# A letter from our Founder

Dear friends, family and colleagues  
  
Dr Palydowycz and I recently returned from a needs assessment trip to the Ukraine. What we saw we won’t soon forget. We focused our efforts on the largest military hospital in the western command as well as a huge civilian facility. We also spent one day at a National Guard hospital about 70 km east of Lviv and several large clinics around Lviv. We also had direct communications with Hospitals in Dnipro and Kyiv with confirmation by way of photographs of equipment sent down to the front lines.  
  
What we learned is that there is an incredible and immediate need for trauma equipment to help repair and salvage obliterated arms and legs. Numbers of injuries ate unimaginable. Prevalence information we were given indicates 50,000 military and over 100,000 civilian injuries requiring surgery.  
  
In addition to hundreds killed every day there are Many hundreds of destroyed limbs needing vital trauma equipment. There will also be an ongoing need for services for amputees needing prosthetics, rehabilitation and in many cases counseling.  
  
The equipment needs are based on geography and proximity to the front lines.  
  
On the battlefield tourniquets are essential. We’re hearing requests for as high as 50,000. As the wounded medivac to field hospitals, large external fixators to treat open fractures with massive wounds of war is critical. Additionally, Wound Vacuums in the sub-acute phase to help close large ones has been requested.  Requests for 2000 fixators and plate screw sets have been requested. We have already shipped some of these as well as some wound vacuums. We understand the need is for 5000 wound  vacuums but that 3M and other benevolent entities are contributing many of these.  
  
As wounded are transported west to secondary hospitals often external fixators are removed and secondary reconstructive  procedures with plates and screws are performed.  
  
We’ve learned a lot about the prevalence and incidence of orthopedic and open wound injuries from this war  but we also learned a lot about logistics to effectively get life-saving equipment  from the US, Europe or  Asia to the Warzone as quick as anyone with less delays.  
  
In our last trip we saw trucks abandoned on the side of the road for 3 to 4 days. We work with a streamline strategic foundation that is time proven.  
  
As some accountability regarding equipment use is critical, especially for donors ; We have x-rays and pictures of our end users applying our equipment directly onto the wounded victims of war.  
  
During this trip we also reinforced personal relationships with all Collaborative  partners throughout the pathway of shipped trauma equipment from the US  into Europe, across the border into Ukraine and then east to the war zone.  
  
Our main objective is to get limb and lifesaving equipment from point A to point B and into the hands of those surgeons  that will save lives the quickest.  
  
  
Our next project is to address the need for Tourniquet and external fixator’s.  
  
We had priced tourniquets carefully. While the American military CAT 1 tourniquets run around 30$ We were able to find some foreign manufacturers Who sell these for about $10. Even better, while we were in Ukraine we met with a manufacturer of CAT 1 style tourniquets who indicated that they had capacity to make many thousands but was unable to find single sided Velcro anywhere in Ukraine or Poland.  We are about to purchase almost 3 1/2 miles of a high-quality Velcro and will be shipping to Ukraine for Tourniquet manufacture. The total cost of this project is $10,000. This is contrasted with what would be $150,000 if we bought the American ones and $50,000 if we bought the borderline foreign ones. Therefore our ask is to raise $10,000 which will provide between 5-6000 tourniquets for the battlefield. This will have profound impact on saving limbs.  
  
With reference to external fixator‘s to stabilize limbs with open fractures and devastating soft tissue injuries, we priced out American external fixator‘s for $1000 and Indian and Chinese fixators for about $250 apiece. We were able to find a Pakistani company that has a very benevolent humanitarian as a owner. He is providing these external fixator‘s which are rigid solid and already approved by doctors on the front line for 42$!!  We did our homework. If we bought 500 of them it would be about $21,000 with shipping about 25,000.  
  
Finally, we have ability to buy plate screw sets for $1000 apiece and we simply want  buy 12(6 upper/6 lower extremity) of these to beta test them at several civilian and military hospitals. Total 10,000.  
These sets in the US are between 15 and 18,000&  
  
Therefore our current campaign is to raise funds immediately for the following(includes shipping)  
  
5-6000 tourniquets- 10,000  
500 External Fixators-25,000  
12 trial Plate Screw Sets-12,000  
  
Total $47,000 to fulfill the immediate and most critical requests.

We are shooting for a $200,000 total fundraising goal as many of these items are consumable and we wish to supply a sustainable line of support throughout the duration of the conflict and the following recovery period.  
  
Please know that Dr Palydowycz and I did our homework and THIS IS THE BEST most cost efficient package to help many thousands of wounded victims with decimated maimed limbs.   
  
  
As a note we are also working on programs to support treatment of amputees and perhaps bring Ukrainian surgeons to the US to train them in amputation technique, revisions, flaps and bio mechanical principles and applications of prosthetics for amputees.  
  
We will start with the tourniquets and hope in short order we can raise this money as we have self-funded Our work in Ukraine to date and desperately need support.. please feel free to forward or give my contacts for discussion in consideration of some support.   
  
Thank you  
  
Ron Israelski MD  
President ORSI(Orthopaedic Relief Services International) a 501 C3 not-for-profit.