**Proposal for funding a new Peritoneal Dialysis program in the West Bank**

Dear Al Bireh Society,

The number of cases of kidney failure in the West Bank continues to rise, increasing the burden on patients, their families, and the Palestinian health system. Kidney failure is directly related to hypertension and diabetes, which are prevalent in almost 40% of the population. The number of patients with kidney failure in the West Bank rose from 391 in 2006, to 1,554 in 2021. This represents an increase of nearly 400%. There are three forms of kidney replacement therapy: 1) hemodialysis (HD), 2) peritoneal dialysis (PD), and 3) kidney transplant. The majority of patients are on HD.

HD patients have to travel to one of 11 HD centers in the West Bank three times per week and spend a minimum of three to four hours at the center each time. Traveling between towns and villages in the West Bank is associated with great dangers due to numerous Israeli checkpoints and to attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian civilians. The situation at checkpoints is never predictable and, as a result, patients are often unable to pass through the checkpoints to receive their treatments. Delays in HD treatments are life threatening and can lead to death.

To help address this life-threatening risk, Hanan Refugees Relief Group seeks to introduce peritoneal dialysis (PD) to the West Bank. PD is a home therapy modality with equally effective results. With PD, patients can perform kidney replacement therapy at home, offering convenience and comfort not afforded by HD, eliminating the need for risky transportation to and several hours at dialysis centers. Patients enjoy a more normal life, with an increased ability to continue their education and pursue their careers.

PD utilizes cyclers which are small machines that can fit on top of a night stand. The cost of one cycler is $13,500. Cyclers can be used by more than one patient and in different regions of the West Bank. The expenses for fluid and other needed materials for one patient for one year is approximately $30,000, much less expensive than traditional dialysis (HD).

The company that supplies/produces the PD machines will provide all needed protocols and assist in the training of nurses, physicians, and patients. These PD cyclers are state of the art technology and allow online monitoring of patients’ treatments and progress. As a licensed nephrologist, I will happily volunteer my time and expertise to monitor and adjust patient treatments. I am currently the Chief of Medicine at Regional West Medical Center and the Medical Director at Davita Dialysis Center, both in Nebraska. To further support this effort, there are additional practicing nephrologists in the U.S. that have agreed to volunteer their services.

Hanan is working alongside the Palestinian Ministry of Health to set up the PD program as a service to Palestinians in the West Bank. Nurses, dieticians, and social workers who will help administer the program will be paid by the ministry. In addition to the physiological, social, and safety advantages provided by this PD program, it will also result in a major saving to the already overburdened government health sector.

We propose that Al Bireh Society utilizes some of the COVID 19 pandemic funding for this one of a kind project in our beloved Palestine. Funding can be for the purchase of a number of machines (each machine costs $13,500) or to adopt the expenses of one or more patients a year ($30,000 per patient per year). Al Bireh Society will be recognized as a major donor for the program in all of Hanan’s outreach materials. Hanan is a volunteer organization established in 2017 that provides assistance to people in need in Palestine, Jordan, and the United States. Please visit our website for more information.

I look forward to working with Al Bireh Society on this *first-of-its-kind* project that will benefit our families and friends in Al Bireh, as well as the rest of Palestine. Thank you for considering our application. Please let us know if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Ruba Sarsour, DO