



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter

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Making Health Not War

Rambam Health Care Campus is located in Haifa, Israel—a city renowned for peaceful coexistence between its mixed Jewish and Arab population.

Like Haifa, many ethnic groups are represented among our employees and patients. Political perspectives lose significance in the fight to save lives. Restoring sick people to health takes precedence in a hospital—after all, were we not all created in the image of God?

Patients treated at Rambam are not limited to Israeli citizens. As the only Level One Trauma Center in the north, we also receive patients from Syria, the Palestinian Authority and many other Mediterranean nations.

One of the greatest struggles for our health care professionals is the day a Syrian patient is

released home. Having fought for that person's life, we can only hope they will remain well and safe. On the other hand, we can make arrangements for the ongoing care of Palestinian patients—we can and we do.

Physicians at Rambam are actively involved in medical research with the goal of helping people beyond our borders. But first and foremost, their focus is today's patients. Each doctor is committed to one mission: life.

In times of overcrowding or emergency situations, our health care professionals may work double and triple shifts.

Since the 2006 war with Lebanon, Rambam has been on an ambitious journey to assure

the safety and security of our patients and staff. In light of current events, now, more than ever, we must be prepared.

In this issue we share with you our plans and vision for a comprehensive infrastructure to assure the safety of society's weakest members—the sick and infirm—along with those who care for them.



Lian, a Palestinian toddler, has lived at Rambam HCC for 17 months undergoing treatment for oxalosis—she has had a kidney transplant and still needs a liver transplant.

What You Didn't Know...

Well before the Second Lebanon War, Rambam had been planning construction of an underground hospital and other facilities. When missiles landed near Rambam in 2006, and at the government's request, those plans were further refined.

To meet ongoing needs, and to assure the safety and security of patients and staff, Rambam undertook an ambitious expansion project, with an estimated partial cost of \$373.5 million.

Few people know that safety against conventional and unconventional warfare was central to this project. Rambam's surgery suites had already been fortified against conventional and unconventional warfare. Now, full fortification had to be drawn into the plans of a renovated ER (completed in 2009), and parts of the new Sammy Ofer Underground Fortified Emergency Hospital, the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, and the yet to be named Cardiovascular

Hospital. The linear accelerators used in the new Joseph Fishman Oncology Center would be permanently installed in the underground hospital.

With another \$151 million still needed, much remains to be done. Nevertheless, today, in the event of war, we can assure the safety of our patients and staff. People around the world have heard of our need and generously given. For this we are deeply thankful.

Parking Preferred Here



Transfer of a patient to the underground hospital during the March drill.

Photo Credit: RHCC

The 2,000-bed Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital opened in April. In daily use as an underground parking lot, this facility can convert within 72 hours to a fully fortified three-level underground hospital.

Parking bays will become patient wards and treatment rooms. Everything needed for ongoing care of the sick and wounded will be available: surgical suites, delivery tables, incubators, dialysis units, linear accelerators, and more. Wounded soldiers and civilians will receive the same

quality of care as in our above-ground facility.

Dedicated elevators will connect the underground hospital with the fortified hospitalization units above ground.

Before opening, a special drill was successfully held to test logistics and preparedness of the underground hospital.

Today, visitors see one of the cleanest parking lots ever. But hidden behind the walls, in the ceilings, and in storage, are all the items needed for transforming into a fortified under-

ground emergency hospital.

We still need funds to finish equipping the underground hospital—but if we need the facility now, we can use it.

The underground has gained the attention of many, including Dr. Qanta Ahmed. Enjoy reading her article and viewing this movie about the drill. Please keep us in your prayers, that should the time come, we will have everything needed.

[Read the blog post](#)

[Watch the YouTube Movie](#)



Staff in the new pediatric emergency room of the recently opened Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital.

Photo Credit: Pieter Fliter

Children and Families First

On June 18, the most sophisticated and advanced children's hospital in Israel opened at Rambam: The Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital. A long-time supporter of Rambam, Ruth Rappaport helped make it all possible.

The new children's hospital includes spacious wards, play rooms, a science museum, classrooms, and more.

Parts of the hospital are fortified to protect the weakest of the weak: the pediatric emergency department, the neonatal intensive care unit, and the pediatric intensive care unit. For children in these sections, simply moving them could destabilize their conditions!

The emergency department is already open. The rest of the

hospital will be occupied in stages, with funds still needed to complete the interior for two of its nine floors and to equip some departments.

Please pray for our staff, our patients, and for the soon provision to finish equipping this important and necessary hospital.

[View the Photo Album](#)

Top & Left) Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. Bottom & Right) The Cardiovascular Hospital.

Photo Credit: Pieter Fliter



The Heart Matters

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death and disability in Israel.

The new Cardiovascular Hospital will meet Rambam's need for additional facilities for these patients, enable care in one building (instead of

many), and enable the best care possible for these at-risk patients.

In time of war, even the slightest motion can endanger the lives of some CVD patient. For this reason, the bottom two floors of the Cardiovascular Hospital will be fully fortified.

The shell of this building has been constructed. However, funds are still needed to complete its construction and to then equip it.

Please pray for our cardiovascular patients, for the medical staff who care for them, and for hearts to be moved to give for this much needed hospital.

Rambam Prepares for War

Making health, not war, is what Rambam Health Care Campus is all about. Health is far more than the lack of disease—it includes the concept of prevention to promote wellbeing and vitality. However, Rambam is also a tertiary care center, a governmental hospital that treats the most trauma patients in the country.

Geographically, Rambam is highly exposed to enemy missiles—something we lived through in 2006. The chronic relapse to war in our region is distressing and sobering. Much preparation is required to maintain any standard or special services during wartime.

As the drums of war beat ever louder in recent weeks, our medical staff sadly review and revise emergency plans. These plans are markedly improved from 2006 because of careful thought, gifted engineers and architects,

and generous donations. Today we have a safe underground facility for providing medical care we must deliver during wartime.

What did Maimonides, the Rambam, have to say about war in his writings which still serve us today, almost 900 years later? The Rambam explains that justifications for war vary: some are commanded, some are permitted, some are for land expansion, and yet others to defend the people and land in which one lives. All peoples yearn for peace and serenity, yet conflicting interests do sometimes lead to war.

Whether King, captain, or foot soldier, the Rambam's perspective (and my own) is to strive to maintain the highest possible moral and ethical conduct with regard to administration of and participation in war. From this perspective any endeavor can be elevated by

carefully applying the standards set forth in our Bible and holy texts—to behave in the most ethical, moral, and decent way possible under the changing circumstances in which we may find ourselves.

Truly we long for no armed conflicts, for peace and serenity to flourish everywhere and for all time. Until then, our role at Rambam is to bring healing to the wounded and diseased, to promote health, and to see every patient as a human whose suffering may be relieved through our efforts. In this way we become active partners in bringing healing to the world.



Moses Maimonides, also known as Rabbi Moshe Ben Mimon (the Rambam)

Jesse Lachter, MD
Clinical Associate Professor
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Rambam Health Care Campus

*Language,
Culture,
and
Rambam*

Peace—שלום

Nearly everyone is familiar with the Hebrew word for peace, *shalom* (שלום). In Biblical Hebrew, this word is rarely connected with the absence of war—the meaning is much larger.

The root for this word, שלם (ShLM) is used for words not usually related to peace. Words such as: complete (שָׁלֵם), to finish (לְהַשִּׁיב), perfect (מוֹשֵׁלֵם), and to pay (לְשַׁלֵּם).

In the poetry of Isaiah (Is.), *shalom* relates to three major areas: 1) peace with the God of Israel; 2) personal peace, and 3) peace between fellowmen and the nations.

For example, in Is. 26:3, we read:

Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.

In Hebrew, the word *shalom* appears twice in this verse—hence the interpretation “perfect peace.” This is a peace that is far beyond the absence of war. It is a completeness and wholeness before the God of Israel.

Later, in Is. 55:12, it is written:

Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing...

Here, peace is not just between man and man, but in the very environment—no more desolation of our lands due to destruction; a

peace affecting the health of all creation as well.

More than the absence of war, Biblical peace is one that rests in the God of Israel, pervades the hearts and minds of men, and fills all of creation.

All of us need this kind of peace, particularly those of us working in the field of medicine. Here at Rambam Health Care Campus, the war is not against nations, but against wounds and diseases that would rip out the “wholeness” of a person. Our mission is to bring wholeness to our patients, allowing them to return to their homes in health and peace.



RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Creating the future of medicine.

Rambam Health Care Campus

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YouTube [rambamhospital](https://www.youtube.com/rambamhospital)



Rambam Health Care Campus -
Hospital



You Can Help Current Needs at Rambam

We depend on people like you to help us replace old equipment, build new facilities, perform research, and care for our patients. Your gift counts—whatever the amount. Click on the links below for more information on how you can help support the people of Israel via Rambam Health Care Campus.

Pray for Us and Tell Others About Us: Visit our [Christian Friends of Rambam Facebook page](#) often for prayer requests and regular updates about what is happening at Rambam.

Friends Organizations: Tax-deductible donations can be made via a Friends organization near you (listed above).

Giving: Please [visit our webpage](#) for more information about how you can make a difference in the lives of the people served by Rambam Health Care Campus.

Following is an overview of some of the current projects underway at Rambam. Please pray for their successful completion, and consider being a part of the provision to meet the needs of Northern Israel's largest hospital.

Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital

- Necessary for safety and security in time of war
- Open in peacetime configuration for underground parking, April 2014
- Funds needed for equipment & beds

Joseph Fishman Oncology Center

- Modern cancer care under one roof
- Opening, fall 2014
- Funds needed for equipment

Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital

- Child-centered care with family-centric rooms and 20 professional units
- Pediatric emergency department is the largest and most advanced in Israel
- Opened (in part), June 2014
- Fortification on bottom three floors
- Funds needed to finish floors 4 and 5, and to equip several departments

Cardiovascular Hospital

- Multidisciplinary cardiovascular care under one roof
- Bottom two floors fortified
- Funding needed for construction and equipment

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem... may there be peace within
your walls*

Psalm 122:6-7