will involve:

- Reflecting on the effectiveness of different learning and teaching processes in the Palestinian context.
- Identifying key areas of good practice.
- Identifying whether, and how, materials have been adapted for the Palestinian context, and what value this has brought.
- Investigating the extent that differences in concepts used in Palestine and Scotland have been explored, and any value derived from this.

DANA SAYY VISITS GLASGOW

I used to joke sarcastically about Glasgow being the “warmest city” I’ve ever visited. Ironically while I was saying goodbye from my window seat in the plane to this city that was fading and transitioning into dots, I could feel its warmth. My heart was full, and I was sentimentally attached to Glaswegian people and to this lively place. I guess warmth has deeper meanings other than just the weather temperature.

I was lucky enough to know Gerry, this noble and inspiring Scottish nurse. He was the mastermind behind my 3-week clinical placements, providing me with top-tier rotations in both radiology and oncology. Throughout this experience, I could sense the impact this adventure had on me, how it polished my perspective, and left me inspired with everlasting memories and invaluable expertise.

Growing up in a third world nation, my perspective regarding all aspects of life including the healthcare system was distorted by being overly indulged in this reality. I never realized how our health system was outdated, with the lack of continuous tracking and development until I had this observership. Surprisingly, the indescribable technology, the perfectly knotted healthcare system, and the continuously updated guidelines were not the things that inspired me the most. Rather how the nurses and doctors treated their patients passionately, how each patient had their own identity and personality respected and cared for. You can sense that the health care providers always treated the patients empathetically, and they were attentive to every little and intricate detail concerning their patients. One of the most heart warming moments was the day I spent in the Beatson radiotherapy department, where a patient came to the therapy session with her medical report that had a note at the end addressing how anxious and worried, she was, and how the two nurses were keen after knowing this information to make her feel safe and comfortable.

It took me a while to find suitable words to express my impeccable experience in Glasgow, and what it has left me with. These 3-weeks of observership had a profound impact on me both emotionally and professionally, that I know will have a lasting effect on my journey in life and my career as an aspiring physician.





FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY MEDICINE IN PALESTINE



Foundation for Family
Medicine in Palestine

Since leaving his post as MAP's Director of Programmes, Andy Ferguson has continued his support for family medicine by taking up the part-time role of CEO for the Foundation for Family Medicine in Palestine (FFMP). In this capacity he recently reported activity at many levels :

General News

- MAP is continuing to cover the ongoing MAP/FFMP support for the development of family medicine (FM) and family health care (FHC) in Palestine for 2023 and 2024
- A final evaluation of the development of FM and FHC in Palestine, and MAP/FFMP's contribution to that development over the past 10 years, will be available soon.

FM Residency Programme (training new family doctors)

- Five residents are approaching their Board exams
- Another 35 residents are at varying stages of the programme
- It is hoped that another cohort of residents will be supported by the MoH this year
- There will be an increased focus on training and mentoring the clinical supervisors (MoH and other) for the residents during their primary health care (PHC) placements, with opportunities for the greater involvement of our volunteer network
- The MoH has recommended 11 PHC centres, distributed throughout the West Bank, and to be designated as FM training centres by the Palestine Medical Council (PMC). The PMC has already accredited some and the process of accreditation is ongoing. Each of these centres has at least one Board certified FM specialist working there.

Transitional Training Programme (TTP) (re-training existing primary care staff)

- In the latest rollout of the TTP, managed by Juzoor and funded by the Italian Cooperation (IC), 93% of PHC workers completed the full course within the three targeted districts.
- Feedback has been extremely positive, with the results of a formal evaluation to follow over the coming weeks.
- The full online course is now available on the MoH managed Moodle platform.

- Further work is planned to customise the TTP for different professional groups and improve the pre/post module quizzes.

FHC Strategy/Systems Development

- We are working with the MoH, supporting their planned development of a more detailed strategy for FM/FHC, complete with an operational plan, budget and framework for M+E – the re-establishment of a National Committee, chaired by the MoH and with representatives from all relevant stakeholders, is key to this process.
- 15 FM specialists, selected by the MoH have been provided with discounted international affiliate membership by the RCGP; giving them access to the College's full array of journals and online educational resources. The group will also meet on a quarterly basis to provide peer support and discussion.
- Six FM specialists have been granted places on Toronto University's International Programme to Strengthen FM and PHC. Toronto is a WHO Collaborating Centre and this series of online sessions provides wonderful educational and networking opportunities, with participants from all over the world.

Academic Network of Medical Schools

- Under the leadership of the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), we have met online with representatives from the seven medical schools in Palestine (five in the West Bank and two in Gaza) to discuss current models for the undergraduate teaching of FM and FHC, the challenges faced, the possibility of working with them to develop a shared framework for the evolution of this teaching and ultimately how we might support relevant faculty members within these medical schools.
- This could also become a major piece of work for our network of volunteers.

Palestine Association of Family Medicine (PAFM)

- MAP and FFMP continue to support the development of PAFM's website and the delivery of a series of webinars, as well as planning future competitive scholarships.
- We'll share the webinar topics and timetable as soon as we have it, together with a request for help!

Andy Ferguson, CEO, FFMP



BREAST RADIOLOGY OBSERVERSHIP IN GLASGOW'S WEST OF SCOTLAND BREAST SCREENING CENTRE

In the previous newsletter, Consultant Breast Radiologist, Janet Litherland, reported on her involvement in MAP's breast cancer care project in Nablus, and participation in the October 2022 mission to Rafedia Hospital's new breast unit, which was fully funded by MAP.



Dr Alaa and Janet Litherland

In May 2023, Radiologist Dr Alaa Hasan from the Rafedia breast unit joined Janet in Glasgow for a two week clinical observership placement at the West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre. This was her first time in the UK.

During her placement, she concentrated on large volume biopsies. Although she was unable to practice on patients, she did a lot of phantom work, as well as spending time with the equipment representative to learn hints and tips, and had sessions with the

radiographer. She also gained experience in

other aspects of breast cancer care such as the patient pathways through symptomatic clinics in particular, and multidisciplinary team organisation. There was just enough time for her to see the sights of Glasgow and Edinburgh too!

The next mission to the Rafedia breast unit is in early July, and the main priority for Janet and Dr Alaa will be to build on the experience gained during the observership, ensuring Dr Alaa is comfortable doing stereo biopsies independently.

Janet Litherland and Melanie Coyne (MAP)

Interview with Dr Alaa Hasan

"My name is Alaa Hasan; I am a female radiologist from Nablus. I have been working as a radiologist for about 7 years, both in the governmental and private sectors, and in the Breast Unit in Rafedia Hospital for about one year - since its opening.

Breast cancer screening in Palestine has improved in the last few years, which is probably due to increased awareness, encouraging media and increased availability of mammogram machines, especially in mobile vans. However, it's still beyond the expected rate in comparison with other countries, women are afraid to be checked without symptoms, a lot of cases present late because of fear; fear of cancer and its consequences on the woman herself and her family. Some think it's incurable and that it's better to die in peace than suffer from chemotherapy and surgery, a lower portion are not aware about themselves,

they don't take the symptoms seriously and think it's a temporary problem and will resolve soon.

As a female radiologist, I also noticed an increased number of patients visiting the clinic as they feel more comfortable to talk and be examined by a female doctor. Regarding the breast unit in Rafedia Hospital, it is a diagnostic unit, it serves women from all the West Bank but mainly the northern areas. Referrals are usually



Dr Alaa at Edinburgh Castle

from primary health care screening centres, and surgical and oncology clinics. In addition to the radiologist, there are nurses, mammographers and a surgeon. Our services include mammography and ultrasound imaging and different types of procedures, including biopsies, clips and wires insertion, which were not available before the unit was founded. This made it easier for patients to receive many services in one place and decreased the economic burden upon them.

Recently, I have been in the UK for a 2 week observership. It included training in both screening and symptomatic breast clinics at the

West of Scotland Breast Screening service, Gartnavel General Hospital and Stobhill Hospital. I was involved in MRI lists, mammographic screen reading, multidisciplinary team meetings and observing the role of the breast care nurses within the breast services. I also undertook practice biopsy sessions on phantoms under stereotactic guidance. It was a great experience that I hope will help me develop breast services in the West Bank.

The missions abroad, training outside Palestine, participating in virtual and live conferences and courses all help to improve our knowledge and skills which hopefully will help us serve the patients better and more comprehensively”.

**Dr. Alaa Hasan Radiologist
Rafedia Breast Unit,
Nablus**

QUIZ ANSWER



Scottish visitors to the Separation Wall at Abu Dis in East Jerusalem cannot fail to be impressed not only that Scottish visitors have been there before but also that they have left their mark. At the talk by Ang Swee Chai in Glasgow recently (Page 14) it emerged that the artist of the Saltire on the Separation Wall was none other than Mick Napier, head of the Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, shown below listening to Swee.



FUNDRAISER AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH

The Fundraiser for MAP at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on 13th May was a part of the "Scotland supports Palestine" programme of events in Dundee twinned with Nablus , Glasgow twinned with Bethlehem and several venues in Edinburgh including ART 27 which included Palestinian food, art, music and dancing. The concert raised over £9K.



Nada Shawa, Aidan O'Rourke, Brighde Chaimbeul and Tommy Smith performing

A personal opinion. ...

Of course the horrific actions carried out by Apartheid Israel against Palestine should be reported and other nations called up on to honour ART 27 (Article 27 of the UN declaration, however, I think efforts should also be made to counter the overwhelming success of the Israeli culture wash.

I have been involved in producing a theatrical history of the Balfour Declaration, bringing a large section of the Palestine History Tapestry to Edinburgh and using arguably the most prestigious platform in Scotland when Tariq Ali addressed an invited audience by Zoom with "An appreciation of his friend Edward Said" in the Royal Society of Edinburgh ...originally he was to address the audience live but health issues prevented this

The MAP concert was in the spirit of showing the Scottish public that Palestinian culture is vital, alive and is a part of expressing 'Sumud'.

Colin Cooper

SPHF FACULTY AND NETWORK

The following list is based on 30 contributors to the first six SPHF Newsletters.

Philippa Whitford (2)	Breast cancer surgeon/MP	Westminster/Ayr
Jane Macaskill (2)	Breast cancer surgeon	Dundee
Gerry O'Hare (4)	Cancer Nurse	Glasgow
Annette McCulloch	GP	N/K
Colin Cooper (2)	GP ®	Edinburgh
Ihab Saleh (2)	Doctor/UNMAS	Gaza
Abdulla Alhasso (2)	Oncology	Glasgow
Mhoira Leng	Palliative Care	Aberdeen/Kampala
Caesar Hakim (3)	Clinical Psychology	Bethlehem
Hamish McLeod (3)	Clinical Psychology	Glasgow
Graham Watt (5)	General Practice ®	Glasgow
Hussein Jabareen	Academic nursing	Hebron
Andy Ferguson (3)	ex-MAP Director of Programmes	Sheffield
Bashir Oudeh	GP/Palmed ®	Fife
Mohammad Alazraq	Common Ground	Glasgow
Rami Idkedek	Nursing	Gaza
Yousef Asmar	Nursing	Gaza
Les Scarth	Psychiatry ®	Glasgow
Suha Hamshari	Family Medicine	Nablus
Jasmine Elhaj	Dental Public Health	N/K
Saffana Ajweh	Doctor	Hebron
Gavin Francis	GP	Edinburgh
Khamis Elessi	Palliative Medicine	Gaza
Mel Coyne (2)	MAP Programme Manager	London
Ali Hamad	Medical Student	Glasgow
Alison Phipps	Refugee Studies	Glasgow
John Macdonald	Men's Health ®	Sydney
David Sedgwick	General Surgery ®	Fort William
Roddy O'Kane	Paediatric Neurosurgery	Glasgow
Janet Litherland	Radiology	Glasgow
Lesley Morrison	GP ®	Selkirk

® = Retired

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SCOTTISH PALESTINIAN HEALTH FACULTY

The SPHF is not a formal organisation, but an informal network of colleagues willing to share their experiences, information and news, including :-

- Palestinian health professionals and health researchers who have trained or studied in Scotland
- Palestinian health professionals and health researchers currently working and living in Scotland
- Scottish health professionals and health researchers, at home or abroad, with links and activities in Palestine

The terms “Scottish” and “Palestinian” are considered broadly in terms of having family or residential connections with either Scotland or Palestinian communities in the OPT (the State of Palestine), Lebanon or elsewhere. Our aims are :-

- To promote Scottish Palestinian health collaboration
- To support the development of health and health care in Palestine

which we hope to achieve by :-

- connecting Scottish and Palestinian colleagues working in the health field
- sharing experience, information, evidence, views and plans
- developing new activities involving Scottish Palestinian health collaboration
- supporting Palestinian health professionals and researchers visiting Scotland
- raising the profile and impact of Scottish Palestinian health collaboration

Apart from the above aims, the SPHF does not have a representative function or collective view. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual contributors.

SCOTTISH PALESTINIAN HEALTH FACULTY



Contact: graham.watt@glasgow.ac.uk