

# COVID-19 EDITION

HEROINES ON THE FRONT LINES

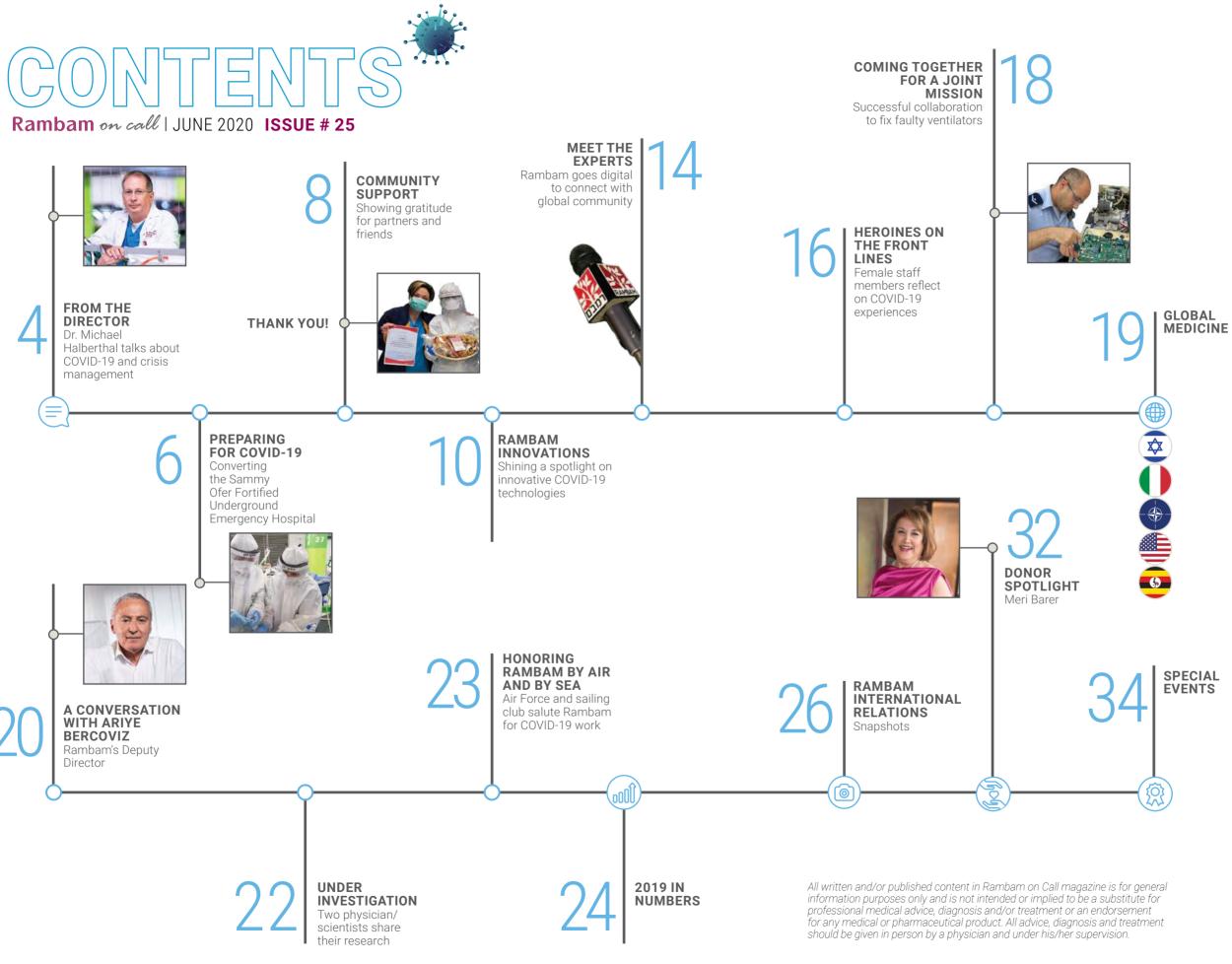
PREPARING THE SAMMY OFER FORTIFIED UNDERGROUND EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

> INNOVATIVE COVID-19 TECHNOLOGIES

HONORING RAMBAM BY AIR AND BY SEA

> COMING TOGETHER FOR A JOINT MISSION





2



**Director and CEO:**Dr. Michael Halbertha

State of Israel Ministry of Health

Published by the Department of International Relations & Resource Development

Director of the Department of International Relations & Resource Development: Dr. Esty Golan

Editor-in-chief: Inbar Shahaf

Senior Editor

and Production: Shirley Erulkar

Writer: Liza Farachdel

### Special Thanks:

Abigail Penn, Batya Cohen, Miriam Glueck, Oded Mayer, Eyal Shterenbach

### Photography:

Courtesy of Rambam Health Care Campus

### **Graphic Design and Concept:**

Raaya Gilboa Studio
Tel: +972-50-3211363
email: raaya@rgdesign.co.il
www.radesian.co.il

### Letters to the Editor:

ROC@rambam.health.gov.il



**Cover Photo:** Rambam staff member preparing to treat COVID-19 patients.

3

Rambam on call | JUNE 2020



# Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share this issue of Rambam On Call. It is not the issue we planned. Our original idea was to dedicate the magazine to our nursing staff, marking the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. Given world events, we are addressing Rambam's new reality as we face COVID-19, and will focus on the nurses in the next issue.

In this issue, we share with you the logistical challenge I to prepare the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital for COVID-19 patients. We express gratitude for support shown by devoted friends and partners during this time, including the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the Ted Arison Family Foundation, the Edmond de Rothschild Foundation, Intel, the Eval and Marilyn Ofer Family Foundation, and many others. We tell you about collaborations that came about with the military, various companies, and institutions like the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and the University of Haifa due to issues encountered while battling COVID-19, resulting in a burst of innovations in areas such as testing using a pooling method, outbreak tracking, staff protection, and patient care. We talk about using social media to connect with the public through webinars, training videos, and online fundraisers. And of course, we also highlight several of the amazing women on our staff.

During the past six months, we spent time and effort on crisis management. In November 2019, a pipe ruptured in the sprinkler system on the seventh floor of the Sammy Ofer Tower, resulting in 150,000 liters of water cascading down to lower floors within 40 minutes. It was inspiring to see the staff quickly rush forward and return the hospital to its normal state within hours.

We confronted our second major crisis in February, with the revelation that expired medication was allegedly dispensed by the pharmacy in 2016. This crisis was one of Rambam's most challenging, breaching the trust and confidence of our patients and staff. The process is under investigation, and while we still don't know the full extent of what happened, we have taken responsibility and worked to repair relationships – both among the staff and between the staff and patients.

While still recovering from the pharmaceutical crisis, COVID-19 reached our shores, and Israel's Ministry of Health requested that we prepare designated COVID-19 Departments. Everyone rallied together to ensure the readiness of the facilities, which were staffed by doctors, nurses, and others who volunteered to do so. One unfortunate side-effect has been the cancellation of events around the world, including the 2020 Rambam Summit. While no one can say what the future holds, we very much look forward to welcoming you to the 2021 Summit.

Despite these challenges, we never stopped developing the campus and working to bring our plans to fruition. In January, we celebrated a major milestone for Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, marking completion of the 20-story skeletal building structure by brightly illuminating the building. We are working on the Eval Ofer Heart Hospital, preparing to publish tenders for constructing the internal infrastructure. We also signed an agreement with the Tannous family; their donation resulted in the Heart Hospital's first three floors being named the Badia Tannous Heart Institute. In addition, the Department of Emergency Medicine has been renamed as the Green-Wagner Department of Emergency Medicine, honoring the generosity of longtime supporters Daphne Wagner and David Green, President of Canadian Friends of Rambam.

In other news, we received top marks from the Ministry of Health for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Cheryl Spencer Pediatric Emergency Department, and infection prevention. In addition, our physicians and researchers continue to be recognized at the international level for their research and innovations.

AS WE ADAPT TO OUR NEW ROUTINE WITH COVID-19, OUR WORK IS MORE COMPLEX. WE ARE PROVIDING THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE FOR OUR PATIENTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, VIGILANTLY KEEPING WATCH FOR A SECOND WAVE OF THE CORONAVIRUS.

Throughout everything, I have always felt that there are phenomenal people by my side and we are all working together – our teams here at Rambam and our friends and supporters around the world. I feel privileged to be a part of such a unique community, one that embodies compassion, coexistence, professionalism, and so much more.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Halberthal

Director and CEO Rambam Health Care Campus

Milw Halberthise

# WHEN THE DANGER COMES FROM WITHIN – CONVERTING

THE SAMMY OFER FORTIFIED
UNDERGROUND EMERGENCY
HOSPITAL INTO A COVID-19
TREATMENT FACILITY

Under normal circumstances, the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital is used as a three-level parking garage. As COVID-19 reached Israel, the Ministry of Health requested plans for its conversion into a 900-bed coronavirus facility, including 300 beds for patients requiring ventilators.

The plan presented a series of challenges. "We built the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital for times of war, and as such, it was designed to provide shelter against missiles and chemical warfare – not viruses," explains Kobi Moskovitz, Director of Operations for Emergency Situations at Rambam Health Care Campus, who has overseen the preparations for converting the facility into a dedicated hospital for treating COVID-19 patients.



# Preparations and Logistical Considerations

The plan called for the hospital to be located on the -3 level – a level with its own separate air conditioning and filtering systems. Prior to beginning the actual conversion, Rambam's administration and the Operations Department had to understand the logistics of taking an underground facility designed for use as a clean area protected from the dangers outside and repurposing it to do the opposite – protect the area outside from the contamination within, ensuring smoothly-run operations that would also keep the staff safe and healthy.

During the design stage, the team considered issues like separation between clean and contaminated areas, removal of contaminated air, camera placement, and more. Relying on hundreds of employees, including soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces' Home Front Command, an infrastructure was created to support all anticipated medical, electrical, and communications needs.

A great deal of equipment and supplies also needed to be purchased. The facility was built on the premise that when Rambam found itself facing the threat of war, all patients in the above-ground, non-fortified departments would move to the safety of the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, along with all of the equipment. "In essence, we are now creating a second hospital – not simply moving Rambam underground. This required the purchase of more beds, ventilators, monitors, carts, refrigerators for medications, and other materials," notes Moskovitz.

The preparations also required the logistics team to establish procedures that would ensure the smooth operation of the facility. "It's logistically impossible for everyone to enter or exit at the same time, as there aren't enough elevators. It's also impossible to get

everyone into personal protective equipment (PPE) at the same time as well as out of it. As such, a plan was formulated that explains how and where people enter and exit, and how shifts change," says Moskovitz, adding, "every two-and-a-half hours, the shift has to change, because it's impossible to be in the PPE for longer."

Another aspect of preparation involved staff training. To that end, a simulated coronavirus department was created to help prepare nurses and doctors to work in this type of environment. In addition, in the event that there will be many patients requiring ventilators, Rambam employees who studied medical technology were trained in ventilator operation.

# Working

A process for receiving patients was also established, beginning at a designated triage site located just outside the perimeter of Rambam. Decisions will be taken at the triage site as to whether ambulances will either be directed to the Green-Wagner Department of Emergency Medicine, or, if COVID-19 is suspected, to the -1 level in the underground hospital where tests will be performed. Patients requiring hospitalization will be transferred to -3.

A dedicated command center is being built in Rambam's staff dining room, allowing staff outside of the facility to monitor patients and communicate with the staff in the underground hospital. And, given that patients' families are not allowed to enter, an information center is being set up to enable them to communicate with their loved ones.

"When it comes to emergencies, you prepare for scenarios with which you are already familiar. This is something that's never happened. We've had this time to lay the groundwork and learn what needs to be done," summarized Moskovitz.



# SHOWING GRATITUDE

While facing numerous challenges in its battle against COVID-19, Rambam Health Care Campus has been—and continues to be—humbled by the support and love

it has received from partners and friends in Israel and around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, Rambam has been able to purchase much needed supplies, enabling treatment with state-of-the-art equipment that gives patients the best possible chances for recovery.

Israel-based companies donated medical supplies such as personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, and more, as local restaurants donated meals to our medical teams for the duration of the pandemic.

THANK YOU!

The Ted Arison Family Foundation Edmond de Rothschild Foundation The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust The Eyal and Marilyn Ofer Family Foundation Israel's State Lottery Intel Ltd. The Committee for Allocation of Funds Adjudicated in Class Actions Leno and Paul Sislin ISCAR Azrieli Foundation Israel The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews Professor Simona and Professor Shlomo Ben Chaim Anat and Udi Angel - XT Group Bruce and Ruth Rappaport Foundation Gav Yam Yehuda Mendelson Aloniel Plus500 Ronit and Haim Sadger Yael and Gal Haber Smolokowski Family Mellanox Technologies Ltd Ofer Malls The Aaron

Gutwirth Fund (Cc) Israel Corporation BAZAN Group Abby Joseph Cohen The Erna F. Viterbi z"l Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation Dorit and Avi Abekasis Leon & Zipporah Goldstein Foundation Hanoch **Dovrath** Michal and Ronen Givon Staff of Rafael Talia and Gad Zeevi Wintego Systems Yaron Michelson Bank Discount Bank Hapoalim Bank Leumi Effi and Eli Goldhar Ella Waldman Malka and Sammy Niego Electric Company Workers Union Maccabi Haifa Tawfig Darawshe Ltd

And many more generous donors who stood by us during the pandemic...



# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE DEFINING THE PARADIGM FOR COVID-19 INNOVATION

Before Rambam Health Care Campus received its first coronavirus patient, it faced a growing number of unprecedented COVID-19-related challenges. "There are several principles that guide us," explains Dr. Netanel Horowitz, Director of the Ambulatory Care Unit in the Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Institute, who was asked by Rambam General Director Dr. Michael Halberthal to coordinate COVID-19 solutions. "We must limit exposure to the virus, and when staff do enter the patient area, they must be well-protected with gear that is comfortable and easy to use. Maintaining efficiency and the ability to perform tasks quickly is also important."

Rambam's physicians and researchers began to develop solutions as the hospital cooperated with companies, academic institutions, and the military to solve issues that medical teams were discovering. The results of these efforts have produced an array of innovative products and technologies.

# CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEMS



# Challenge:

Remote monitoring and maintaining contact with patients and staff.

# **Solution:**

In the event that Rambam is required to activate the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital to treat COVID-19 patients, remote staff monitoring and control of the facility will be critical. Working together, Elbit and Rambam developed the EX-TEAMS system for use in the medical field, allowing people in the above-ground command center to locate each staff member in the underground hospital. The system, which has management and organizational capabilities, also allows for communication between staff members. The Ministry of Health will deploy the system at all public hospitals.











# **COVIEW SYSTEM**

# Challenge:

Collecting and controlling operational data.

# **Solution:**

The CoView System was designed by elite military units and adapted for use in hospitals. It displays personnel data and patient status, and tracks critical equipment, adding these details to existing hospital systems. This system can also connect to other hospitals.

# Challenge:

Collecting monitoring data from equipment in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital and transmitting it to the above-ground command center.

# **Solution:**

Rstream was designed by RAFAEL, an Israeli military industry leader. It is an active online imaging and data system that collects patient data from monitors, vents, and infusion pumps. Images are captured using a mobile device, processed, and then transmitted to a secure cloud for retrieval.





# **COVID-19 TESTING**



# Challenge:

Increased testing to identify COVID-19 carriers.

# **Solution:**

A team of researchers from Rambam and the Technion successfully tested a pooling methodology that enables faster COVID-19 testing by examining a pool of up to 64 RNA samples in one test tube. If the pool shows the presence of COVID-19, each sample is tested individually. This method can be used when there is a need to quickly test significant numbers of people.



# PATIENT MONITORING



# Challenge:

Collecting vital signs while minimizing staff exposure to COVID-19.

# Solution:

Biobeat uses wireless stickers to enable monitoring of patient metrics like breathing, pulse, body temperature, and more. The system continuously transmits information to control monitors, allowing patients to be monitored without physical contact. Rambam is the first hospital to use this Israeli startup's technology.

# Cordio Medical Challenge:

Preventing pneumonia in COVID-19 patients through early recognition of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

## **Solution:**

One of the problems faced by many COVID-19 patients is pneumonia, which is preceded by ARDS and presents with fluid in the lungs. Cordio turned to Rambam to share technology that detects and monitors lung fluid changes using voice sample analysis. The patient is recorded while speaking on different days, and each recording is analyzed to find differences indicating a change in the lung fluid amount. This technology is in early testing stages, and Cordio wanted to test it on COVID-19 patients.

# Sensible Medical Innovations Ltd. *Challenge:*

Early recognition of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) in COVID-19 patients.

### Solution:

Sensible developed the ReDS<sup>TM</sup> system, based on technology designed for the military to find survivors behind walls in collapsed buildings. It was adapted to enable medical teams to see fluid inside the patient's lungs. The technology was previously tested in the Department of Cardiology on heart failure patients, and Sensible wanted to determine if it would work on COVID-19 patients.

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

# Challenge:

Ensuring staff treating COVID-19 patients are properly protected against the virus.

# Solution #1:

An elite military unit provided protective suits that are ventilated using a medical gas pipeline system. These suits are exclusive to Rambam.

# Solution #2:

In conjunction with the military, a new head and neck cover was created and tested at Rambam.



# Solution #3:

In collaboration with the Technion, a new face shield was designed. It attaches to a pump that sends filtered air into the mask, creating an "air curtain" that prevents inhalation of viruses and bacteria. When used with an N95 mask, it provides close to 100% protection.

# PATIENT ISOLATION

# Challenge:

Ensuring that patients have clean air.

# **Solution:**

In collaboration with Carmel Medical Center, Rambam developed an active respiratory protective system that is placed around the patient's head and pumps out exhaled air, which is then purified using a special filter. This system is being tested.

# **IDENTIFYING OUTBREAKS**

# Challenge:

Tracking COVID-19 outbreaks.

# **Solution:**

A research team from Rambam, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Technion, the Israel Defense Forces Medical Corps, and the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion developed a map that performs real-time analysis of COVID-19 propagation characteristics, transmitting up-to-date information regarding outbreak risk levels based on geographic location. The platform uses heatmaps, displaying cases using circles of different sizes and colors. The initiative is led by Dr. Oren Caspi, head of the Advanced Heart Failure Program in Rambam's Department of Cardiology and head of the Technion's Laboratory for Cardiovascular Precision Medicine, together with his brother, Gil Caspi, from the Technion's Faculty of Electrical Engineering, and Dr. Avi Shina.

# **ROBOTICS SYSTEMS**

# Challenge:

Minimizing the need for medical teams to enter the COVID-19 department.

# **Solution #1:**

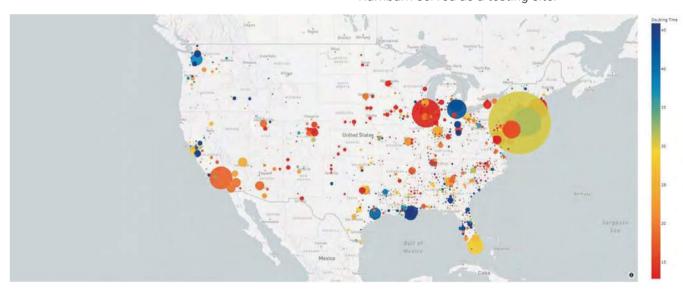
A robot equipped with a camera and communication technology was given to Rambam by Ohalo College. Once inside the department, the robot approaches patients individually, allowing them to face the robot's camera as they communicate with the staff in the command center. This robot is still in development.

# Solution #2:

High school students from Haifa's Reali School built a robot in collaboration with the Technion that can carry up to 30 kilograms. The robot is controlled via a joystick, and can be directed to collect and drop off items. This robot is being tested, and is exclusive to Rambam.

# Solution #3:

Polygon designed a robot that can enter and exit the department to film patients and transport materials. Rambam served as a testing site.



Dr. Michael Halberthal:

COVID-19 will stay with us for the foreseeable future,
and we will need these solutions indefinitely. As such,
these innovations are not only for Rambam, but for everyone.



# MEET THE EXPERTS: RAMBAM GOES DIGITAL TO CONNECT WITH GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The onset of COVID-19 has brought with it a flurry of new challenges, among them, the desire to find alternative ways to connect with one another due to social distancing and self-quarantine regulations. As a result of this new reality, a growing number of activities have moved into

the online realm in order to engage the community during these complicated times. In parallel, given the unprecedented nature of the current situation, there is a dearth of knowledge regarding the virus itself, creating a seemingly unquenchable thirst for information.

Accordingly, Rambam Health Care Campus—in cooperation with its international Friends Associations and other organizations—has grown its social media

presence, providing virtual activities during the pandemic to fulfill these needs. Using the popular Zoom communication platform, Facebook Live, and YouTube, it has held and participated in a series of webinars in both Hebrew and English on a multitude of COVID-19-related topics including technology and innovation, geriatric care, giving birth, pediatric care and more, bringing its top experts to the forefront to share their knowledge and experience with a global audience. In addition, Rambam has also facilitated online musical performances and holiday celebrations, and its activities have reached people around the world in countries like Australia, Canada, France, India, Italy, the United States, and others.



# Live Webinar Events

Birth in the Times of COVID-19 (Hebrew)

COVID-19 – The Haifa Angle (Hebrew)

Children and COVID-19 (Hebrew)

A Glimpse into the COVID-19 Department (Hebrew)

COVID-19 and Senior Citizens (Hebrew)

So What Did You Want to Know about COVID-19? (Hebrew)

Getting Ready to Give Birth? Meet Our Midwives to Ask Questions! (Hebrew)

Meet the Experts: Rambam on the Front Line Fighting COVID-19 (with AFORAM in cooperation with Israel Bonds, in English)

Meet the Experts: Creating High Impact Solutions to Medical and Humanitarian Challenges in a COVID-19 World (with AFORAM, in English)

Social Distancing in a COVID-19 World: The Israel Experience (AUSFORAM, in English)

What can we expect in the future: Is COVID-19 just the beginning? (AUSFORAM, in English)

From Vulnerabilities to Strengths: How to come out stronger on the other side of this crisis (AUSFORAM, in English)

COVID-19 Days: From Parenting to Leadership (AUSFORAM, in Hebrew)

Israeli Response to the Coronavirus, with the participation of Professor Rafi Beyar as Rambam's representative (Kaplan Medical Center, in English)

COVID-19 Cutting Edge Technologies and Innovations (with the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, in English)

Rambam, Israel, and COVID-19 (Spanish Friends of Rambam, in Spanish)

COVID-19: Is this just the beginning? (AUSFORAM, in English)

Online Childbirth Courses (Hebrew)

# Online Cultural Events

Achinoam "Noa" Nini and Gil Dor: Virtual Fundraising Gala for Rambam

Idan Reichel: Live Performance for Israeli Hospitals

Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israeli Independence Day with Chaim Topol (AUSFORAM)

Knafeh Cooking Session – Especially for Yom Ha'atzmaut (AUSFORAM)

Virtual concert with Frédéric Zeitoun, Bruno Bongarçon, Joana Mendil, Michel Fugain, and The Nacash Brothers (French Friends of Rambam, in French)



# HEROINES ON THE FRONT LINES



# Gila Hyams, RN, MA

Director of Nursing; Director of The Teaching Center for Trauma, Emergency, and Mass Casualty Situations.

Gila has spent her entire career treating trauma victims in times of peace and war. During the past few months, however, Gila and her colleagues at Rambam have been forced to face a new type of battle, and her experiences during these turbulent times have reinforced her confidence in the strengths of Rambam's multidisciplinary staff as they work together to save lives.

She is proud to work with the dedicated nurses of the Nursing Administration and in the hospital. In her capacity as director of the largest employee division in the hospital, Gila knows she can count on each and every one of them to ensure the smooth operation of the COVID-19 departments as well as the entire hospital.

When asked what the future holds for Rambam, Gila sees the hospital returning to its usual routine while remaining prepared for any complex health scenarios, for the benefit of the people of Northern Israel. "Rambam, is robust enough to face whatever happens, together as a united team," she says with pride.

# Sara Tzafrir, BSc, MHA

Director of the Department of Information, Computing, and Communications

Sara was not surprised by Rambam's handling of the pandemic, which reinforced her impressions regarding so many of the hospital's best characteristics. "No matter what challenges we face, when we work together, we are a winning team," she says with confidence.

She believes that Rambam's most important achievement has been its preparation for the task of caring for its patients in uncertain conditions, noting that a key factor was the ability to constantly evaluate the situation and make adjustments as needed.

Unlike previous crises, it has been critical to provide patient care with minimal physical contact, relying heavily on computers and communication systems to ensure continuity of day-to-day activities. A new communications infrastructure was deployed within days – a task that usually takes months to complete.

Sara's workdays were longer and more intense. The hardest aspect, though, was having to distance herself from family. Fortunately, she was able to celebrate her birthday with them using Zoom, and was thrilled to find flowers from her children.

Sara hopes the experience acquired by Rambam and its redesigned infrastructure will also serve future needs.



# REFLECTING ON THE COVID-19 EXPERIENCE



# Dr. Khetam Hussein

Director of the Infection Control Service; Director of the Crown COVID-19 Department

Dr. Khetam Hussein has high praise for the human capital found at Rambam, mentioning the staff's knowledge, abilities, experience, and judgment. "Times of crisis and stress give us the opportunity to become more attuned to ourselves and to those around us, helping us to recognize strengths that we never knew existed," she says.

When asked about Rambam's significant achievements during the pandemic, Dr. Hussein points to the blend of healthcare and technology, and pays tribute to Rambam's ability to integrate advanced, innovative technologies, ensuring optimal patient treatment. She is proud of the fact that no employee has been infected with COVID-19 while working in the hospital

The past few months have been especially difficult for her, as she spent more time at the hospital than at home. "It is incredibly difficult work and every day is different; our lives have been turned upside down," she confides, adding, "But what characterizes the staff at Rambam is the sense of togetherness we feel when treating these patients. All hands are on deck." she confirms.

# Liat Getz Ben-Izhak, Esq, MBA

Director of the Purchasing Department

Liat Getz Ben-Izhak believes that the coronavirus threat is no less serious than an actual wartime situation, and shares that she will always remember how the hospital's amazing staff worked together around the clock to care for patients, putting their own lives on hold to do so.

She is grateful for the support of Rambam's administration, which has taken extraordinary measures to ensure that patients receive the best possible treatment, including a willingness to procure all necessary medical equipment and critical contracts. She notes that her department's success is due to the commitment of its dedicated staff. The biggest challenge encountered by her department is buying medical supplies that are in high demand around the world. "Global exports are at a minimum and there is a shortage of raw production materials worldwide, plus prices are high," she explains.

Due to her increased workload, Liat rarely saw her four children during this period, however, she was proud that they understood the unique situation, and recognized their part in the overall effort.

"It is a great privilege to be a part of Rambam and the Israeli healthcare sector, standing at the forefront of this global pandemic."



# WHEN FRIENDS COME TOGETHER FOR A JOINT MISSION

# ISCAR, one of Rambam's major supporters, provided hospital's ventilator shortage during the COVID-19 crisis.

of Operations and Maintenance at Rambam Health Care ventilators were faulty. Given the restrictions in place as well as the current global shortage for this critical piece of equipment, they were unable to find either a company or country that was willing to fix them.

While Mossad agents were carrying out covert missions to purchase ventilators to bring back to Israel and hi-tech companies were trying to create improvised ventilators, manufacturing of carbide cutting tools for the Metalworking industry—reached out to Rambam to find out how it could help the hospital in its battle against COVID-19, in addition to providing a significant donation. The company has been one of Rambam's staunchest supporters for years.

Recalls Dr. Esty Golan, Rambam's Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development, "When Jacob Harpaz, IMC Group (ISCAR) President and Chairman of the Board and 2019 Rambam Award winner, offered his assistance, I told him about the faulty ventilators."





company CFO Mr. Ronen create a production line to

the company realized that it would be unable to do so in a timely manner, they offered to fix the broken ventilators.

When Dvir Meiri, ISCAR's department manager of Specialized Technologies, examined the machines, however, he determined that it would take too long to fix them. Understanding the importance of repairing the ventilators, he came up with an "out-of-the-box" idea approaching the Air Force, where his brother was a senior engineer, holding the rank of Colonel.

"An extraordinary opportunity presented itself in the form of a collaboration between Rambam, ISCAR, and Israel's Air Force" notes Dr. Golan

The Air Force's 108 unit, which specializes in the maintenance and repair of sensitive equipment, took charge. Within a few days, they were able to pinpoint the problem and fix the ventilators. In the end, the unit was able to fix six out of the seven devices.

The staff from the Department of Operations and Maintenance could not believe their eyes. Against all odds, six precious ventilators—which are critical for the treatment of COVID-19 patients and had previously been tagged as defective—were all restored to perfect working condition.



# GLOBAL MEDICINE

# Rambam Participates in Trauma Seminar at US Naval Hospital in Sigonella, Italy

Several senior members of Rambam's medical staff visited the United States Naval Hospital in Sigonella, Italy, for a three-day joint training workshop titled, "Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness and Management". Rambam General Director Dr. Michael Halberthal, Director of Nursing Mrs. Gila Hyams, Director of Trauma and Emergency Surgery Dr. Hanv Bahouth, and Director of the Division of Mental Health Dr. Eyal Fruchter traveled to the Sicily-based hospital with Mr. Guy Caspi, Director of HAZ-MAT, Exercises and Operational Training Department at Magen David Adom in Israel

They presented sessions throughout the workshop, addressing topics like organizing and operating hospitals for mass casualty situations, drills, triage, debriefing, damage control, early intervention techniques for prevention of PTSD, and more. "We talked about how we organized our hospital in order to cope with extreme scenarios," explained Dr. Halberthal.

Sigonella's strategic location in the center of the Mediterranean Sea means that the hospital needs to be ready to respond to any emergency. Following the workshop with Rambam, caregivers at the naval hospital implemented what they learned during a mass casualty drill at the facility.











# Three Months in Kiboga, Uganda

Professor Norberto Krivoy, who served as Director of the Clinical Pharmacology Unit at Rambam Health Care Campus prior to his retirement, traveled to Kiboga, Uganda with his wife Elena for a three-month stint as a volunteer doctor in Kiboga General Hospital. Professor Krivoy heard about the opportunity—which was under the auspices of the Topaz and Brit Olam organizations-via the Israeli Medical Association. After discussing it with Elena, the two decided to make the

Elena, a clinical psychologist by profession, volunteered as a medical clown, while Professor Krivoy worked as a physician in the hospital and at various clinics, treating people for regular ailments as well as diseases like HIV. tuberculosis, and malaria. Between the clinics and the hospital, Professor Krivov saw more than 70 patients each week, including both children and adults.

The 120-bed hospital was built by Solel Boneh Israel, the organization that also provided the Krivoys with logistical assistance and a car during their stay in

"It was a very special, amazing experience. The locals welcomed us warmly and we met wonderful people," recalls Professor Krivoy, adding that once, he was asked if he would ever return to Kiboga. "I answered that if I was healthy and able to make the trip, I would definitely come back."







Professor Norberto Krivoy speaks with staff and patients at Kiboga General Hospital in Kiboga, Uganda.

19

# A CONVERSATION WITH ARIYE BERKOVIZ

Mr. Ariye Berkoviz, Deputy Director of Rambam Health Care Campus and Director of the Department of Engineering, Construction and Development, loves his job. As a construction engineer, his tasks revolve around coordinating Rambam's engineering and infrastructure projects, including the planning and development of the Western Campus and engineering upgrades in existing buildings. Ariye directly manages a team of 30, and is also responsible for 100-150 contract workers. "My work is based on teamwork. All of our team members are very professional; they come to work each morning with sparks in their eyes," he shares.

Prior to joining Rambam in 2001, Ariye served in the Israel Defense Forces for 28 years, retiring with the rank of colonel. Following his release, he received a number of job offers. "I was drawn to Rambam following meetings with Professor Moshe Revach and Dr. Esty Golan - at the time, Rambam's Director, and Administrative Director. They presented the hospital's vision to me. When I saw the potential, it triggered my desire to work here: it felt like the natural next step in my career," recalls Ariye.

### A MULTITUDE OF PROJECTS

At any given time, Ariye and his team are working on approximately 40 different projects simultaneously. Construction of the Western Campus is ongoing, while the engineering team is responsible for refurbishment on the Eastern Campus. All oversight is done in-house.

Ariye has left his mark all over Rambam. This is especially true on the Western Campus, where he has played an instrumental role in the conception, design, and construction of Helmsley Health Discovery Tower - which is changing Haifa's skyline, the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, and Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, as well as the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital – the largest facility of its kind in the world.

### **UPHOLDING STANDARDS**

One of the goals that Rambam set for itself was to be one of the best hospitals in the Middle East and in the world. Using this as his guide, Ariye studied all of the most advanced hospital standards in the world, and does what he can to bring them to fruition at Rambam.

"It is very satisfying to know that your work contributes to advancing standards that positively impact patients and staff, and creates a healing environment. For instance, research has shown that sea views improve efficiency and finances and also prevent infection, by shortening hospitalization times and speeding up patient recovery. We took advantage of our strategic location to create more patient rooms overlooking the sea." he discloses.

Another example involves the team's flagship project - Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. "We ensure that this facility maintains the most advanced international standards. We believe that within two to three years, our researchers will be using its laboratories to make breakthroughs on a global level. These are the kinds of things that provide inspiration and motivation."

### **RISING TO THE CHALLENGE**

Rambam on call | JUNE 2020

In recent years, the most challenging aspects of Ariye's job have been connected to severe budgetary constraints. The gravest impact is felt in areas like Rambam's Eastern Campus, which is showing its age and requires tremendous resources to maintain its infrastructure. "We have to set priorities with the administration to ensure that the hospital remains fully operational," reveals Ariye.

He also points out that many projects still await funding. "I am worried about how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the economy in general and Rambam in particular. I hope the economy will recover, and that we-Rambam as well as our supporters- will be able to get through this as guickly and as strongly as possible."

## VISION AND STRENGTH

Ariye Berkoviz

Two grandchildren.

Lives in Nof Hagalil/Upper Nazareth.

Married + 3.

Ariye strongly identifies with Rambam's vision. "The vision created nearly 20 years ago by a team that included the hospital administration and Mr. Eitan Wertheimer makes me happy. It continues to lead us to excellence and inspires me to invest in an institution that I love," declares Ariye.

Ariye is a firm believer in the importance of human resources. "As we continue our work through the COVID-19 pandemic, it has reinforced my conviction that people are Rambam's greatest strength - our staff as well as supporters. We must do our utmost to preserve this asset.



It is very satisfying to know that your work contributes to advancing standards that positively impact patients and staff, and creates a healing environment.

# UNDER INVESTIGATION

# TWO RAMBAM SCIENTISTS SHARE THEIR RESEARCH



# Dr. Danny Eytan

Dr. Danny Eytan is an attending physician in the Wagner-Green Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and an Assistant Professor in the Technion, Faculty of Medicine.

# Using Artificial Intelligence to Help Critically III Children.

Accurate knowledge of a patient's disease state and trajectory is of utmost importance. Dr. Eytan focuses on combining tools from diverse fields, such as machine learning and nonlinear dynamical systems, to create better physiological models and improve prediction of disease and response to treatment. By using the patient's "physiome" (the totality of physiological measurements) and clinical attributes, his goal is to implement a personalized medicine approach for critically ill children whose clinical state evolves minute by minute.

Dr. Eytan obtained his MD and PhD in neuroscience and biophysics from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology (where he is currently an assistant professor). He continued his research training as a postdoctoral fellow studying dynamics and adaptation processes in the network of cortical neurons. After completing his residency in pediatrics at Rambam, he pursued a clinical and research fellowship in pediatric critical care at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.



# Dr. Yuri Gorelik

Dr. Yuri Gorelik is a resident in the Department of Internal Medicine D and a researcher in the Laboratory of Professor Mogher Khamaisi. His research focuses on Big Data Analytics - analyzing huge amounts of data from different sources and formats, enabling real-time decision-making.

# Investigating Changes in Hospitalized Patient Renal Function

Using advanced prediction models and methods for comparing large patient groups, Dr. Gorelik researches the effects of nephrotoxins (toxic agents or substances that inhibit, damage or destroy kidneys, cells, and tissues) on patients in clinical settings.

# Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Study

A joint project among Israeli hospitals, Dr. Gorelik searched for clinical factors that influence or predict the response of chronic IBD patients to biological treatments.

# **Coronavirus Ramifications**

This project deals with consequences of the pandemic, hospital preparation, and the impact of lockdown instructions. It focuses on morbidity and mortality of non-coronavirus patients and differences when compared to normal times, evaluating successes and failures to protect them in future waves.

# HONORING RAMBAM BY AIR AND BY SEA

Israel's Air Force and the Carmel Sailing Club took to the skies and the sea, respectively, to pay tribute to the medical teams at Rambam, recognizing them for their hard work during the hospital's battle against COVID-19.

On Israel's Independence Day, the Air Force's aerobatics team carried out a flyby over Rambam as part of a series of similar performances for hospitals throughout the country. With excited Rambam employees, patients, and visitors cheering from the grounds far below, four Air Force jets performed a sequence of maneuvers across a clear blue sky.

Heartfelt messages from Air Force Commander Major General Amikam Norkin and the fighter pilots themselves were shared with the medical teams, thanking them for "working night and day for the health of our citizens", and wishing everyone a Happy Independence Day.

Several days later, the Carmel Sailing Club saluted the hospital from a flotilla of boats along Rambam's shores, in recognition of its work on the front lines of the pandemic. The flotilla was comprised of members of the Carmel Sailing Club, an association for the promotion and cultivation of sailing in the north. The event was chaired by Brigadier General Shlomo Momo Cohen and retired Brigadier General Shabtai Levi, who is 88 years old. More than 120 vessels participated.

"We are thankful to those who work constantly
so that we can be healthy. We wanted to express our
solidarity with your efforts and sacrifice, and hope that the people
of Israel will be stronger and more united, thanks to you," said the flotilla's
organizers, adding that, "as sailors, one of our traditions is to say that 'we will
continue to see Rambam from the sea and not the sea from Rambam."



# IN NUMBERS

24

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(IN MILLIONS OF SHEKELS)

INCOME:	2018	2019*
MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED	1,620	1,667
RESEARCH PROJECTS	48	56
OTHER	22	25
TOTAL	1,690	1,748
ALLOCATIONS:		
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION	19	11
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	14	5
COMPUTERIZED EQUIPMENT	4	3
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	5	2
TOTAL	42	21
EXPENSES:		
SALARIES	1,166	1,205
MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT	260	278
MAINTENANCE	107	143
OPERATING EXPENSES	206	220
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	99	82
TOTAL	1,838	1,928

<sup>\*</sup>Recalculated

# **DONORS FROM 16 COUNTRIES**



# **DONATIONS**

Average Donation Amount

Total Amount Raised

\$15,385

# **EMPLOYEES**

# **5,345 EMPLOYEES**

1,199 PHYSICIANS

**1,739** NURSES

1,086 ALLIED HEALTH

1,321 HOUSEHOLD & ADMINISTRATION

# RESEARCH

556 NEW RESEARCH

1,932 ACTIVE RESEARCH

# PATIENT CARE

YEAR	2018	2019	
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS	84,525	83,639	
TOTAL PATIENT DAYS	353,608	352,436	
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS	140,630	144,447	
OUTPATIENT VISITS	729,578	741,012	
TOTAL PATIENTS TREATED	251,969	256,304	
IMAGING PROCEDURES	277,445	287,487	
LABORATORY EXAMS	13,203,005	13,436,204	
SURGICAL PROCEDURES	59,629	58,536	
DELIVERIES	4,931	4,698	
AVERAGE OCCUPANCY	96%	94%	

**HOSPITALIZATIONS BY AGE** 83,639



# **OVERALL CAPACITY**

# 996 HOSPITAL BEDS

**39** MEDICAL INSTITUTES

65 INPATIENT WARDS

**75** SPECIALIZATION UNITS

114 OUTPATIENT CLINICS

# RAMBAM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



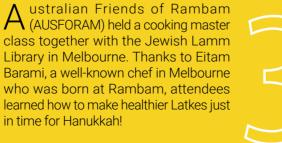


mily and Al Goldgram visited Rambam during a trip to Israel for their granddaughter's bat mitzvah. Dr. Esty Golan, Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development, provided an overview of Rambam, Accompanied by Dr. Golan, Sigal Amsalem, and Abigail Penn from the International Relations and Resource Development Department, the couple, who donated to the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, toured the West Campus and saw their recognition plaque.

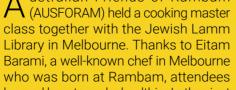


Donna and Michael Gordon, with Dr. Ovad Cohen, Sigal Amsalem and Dr. Esty Golan

onna and Michael Gordon of Boca Raton, Florida, spent time visiting Rambam in December 2019. During the course of their visit, Dr. Esty Golan and Sigal Amsalem presented them with a certificate of recognition, honoring them for their contribution to the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency



0



in time for Hanukkah!



Chef Eitan Barami during the lesson



Ceremony Attendees



L-R Victor Perton and Giora Hoffmann



The Renner family



L-R Howard Jonas, Rachel Jonas, Debbie Jonas, Dr. Michael Halberthal, Ellen Pomerantz, Professor Rafi Beyar

Λ ceremony honoring the memory of Hedda Engel Hwas held at Rambam. Hedda's relative Dr. Danny Beck, a doctor at Rambam prior to his retirement, gave a presentation about Hedda. Speakers included Dr. Michael Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Professor Myriam Ben-Arush, and Alon Ezra, the Director of Beit Ildan. Guests included Professor Itai Shavit, Director of the Cheryl Spencer Pediatric Emergency Department, Ravit Idelman, the department's Head Nurse, and the International Relations and Resource Development Department staff

↑ USFORAM, together with Classic Acinema, in Melbourne, invited 70 members and friends to the film premiere of "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood". Victor Perton, author of "Optimism: The How and Why", spoke about Maimonides' optimistic approach to patients.



Arecognition ceremony was held in memory of Moshe Renner in Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. Speakers included Professor Irit Ben-Aharon, Director of the Oncology Division; Dr. Esty Golan; Inbar Shahaf, Head of Market Development and Donor Relations; and Revital Renner, Moshe's daughter. The Renner family was presented with a certificate and unveiled the plaque in memory of their father.

Doard member Rachel Jonas Dhosted a parlor event at the home of her parents, Debbie and Howard Jonas, for their friends and family. Dr. Michael Halberthal, General Director of Rambam, introduced the hospital and spoke of its history and recent development. Professor Rafi

Beyar, Director Emeritus, spoke of the innovations and research coming out of Rambam. Judging by the many questions, the well-attended evening was met with an enthusiastic response.



L-R Professor Myriam Ben-Arush, Dr. Michael Halberthal and Avraham Attar

A recognition ceremony was held in Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital to honor the "Lehosheet Yad" (Lending a Hand) Association. Dr. Michael Halberthal, General Director of Rambam; Professor Myriam Ben-Arush, Director of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Division and Director of the Pediatric Division; and Lehosheet

Yad founder Avraham Attar, as well as the association's volunteers, took the opportunity to celebrate the recovery of the department's cancer patients.



rench Friends of Rambam (AFHORA) hosted a movie viewing in support of Rambam, screening the film "le prince oublié", starring Omar Sy, Berenice Bejo, Francois Damiens, and Michel Hazanavicius. 120 people were in attendance in the event in Paris.



Paris event



Sitting L-R Rabbi Victor Frankel,
Dr. Michael Halberthal and Dr. Roee Atlas

Rabbi Victor Frankel visited Rambam for an MOU signing with Rambam MedTech. Participants included Dr. Michael Halberthal; Dr. Roee Atlas, CEO, Rambam MedTech; Dr. Avi Weissman, Deputy Director, Rambam HCC; Ronit Segal Hirshberg, Ph.D., CEO, Rambam Health Corporation, Director, Economics, Marketing & Business Development Division; Professor Lior Gepstein, Director, Department of Cardiology; Dr. Avivit Peer, Attending Oncologist in the Genitourinary Clinic and Director of Clinical Trials in Oncology. Rabbi Frankel toured the campus.

Drs. Avi and Raluca Dinu Katz, and Professor Horia and Dr. Simona Stanca visited Rambam, and were given an overview by Dr. Michael Halberthal and Dr. Esty Golan. They learned about the Stanford Rambam BioDesign Program and

Rambam's ophthalmology program, meeting with Dr. Yona Vaisbuch, Senior Physician, ENT Department; Professor Eytan Blumenthal, Director, Department of Ophthalmology; Professor Imad Kasis, Director, Pediatric Department B, Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital; and Professor Zeev Weiner, Director, Division of Gynecology and Obstetrics.



Drs. Avi and Raluca Dinu Katz, Dr. Simona Stanca, Professor Zeev Weiner and Dr. Michael Halberthal

American Friends of Rambam (AFORAM) held a successful event at the home of Linda and Michael Sendowski in Beverly Hills, California, featuring a presentation entitled "Brain Health: The Next Frontier", given by Professor David Tanne, Director of the Stroke and Cognition Institute at Rambam. Also in attendance were longtime Rambam supporters Herta and Paul Amir.



L-R Michael Sendowski, Linda Sendowski, Professor David Tanne, Sari Katz Arshadnia

STANFORD LYCH'S CENTER FOR BIODESIGN

L-R Gordon Saul, Dr. Paul Yock, Professor Rafi Beyar, Dr. Lior Lev-Tov, Dr. Nitai Klein

Professor Rafi Beyar visited Stanford Medicine to advance medical and scientific collaboration between Rambam and Stanford Medicine. Among those he met were Stanford's Byers Center for Biodesign founder Dr.

> Paul Yock and Executive Director Gordon Saul. He was joined by two Rambam physicians and fellows – Dr. Lior Lev-Tov and Dr. Nitai Klein, who are participating in the Center's Global Faculty and Training Program.

28 Rambam on call | JUNE 2020 29



L-R Dr. Ruth Peretz and Vered Harel

r. Ruth Perets, Director of the Women's Cancer Laboratory at Rambam, traveled to Australia for a series of events. Dr. Perets gave a lecture at South Caulfield Hebrew Congregation about raising awareness of ovarian cancer. She spoke to an audience

in Sydney, about "Is Ovarian Cancer Really Ovarian, and Why Do We Care?" The event was hosted by AUSFORAM together with NCJWA NSW Division and Jewish Folk Centre Ha'Moadon Ha'Israeli. Dr. Perets also visited the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute, where she was given a tour and joined a roundtable meeting with researchers.



Professor Michael Denman, Professor Rodney Grahame with Professor Alexandra Balbir-Gurman, Dr. Esty Golan and Inbar Shahaf

he International Rheumatology Conference in Israel was held at Rambam. Speakers included Dr. Michael Halberthal; Professor Alexandra Balbir-Gurman, Head of Rambam's Rheumatology Institute; Professor Elon Eisenberg, Dean of The Ruth & Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology; and Professor

Michael Denman, who presented the "Gerald Loewi Memorial Lecture: Introduction". Attendees included Professor Rodney Grahame, a Rheumatology consultant from London.



Dr. Michael Halberthal and Dr. Esty Golan traveled to Jerusalem to meet with Isaac Herzog, Chairman of the Jewish Agency. During the meeting, they discussed strengthening Rambam-Jewish Agency relations to promote joint projects around the world. "In light of the supportive attitude that Rambam encounters through its Friends Associations, The Jewish Agency and its representatives worldwide are natural partners for significant initiatives," explained Rambam sources.



obert Zarco of Miami Beach hosted Ta beautiful event for Rambam at his exquisite home. Dr. Michal Mekel, Deputy Director of Rambam, gave a presentation about Rambam. Thank you to Zelda Zarco for organizing this event.



Lili Wood, Zelda Zarco, and Dr. Rebeca Zarco



L-R Nathaniel Goldman, Mitch Rubenstein, Ellen Pomerantz, Laurie Silvers, Dr, Michal Mekel

↑ lovely event was held at the Palm Beach Country AClub in Palm Beach, Florida, hosted by board member Mitch Rubenstein and Laurie Silvers. Dr. Michal Mekel gave a fascinating presentation about Rambam to a large audience about the need for the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, and treating a diverse population.



Children and soldiers stand at attention during the siren

During the pandemic, Rambam opened a special daycare center for children of Rambam employees. The children, staff members, national service participants, and IDF soldiers marked Israel's Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror, standing solemnly at attention for the duration of the siren and attending a moving ceremony in honor of the fallen while maintaining social distancing directives.



In the president of American Friends of Rambam (AFORAM), an organization she has led for the past 18 months. Meri and her husband Sol are longtime friends and supporters of Rambam Health Care Campus, and prior to becoming president of AFORAM, she and Sol both served on the executive board for many years. They live in Mendham, New Jersey, and have four children and 13 grandchildren, one of whom, is currently serving as a lone soldier in the Israel Defense Forces.

When Meri was asked to step into the role of president, she rose to the challenge proposed by Professor Rafi Beyar, President of Rambam's International Friends Associations, and Dr. Esty Golan, Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development. As with everything she does, Meri takes her role very seriously. "Sol and I have always been active as supporters, and now, I'm strongly involved on the other side of the equation, actively seeking support and donations. It's definitely opened my eyes regarding the practicalities of fundraising. I feel greater responsibility now as president than I felt even as an executive board member," she explains, adding, "I really like it. I get very excited about every success and each donation."

## **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

Meri and the AFORAM staff focus much of their time cultivating relationships with supporters, noting that they see all of these relationships as a source of pride. "Sometimes we have to work a little harder to identify new donors, but we've developed relationships with many incredible, generous people, friends who introduce us to their friends — individuals who love Israel. Once they learn about Rambam, they feel like they need to see it, to be there, and to help," enthuses Meri.

"We held a number of successful events in various locales around the country earlier this year, and we look forward to holding more events in the future," noted Meri. The organization has also played an intrinsic role in fostering the relationships that Rambam has developed with Stanford (University) Medicine.

Meri is excited about the path that AFORAM is on, and points out that none of the programming would have occurred without the staff. "They've been fantastic. The amount of work they do is remarkable. I absolutely appreciate what they've done and continue to do," she says earnestly.

# **SHARING NEWS**

Meri believes it's vital to share information about Rambam's activities with the board, and notifies its members whenever something new happens at Rambam, in order to ensure that everyone is always informed. In this way, when they speak with their own friends and acquaintances, they can share the news about advances being made and hopefully pique their interest enough to get them involved.

The same is true with regard to the coronavirus pandemic, and she has been in contact with Dr. Michael Halberthal, Director General of Rambam, and Professor Beyar, sharing the updates she receives with her board and her networks. "When something like this comes up,

it's very important to everyone. We're proud of the efforts of the entire staff at Rambam, having converted a designated area into a state-of-the-art dedicated coronavirus department within 48 hours, and the world needs to know about that," Meri says with emphasis.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Meri is very passionate about her support for Rambam, and one can hear the admiration in her voice as she talks about her strong connection to the Haifa-based medical center. "I see Rambam as a special institution," she confides. "It has been immensely gratifying to

see the campus progress over the years, watching the buildings on the West Campus rise up to dramatically change the landscape, and hearing about the hospital's groundbreaking research in so many areas."

She feels blessed to be able to play a significant role in AFORAM, knowing that Rambam is doing such great things for Israel and the world.

"I'm pleased with how things are going with AFORAM and at Rambam. I'm pleased with the path we're on, and look forward to being involved for many years to come."

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Aceremony was held to honor Andrea and Elad Boker, creator of the Little Gifts initiative, Avital and Shalev Hulio, and Anat and Omri Lavie. Little Gifts purchased and placed freezers in oncology and hematology departments in hospitals across the country—including Rambam—and filled them with an unlimited supply of popsicles for the patients in those departments. Speakers at the ceremony included Dr. Michal Mekel, Deputy Director; Professor Myriam Ben-Arush, Director of the Pediatric Division; and Avital Hulio, who attended the ceremony alongside family members of both donors. Also in attendance were Dr. Esty Golan, Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development; Amir Ben Yosef, from Rambam's Operations Department, and Dr. Netanel Horowitz, Director of Lymphoma Service and Hematology Clinical Trials. The guests toured the different departments to see patients enjoy the popsicles.



Little Gifts Ceremony

A recognition ceremony was held in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, honoring the Tal Center and Halasartan (Stop Cancer),

with the participation of Zohar and Yankele Yakobson, who established the Tal Center in memory of their daughter Tal, who passed away from cancer. Speakers included Dr. Michael Halberthal, Professor Irit Ben-Aharon, Zohar Yakobson, and several patients, who spoke about the impact that the center has had on their lives. Certificates and gifts were presented by Dr. Halberthal and Dr. Golan. In addition, recognition plaques were revealed

in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center's day treatment clinics, as well as a sign dedicated to Tal showing her picture and displaying the words "Compassion, Love, Truth".

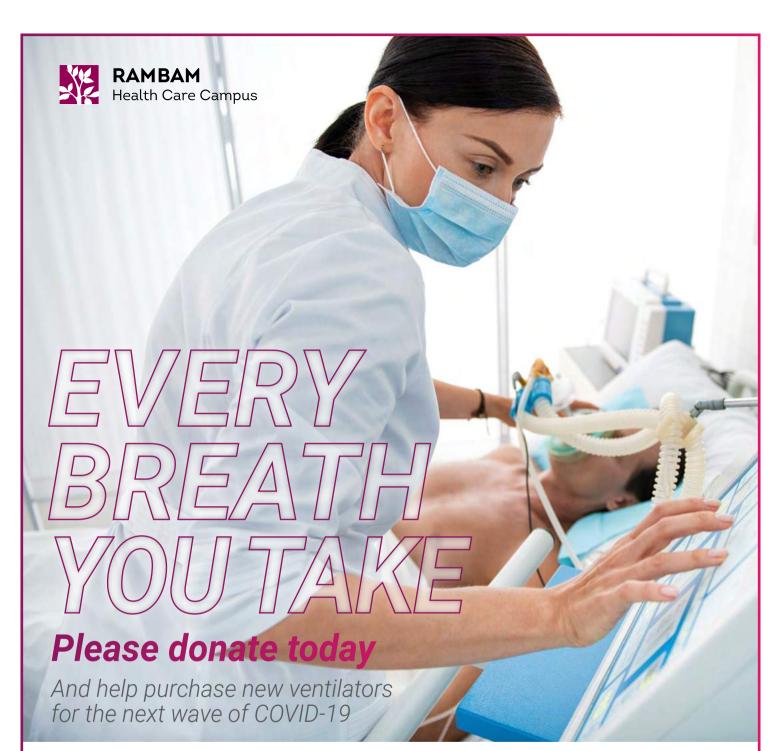


Unveiling the plaques

■elmslev Health Discovery Tower was illuminated to mark the completion of the 20-story skeletal building structure for Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. Attending the ceremony held at Rambam Health Care Campus to celebrate this milestone achievement were representatives from Rambam's administration and other staff members. Following a speech by Dr. Michael Halberthal, Rambam's General Director; Dr. Halberthal, Professor Rafi Beyar, President of International Friends Associations and Chairman of the Steering Committee. Helmsley Health Discovery Tower; Dr. Esty Golan, Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development; and Mr. Ariye Berkoviz, Deputy CEO of Construction and Development. joined together to press the button that initiated the lighting sequence. During his speech, Dr. Halberthal spoke of the hospital's gratitude for those parties instrumental in the tower's establishment, emphasizing the generosity of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and Ruth and Sandor Frankel (one of its trustees) - whose gift enabled Rambam to establish this facility.









### American Friends of Rambam Medical Center

www.aforam.org info@aforam.org Tel: (212) 292-4499



### Australian Friends Of Rambam

www.ausforam.org.au veredharel@ausforam.org.au Tel: 0410 531 593



### British Friends of Rambam Medical Centre

www.rambamuk.co.uk anita@rambamuk.co.uk Tel: (208) 371-1500



### Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre

www.cfram.ca info@cfram.ca Tel: (416) 481-5552



### French Friends of Rambam Medical Center

joelleabitbol16@gmail.com www.afhora.org Tel: 07 82 53 71 10



# Friends of Rambam in India

ralphy44@gmail.com Tel: 91 9819864340



### Israeli Friends of Rambam Medical Center

www.rambam.org.il galit@rmc.gov.il Tel: 972 (4) 777-1608



### Spanish Friends of Rambam Medical Center

www.amigosderambam.org info@amigosderambam.org Tel: (609) 580-268



### Israel Main Office and All Other Countries

www.rambam.org.il ContactUs@rmc.gov.il