



Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter

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INFANTS & CHILDREN AT RAMBAM

- 38 on dialysis daily
- 1,700 Emergency Room visits per month
- Born in 2012: 150 sets of twins and 6 sets of triplets

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Our Future—Our Children

Our past two newsletters have focused on the emergency needs of Rambam Health Care Campus. As a full medical service provider for Northern Israel, another important part of our work relates to children. Rambam currently has a small children's hospital—Meyer Children's Hospital—which provides pediatric emergency care, outpatient clinics, and standard hospitalization services.

The growing population in our region has necessitated a new children's hospital, which will be dedicated in May 2013.

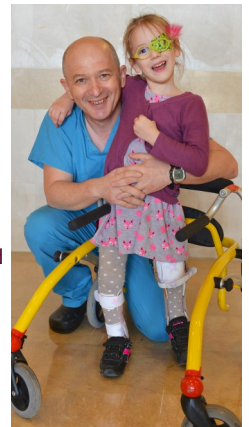
The new nine-story Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital will provide 17,500 square meters of space, enabling more spacious rooms for children and

a variety of services to promote healing of body, mind, and soul. Children are particularly affected when challenged with the pain, stress, and uncertainty of illness. Involving family members is basic to our treatment approach and a critical factor in helping children cope with their anxieties and the unfamiliar hospital atmosphere. Hence, the new hospital will provide far more than physical treatment and therapy rooms and services. A science museum, play rooms, patios, a playground, class rooms, and more will provide activities for children to help reduce stress and engage them in as normal a life as possible.

This newsletter is dedicated to children and their very special needs. Please tell others about this very important effort to protect the lives of children—Israel's most valuable resource.

YouTube

Sofia came to Rambam from Russia. Dr. Mark Eidelman performed surgery that returned full function to her lower limbs. *Photo: Ofer Golan*



Safety—Not Just Underground



Hospitalized children are particularly vulnerable to regional conflict. In the event of war, transferring children to the underground hospital could be harmful. Hence, the bottom

three floors of the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital will be fortified against warfare. The protected areas include a Pediatric Emergency Room, Intensive Care Unit, Dialysis Unit, and ward for premature babies and critically ill newborns.

Emotional safety is also important for hospitalized children. Children and their

parents are at the center of a holistic healing process. The new hospital will emphasize the nurturing of relationships between doctor, patient, and family.



Top) The Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital. **Right)** Architect's concept; interior atrium of the hospital. *Photo: Pieter Filter*



Alleviating Pain in Infants

Newborns at Rambam are screened for severe but treatable congenital diseases. Early detection and treatment can prevent many problems, including severe handicaps. The infant's heel is lanced to draw a few drops of blood for the lab tests. This procedure is not comfortable for the babies—they seem to suffer and cry a lot.

Seeking to alleviate the pain experienced by these little ones, a pioneering work on pain relief in infants was performed at Rambam. They

sought to learn which method of pain relief (without medication) was best: Breast feeding? Formula feeding? Glucose? Cuddling? Giving a pacifier?

They found that any method of pain control is better than none and feeding and breast-feeding during heel-lancing were the most effective methods of pain relief.

Professor Shraga Blazer, one of the researchers, and Director of the Neonatology Department in Meyer Children's Hospital, advises

that there is a direct application for parents. "They need to hold their babies and give them a pacifier, a drink of water, or feed them when they are hungry, and take the time to be there for them."

He also suggested that for all children, whether suffering from physical or emotional distress, natural methods of pain relief are far more effective than drugs or non-physical distractions like TV.

[Read the Research in Full](#)



Rambam's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Photo: Jonathan Bloom

Battlefield Medicine Saves Infant

In a global clinical first, a pediatric emergency medicine (PEM) team at Rambam has reported successfully transfusing packed red blood cells into the bone marrow of an infant under 12 months of age. *The American Journal of Emergency Medicine* published the case this February.

The infant's life was saved by an *intraosseous (IO) blood*

transfusion. To date, IO infusion of drugs and fluids is a recognized treatment for resuscitating infants; IO blood transfusions have been reported only in adults, especially under battlefield conditions. Experts had predicted a low chance of success for injecting a thick fluid like blood into an infant's bone marrow.

Rambam's team drew on Israeli knowledge of battlefield medicine to save an infant with a head injury. The IO blood transfusion saved this little one's life, and two weeks later the infant was sent home—in excellent condition!

[Read the Research in Full](#)



Raz Rothschild of Haifa won the Purim contest for best apprentice chef.

Photo: Pieter Fliter

Chocolate Prescribed for Purim

Purim is a happy holiday filled with laughter and joy. People exchange treats and enjoy rereading the Book of Esther.

But how can sick people join in the celebration?

Representatives of the Israeli Chefs' Association conducted a chocolate workshop for patients in the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology

Department at Rambam. The sweet initiative took place in a classroom that quickly filled with children and chefs making tasty treats from chocolate. Six senior chefs led activities such as rolling chocolate balls in different coatings, and frosting and decorating chocolate cupcakes.

The fragrance of chocolate pervading the ward attracted hospitalized kids of all ages and ethnicities, along with their physicians and nurses, because really, who could withstand the temptation—especially at Purim?

Rambam Said...

The Oath of the Rambam is taken by Israeli medical students at the end of their studies, including students from the Technion's Faculty of Medicine, with which Rambam is affiliated. Following is a brief excerpt of this oath, which deeply reflects the kind of medicine Maimonides practiced and taught:

"May the love of my art motivate me at all times, may neither the love of profit nor the thirst for glory and honor engage my mind; for these enemies of truth and philanthropy could easily deceive me and make me forget my high aim of doing good to **Thy children**. Give me strength of heart and mind to be forever prepared to

serve the rich and the poor, the good and the wicked, friend and enemy, and that I may never see in the patient anything else but a fellow creature in pain."

Medicine is a great universal, and as health care professionals we serve best when keeping a clear focus on our patients who are central to the human drama. Keeping this goal foremost in our minds is the best way to approach success in our mission of healing.

The parent-child relationship which the Rambam invokes, speaking of us all as God's children, resonates as each person tries to relate to and understand the Divine. Rambam had one son, named Avraham, who was born

when the Rambam was 51 years old, and who went on to become a great scholar and medical writer, like his father. May all be so blessed to keep the best interests and welfare of their children front and center—their successes are ours, and continuity through them is one of our greatest blessings.

There are two people, says our Talmud, of whom a person can never be jealous—of one's child and of one's student; we fervently hope they will outdo whatever we ourselves manage to achieve, bringing us satisfaction and joy.

Jesse Lachter, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
and Gastroenterologist
Rambam Health Care Campus



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

*Language,
Culture,
and
Rambam*

Child—Yeled—ילד

The word “child” in Hebrew “yeled” (ילד) comes from the same root as the verb to give birth, “la’lede” (ללדת). On the surface, this seems simple and clear. A child is born; hence the word for child is taken from the verb to give birth. Yet the meaning takes on new depth when we consider how the root for “birth” is used in Biblical and modern Hebrew. For example, In Psalm 95:2, we read “Before the mountains were



brought forth”—“yuladu” (יָלְדוּ). In modern Hebrew we say, “who knows what a day **will bring**?” (מה ילד יום)—literally, “will give birth to.” If someone comes up with an idea, we’ll say, “an idea was born in his mind,” and a wise person is considered someone who “looks ahead and plans for the future” (רואה את הנוֹלָד). All these sayings use words created from this root, ילד, which also means “child.” Hence, this very basic word carries a wealth of meaning: creation, procreation, looking to the future, and planning for it! Surely this is what every parent sees in their child—the future—and they want to plan the best for their child’s future.

At Passover we are commanded to tell our children about this very special holiday (Exodus 13:8), as though we ourselves had been delivered from Egypt. In looking at the deeper meaning of “yeled,” could it be that only in understanding how we were born (physically or as a nation), can we really look ahead and have a future?

Looking at our own birth in 1938, it is humbling to consider the great responsibility that Rambam Health Care Campus has for people, in particular our children. Please pray for us as we plan for their health, safety, and future via the birth of the new Ruth Rappaport Children’s Hospital.



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

 [Rambam Health Care Campus - Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/RambamHealthCareCampus-Hospital)



Ways to Give & Needs

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.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, concern, and gifts for the health and well-being of Northern Israel and the patients served at Rambam.

Urgent Needs: Equipping the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital remains an extremely urgent need. We must be prepared!

In addition, we have many needs for the new Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital. As we have shared in this issue, the needs of children are many and varied.

Every donation—whatever the amount—counts. Your gifts make you an active partner in our activities. Thank you in advance for your help and support of Israel via Rambam Health Care Campus.

Thank You!

We continue to be amazed by the warm response of Norwegians and others to our needs at Rambam. A lovely couple visited here in February, carrying “precious seed” with them. Gifts have also been received from New Zealand, Australia, and Turkey! Just before Passover an international Pro-Life group came to visit, and after Passover, a large group from Finland included Rambam on their tour itinerary. A doctor from South Africa recently wrote—he would like to learn more about how we care for children and newborns.

Prayer changes hearts. So we have started a new [Christian Friends of Rambam Facebook page](#). We update it several times a week with prayer requests for our many activities. Visit this page often to keep up-to-date between newsletters.

Easter and Passover Blessings to You!