



Swimmers at the June Swim From the Heart swim meet.

See page 4 for details.

Photography: Pieter Fliter

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Building for the Future

There is a saying in English, “Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

When you stop to think about it, today is the future dream of someone’s yesterday. At first, as children, the future is a simple tomorrow filled with possibilities. With maturation, the future includes plans—small and great. However, with age, we begin to think about the legacy we will leave behind. Yet through it all, we live and breathe only for today.

Today, at Rambam Health Care Campus, we are working to build a future for medicine. We have much to our advantage. We are privileged to be in Israel, recently rated to be among the top 25 nations in the world with a quality

healthcare system—ranking above the UK, the USA, and Canada!

We are a research hospital affiliated with the renown Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and with numerous academic and industry collaborations world wide.

We are the only referral hospital in our region, offering unique treatment options—in some cases only available here, and no where else in the country or our region!

And we have you, the Christian Friends of Rambam—praying for us, and supporting us.

All of these things combined tell us that our future is assured. We will help all who

come through our doors, and new advances in medicine—discovered here, at Rambam, will touch our patients, our nation, and our world.



Drs. Amos Ofer and Yaron Bar-Lavi, physician-scientists at Rambam, working on innovations in medical devices.

Photography: Miki Koren

Historic Agreement

A memorandum of understanding was recently signed by Rambam Health Care Campus and The University of Haifa to seal a historic agreement: a high value joint venture to build a Health Discovery Tower.

This is the first time that an academic institution and some of the world’s most outstanding doctors in their

fields have come together to build a center aimed at stimulating medical-applied research in Israel. That center will be a new Health Discovery Tower at the heart of Rambam’s West Campus.

The 20-story Health Discovery Tower, will be funded by the joint efforts of the University of Haifa and Rambam. It will facilitate collaborations



between Rambam research and development labs, Haifa University’s Health Sciences faculties, the Technion, and high-tech incubators.

[Learn More](#)

From Israel and the PA—With Love



One of the kidney surgeries performed at Rambam HCC.

Photography: Pieter Fliter

A 19-year-old Israeli from a village near Nahariya was to receive a kidney donated by his mother, but the kidney was found to be incompatible with the boy's immune system. In parallel, a 16-year-old Palestinian was meant to receive his brother's kidney, which was also found to be incompatible.

As fate would have it, while the donors were not

immunologically compatible to their own relatives who needed the organs, their tissues were each suitable for members of the other family. This became a life-giving and life-saving cross-transplant opportunity, a relatively rare procedure both in Israel and world-wide.

All surgeries were successful and the patients are now recuperating.

Dr. Ran Steinberg, head of pediatric surgery at Rambam's Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, explained that the experience gained at Rambam over the years made it possible for such a complex project to succeed. "We succeeded in saving lives, and there is no greater satisfaction."

[Read the full article](#)

Good News for Children with Cancer



A medical clown plays with a child being treated for cancer.

Photography: Eran Yardeni

The Joan & Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation at Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital was recently recognized by the ITCC (The Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer Consortium) as an early phase trial center for children with cancer. Rambam is the second hospital in Israel to receive this prestigious recognition,

following Schneider Children's Medical Center, and the only one in the northern region.

The Europe-based ITCC, is an international organization; to date only a handful of medical centers around the world have distinguished themselves as centers of excellence with outstanding therapeutic and research capabilities based on their criteria. With this recog-

niton, Rambam has become the only hospital in Northern Israel able to offer pediatric cancer patients unresponsive to conventional treatment, Phase I and II drugs and technologies free of charge as part of newly developed experimental treatments. As a result, the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital is expected to expand its current circle of patients in the region to include new ones from all over Israel.

When Children Give...



Maayan with her mother bringing gifts for kids.

Photography: Itamar Hashash-Danile, Spokesperson's Office, RHCC

It all began with one student wanting to give her birthday gifts to sick kids last year. This year an entire school joined in and established "Small Gifts for Big Kids."

The project's founder, 12-year-old Maayan Regev is from Haifa. Last year she asked her parents for a different kind of birthday: she

wanted to donate all of her gifts to children being treated at the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital at Rambam.

Her parents asked Maayan's friends to give gifts and toys appropriate for hospitalized kids. They did, and a lot of children received a surprise on Maayan's birthday—lots of

wonderful toys and games to take their minds off of being sick!

Hundreds of toys were collected and distributed to three hospitals in Haifa!

Thank you Maayan, for setting an example for all of us!

[Read the full article](#)

Planting the Seeds of the Future

The Talmud (the ancient Jewish text of the oral tradition that accompanies the written bible), is called the Oral Torah (Law), as compared to the written Torah (Law), the Bible. In the Talmud, (and in Wikipedia) we find several Talmudic stories about one righteous man, Honi Hamaagel.

Rabbi Yohanan said: "This righteous man [Honi] was troubled throughout the whole of his life concerning the meaning of the verse, 'A Song of Ascents: When the Lord brought back those that returned to Zion, we were like dreamers.' [Honi asked] Is it possible for seventy years to be like a dream? How could anyone sleep for seventy years?"

One day Honi was journeying on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked, "How long does it take [for this tree] to bear fruit?" The man replied: "Seventy years." Honi then further asked him: "Are you

certain that you will live another seventy years?" The man replied: "I found [already grown] carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me so I too plant these for my children."

Honi sat down to have a meal and sleep overcame him. As he slept a rocky formation enclosed upon him which hid him from sight and he slept for seventy years. When he awoke he saw a man gathering the fruit of the carob tree and Honi asked him, "Are you the man who planted the tree?" The man replied: "I am his grand-son." Thereupon Honi exclaimed: "It is clear that I have slept for seventy years!"

We at Rambam Health Care Campus continue the tradition of planting the seeds of the future generations of physicians, health care workers, and scientists. We're building strong foundations, both in the sense of facilities made of concrete, and in the sense of building a

foundational culture of excellence. This work will never be completed—there will always be more to develop. We must always strive to be on the cutting edge of the present, and to be preparing as much as possible, for the future.

Each of us can, in our own ways, prepare for the future, devoting some part of our resources to planting seeds, even while knowing that we personally will not be the ones to derive benefit from the fruits of the specific trees from which the seeds will grow. Ensuring the future for coming generations is one way of creating the future we hope for, for those generations who are coming. Everyone can help Rambam in this mission.

Professor Jesse Lachter
Head, Endoscopic Ultrasound
Service, Rambam HCC



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

*Language,
Culture,
and
Rambam*

Future—אֶחָרִית

Jeremiah 29:11 is a well-loved Bible verse: “*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*”

The word for hope in this passage is *acharit* (אֶחָרִית). However, in Hebrew there is more to this word “future” than just looking ahead. It implies having posterity, offspring, or a remnant.

The word order here is important as well. If we have

hope and a future, the implications are that we hope for what will be. But based on what? We don’t know.

However, when we say a future (implying fruitfulness—much more than survival) and a hope, the message is this: Because we have a future we can have an expectant hope based on what we know will be.

In fact, all Biblical hope is built on a solid foundation through faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

And so, this beautiful word, *acharit*, combined with hope (*tikvah*) looks forward to a good ending.

This is the future we seek to build at Rambam, a future that leaves behind a remnant, or posterity, through medicine and medical discovery.

This is why our motto is “Creating the Future of Medicine.” Every life saved and every medical advance discovered builds toward a healthier future.



RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Creating the future of medicine.

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You Can Help Swim From the Heart

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.

Friday, June 9, 2017, the second international Swim from the Heart meet took place in Haifa, Israel. Swim from the Heart is raising awareness and critical research funds to predict and prevent sudden cardiac death (SCD) in children and young adults—a major cause of death in the United States and worldwide.

The swim is part of the annual Rambam Summit, which celebrates the hospital's achievements over the past year.

Inspired by open-water swimmers in Northern California, participants gave of their strength, passion and

resources to swim in one of four heats—all in support of SCD research at Rambam.

SCD patients exhibit no warning symptoms until the fatal incident, making prevention difficult. In the young, SCD is usually due to inherited genetic disorders that may result in the death of otherwise healthy individuals. Clearly new approaches are needed to enable early detection, prevention, and management to assure a promising future for people at risk for SCD.

[Watch the Swim](#)

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

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)