

## SACH Medical Mission, Moldova November 11 to November 16, 2007

The SACH team, comprising, Dr. Lior Sasson, Chief Surgeon, Dr. Uriel Katz, Cardiologist, Dr. Simon Yakobshvili, Anesthetist, Dr. Ilan Cohen, Pediatric Intensivist, Haya Museri, Head OR Nurse, Olga Gor, OR Nurse, Yigal Sofer and Anat Mastor, Perfusionists, Janna Kouzmin and Anna Schneiderman, ICU Nurses, Simon Fisher, SACH Executive Director and Debra Silver, Board Member and occasional photographer and clown, arrived in Kishinev, Moldova on Sunday November 11, 2007, via Turkey. Turkish Airlines was kind enough to give us a large discount in the amount of overweight charges and then Simon was welcomed by the Moldovan customs by name. They allowed our 20 odd boxes of medical supplies in without any fuss at all. Dr. Liviu Maniuk, who had trained in Israel last year, greeted us and accompanied us to the hotel where there was dinner waiting.

At 8:30 in the evening, we headed to the hospital for a first view of the facilities in the IMSP Central Department of Surgery and began unpacking and re-organizing the supplies for the next day's surgery in the conference room that would serve as our base during the coming week. Dr. Katz began checking some of the children from the wards with the assistance of Dr. Oxana Maliga, the resident Pediatric Cardiologist, in order to review the candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> day's surgery.



Dr. Katz and Dr. Oxana working together

The next morning, bright and early, the group arrived to continue unpacking and to move supplies up to the OR area, while Dr. Katz continued reviewing patients for the surgery lists. The first patient, Olesea Cadju, was already on the table being prepped as we arrived, although surgery began perhaps an hour later. The operation was successfully completed within a short time, and allowed the staff to make adjustments to the equipment in anticipation of the more complex surgeries to follow. All the surgeries are being performed by mixed teams in all the disciplines.



Olesea Codja 2 year old girl before surgery

The second surgery of the day, was filmed by a local TV network through the windows above the operating theatre and was completed successfully late in the day. We left the hospital by around 7 pm and headed to the home of Liviu and his wife, Angela, who treated us to a fabulous home cooked meal of Moldovan delicacies and a surprise concert, that included Hava Nagila and Avinu Malkenu, performed on accordion and violin by friends of theirs.



Dr. Liviu Maniuk training in Israel



SACH and Moldovan Teams during Surgery

The second day of surgery began later, following a number of interviews with local radio and television stations who came to speak to Simon and Dr. Cohen, who speaks Romanian, and to the Director of the Cardiovascular Department at the hospital, Prof. Anatol Ciubotaru, to learn about the project. Both surgeries ended up being much more complex. The second surgery began only around 5 pm and ended after 9 o'clock that night.

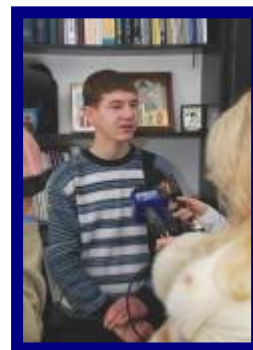


Prajina Artiom 16 month old boy, Monday's second operation - after open heart surgery in Intensive Care Unit

All day, Dr Katz and Dr Maliga continued to check patients, including two who had been operated upon by Ami in Israel in 1996. Alexander Manea is a lovely young man now of 16 with an ambition to become a doctor. His mother remembered many of the staff by name, and even some Hebrew words. Alexander was interviewed by PRO TV, from the Romanian network and represented us admirably.



Dr. Lior Sasson, Alexander and mother, Simon Fisher and Dr. Anatol Cibotaru



Alexander giving an interview to PRO TV



Alexi Chirilov operated upon by Ami in 1998 at the age of four. Visit to clinic with mother.

Vasil Pahomi is now 11, was operated upon in 1998 at the age of 2 1/2 years, and was accompanied by his father. Both were healthy and their parents extremely grateful to our staff.



Vasali

After 10 pm, Dr. Vera, who is presently training in Israel in Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) care, arranged a very special evening for us. We drove to a Church, where her uncle is the priest, and there we were serenaded by a young men's choir who sang beautifully. We proceeded to an adjacent building in the church complex, and were treated to a lavish traditional dinner, including homemade chicken soup and mamaliga and were again serenaded, this time by a mixed choir as well as the men's. This was followed by a saxophonist and accordion player to the delight of all.

Today is the third day and already our first two patients are out of ICU and in the wards. ...To their health.....more reports to follow.



Dr. Vera and Melody from Rwanda in Israel

Debra Silver  
Kishinev, Moldova