



Jewish Holidays, Fall 2017

Jewish New Year

Sept. 20 sundown
all day Sept. 21-22

Day of Atonement

Sept. 29 sundown
all day Sept. 30

Feast of Tabernacles

Oct. 6 sundown
all day Oct. 7-12

Joy of the Torah

Oct. 12 sundown
all day Oct. 13

[For more information](#)

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Even Israelis are Surprised

The Jewish New Year, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles always seem to catch us by surprise. The New Year can fall anytime from September to October 5 on the Julian calendar.

Living with two calendars, the Julian (solar) calendar and the Jewish (lunar) calendar, makes it easy to forget “when” we are.

Tourists also get confused: Jewish holidays begin the evening before the official day, which is also a holiday. Israel’s Friday is their Saturday, and Saturday is their Sunday.

Yet with the holidays, comes an amazing atmosphere as religious and secular Jews celebrate in their own way: Festive meals celebrated, the synagogues are full, and children enjoy a long holiday after having barely started back to school.

Even here at Rambam, we feel the atmosphere. Patients want to be discharged home for the holidays. For those that stay, we do all possible to accommodate their needs.

The diverse multicultural staff at Rambam do what they can to help each other out at times

likes this, so that as many people as possible can celebrate *their* holiday with family.

Holidays remind us of all we have in common. This is one reason why providing health care to all peoples is so important to us—it honors our common humanity.

This newsletter focusses on Rambam’s impact on non-Israelis. Some patients have sought us out, while we reached out to others; but we give—because it’s the right thing to do.

World First for Heart Failure

Millions of people suffer from diastolic heart failure, for which there is no effective long-term treatment. Rambam Health Care Campus is the first hospital in the world to treat a patient with a new Israeli-developed device for this condition.

Canadian Robert MacLachlan was encouraged by his cardiologist to apply for a new clinical trial being held at Rambam Health Care Campus.

The trial was for a new implant—CORolla®—that helps the beating left ventricle refill with blood, thereby improving the heart’s diastolic function. The device was

invented by Dr. Yair Feld, a cardiologist at Rambam, together with partners Drs. Yotam Reisner and Shay Dubi. An Israeli start-up company, CorAssist, had brought the device through development and Rambam was selected for the clinical trials.

MacLachlan was accepted and became the first patient in the world to benefit from this innovative device.

The Israel Ministry of Health has authorized up to 10 clinical trials at Rambam in Israel to test the efficacy of cardiac catheterization for placement of the CORolla implant.



Robert MacLachlan with one of his physicians, Professor Gil Bolotin, a few days after the procedure.

Photography: Pieter Filter, RHCC

[Learn More](#)

Watch: [New Hope for Heart Failure Patients](#)



Tai Chi at Rambam.

Photography: Nethaniel Ayzik, Spokesperson's Office, RHCC

From the Far East to Middle East

Thirty-five doctors and nurses from different hospitals throughout China will soon complete three months of observation and training at Rambam, as part of a unique cooperation between Israel and the Asian country. The program was initiated by the hospital, enabling Chinese medical and nursing staff to learn more about how a large Israeli hospital is run.

Rambam's Chinese guests were able to see how innovative technologies and protocols are used for patient care. They also learned about Israel's public healthcare system, which is considered to be one of the best in the world.

The participants also participated in a weekly Tai Chi session for Rambam employees. For them, —it was just like being at home!

"This is a fascinating collaboration that demonstrates how medicine is a bridge between peoples and cultures," says one of the initiators of the program, Dr. Ronit Segal-Hirshberg, CEO of Rambam Health Corporation and the director of the Department of Economics and Marketing Department.

[Read the full article](#)

[Enjoy this short video](#)



Dr. Amoudi (L) and Dr. Sharoni (R) take a few minutes to play with their young patients.

Photography: Private Collection.

Surgical Marathon in Ghana

Eight days to perform 155 surgeries? Two Rambam doctors and their colleagues traveled to Ghana and took on this near impossible task as part of a humanitarian mission to treat people with cleft lip and palate.

Operation Smile, is an international medical charity that works in many countries,

including Ghana, Africa, to treat hundreds of local children and adults with cleft lip and pallet. Among their volunteers are two Rambam doctors, Dr. Omri Amoudi, a senior physician in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Dr. Zach Sharoni, a senior physician in the Department of Plastic Surgery.

"This is the eighth time I've taken part in the organization's activities abroad," says Dr. Zach Sharoni. "However, every time I am surprised and amazed anew. ... When we see the reactions of children and parents after recovery and in the days following surgery, it makes it all worthwhile.

[Read the full article](#)

Caring for Our Neighbors

Many people are unaware that Rambam is one of three hospitals in Israel that regularly treats patients from the Palestinian Authority (PA), Gaza Strip, and West Bank.

We asked Yazed Falah, Rambam's coordinator for PA and other patients from Arab nations for more information.

An average of 800 patients from the PA alone come to Rambam each year—making a total of 6,000 visits for medical care—and the number is growing!

The process can be complicated, and Yazed focusses on making it as easy as possible for each patient. First, a patient must be referred by the PA to Rambam. Then medical information is transferred and a Rambam doctor consult's with the patient's physician in the PA. In addition, Yazed works with the Israeli authorities to ensure all necessary red tape is completed, so the patient and his or her family can come into Israel.

When asked about how the patients feel, Yazed shares, "Arab patients have a deep appreciation for our physicians and staff. Some are surprised to see that their doctors are not Jewish. ... We view the patients as Ambassadors for Peace between our two nations."

When praying for Rambam, please remember Yazed, his important work, and all of the people groups who depend on us for their health care.



Yazed Falah, Rambam's PA Coordinator.

Photography: Pioter Fliter, RHCC

Sukkot: A Caution Against Arrogance

In Leviticus 23 we read, “On the fifteenth of the seventh month, there shall be a festival of Booths to the Lord... All citizens in Israel shall live in booths [sukkot or tabernacles], in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

According to Rabbi Samuel ben Meir, known as “Rashbam,” the booth reminds us of our humble beginnings and protects us from arrogance. Living in a simple, partially open booth leaves one vulnerable to unpredictable weather, as well as to the prying eyes of passersby. It takes true humility before the divine to be willing to live one’s faith in a booth for seven days.

There is much that can be said about arrogance, perhaps even with regard to physicians. In 2002, Allan S. Berger wrote

about arrogance for a leading medical publication, *Academic Medicine* (2002;77(2):145–7). He wrote that arrogance among physicians is common, violating the benevolent spirit of medicine. Arrogance persists in medicine for several reasons. However, once those reasons are understood, awareness may, optimally, minimize or neutralize this tendency. Berger describes the respect and prestige accrued to physicians, despite these being in recent decline. There is also what he calls a system of arrogance. Tragically, some healthcare systems make patient care seem more like a job to be performed, rather than a service that helps a suffering fellow human. There is power in knowledge; physicians have this power but it may also lead to arrogance. Berger concluded with the potent reminder that “we should not exaggerate our own importance... we are but

an instrument of healing and not its source.”

The beauty of Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, is a powerful reminder that our homes are temporary—that we have humble beginnings. When we so much as imagine a sukkah, may the Rashbam’s call to forsake arrogance be fulfilled. Our knowledge is limited, and all our knowledge cannot control or change the elements or those around us. Moses, our great Prophet, was noted above all other traits, for his humility. May humility be reinforced in us by our traditions, and may we thus become better healers as well as better people.



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

Professor Jesse Lachter
Head, Endoscopic Ultrasound
Service, Rambam HCC

*Language,
Culture,
and
Rambam*

Booths—סֻכּוֹת—Sukkot

Leviticus 23:42–43 describes the how and why for the Feast of Booths. “Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

How these booths (*sukkot*; סֻכּוֹת) were to be built is not detailed in scripture; however, they in some way resembled the dwelling places of the Israelites during their wilderness journey.

The word *sukkot* literally means woven and is first mentioned in

Genesis 33:17. Apparently, these booths were woven from branches and leaves to protect from the sun.

By definition, such a *sukkah* is rather flimsy. Protection from the sun is one thing, but what about the first rains that usually begin around the same time of year as the holiday, *Sukkot*?

Clearly, living in a *sukkah*, when all the amenities for comfortable living in a permanent dwelling are nearby, is a strong reminder of one’s dependence on God to protect from the elements during this holiday. He commanded us to observe.

Interestingly, *Sukkot* will be celebrated by all the nations of the earth in the Kingdom of Messiah (Zechariah 14:16-17). What a clear message that all the nations of the earth must depend on the creator for their needs—the God of Israel is the God of the entire world!

Here at Rambam, we consider it an honor to give health care to people from many nations and faiths. Our hospital is a microcosm of peace. *Sukkot* is a reminder of a day we all long for—when there will be a permanent and lasting peace for all peoples. May it soon be so.



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You Can Help Rambam in the News

The generosity of others is helping us replace old equipment, build new facilities, perform research, and care for our patients. Every gift counts. 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.

There is nothing like a good news story—news that encourages, inspires, and gives people hope. Rambam is honored to have been a source for many news articles that, some of which have appeared around the world, including India, Uruguay, France, New Zealand, Canada, The UK, the USA, and Arabic media in Israel. Enjoy reading some of these articles and thank you again for your prayers for us, our patients, our staff, and our nation.

[Top Palestinian official makes large donation to Israel's Rambam Medical Center](#) and in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)!

[Diaspora Achievers—Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees \(Lael Anson E. Best, middle of page\)](#)

[ESMO Designated Centre of Integrated Oncology and Palliative Care](#)

[Drama at Rambam—Quick Response by Hospital Doctors Saves Seven-Year-Old](#)

[Rambam Performed One-fifth of 2016 Brain Catheterizations in Israel](#)

[Slovakian President Kiska visits Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa](#)

[The deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan was flown to Israel to deal with a life-threatening situation](#)

[Ultrasound Treatment for Parkinson's Yields Amazing Results](#)

[Emosis, BioRap, Rambam Collaborate to Develop Microparticle Biomarker Hypercoagulation Dx Kit](#)

**A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.**

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)