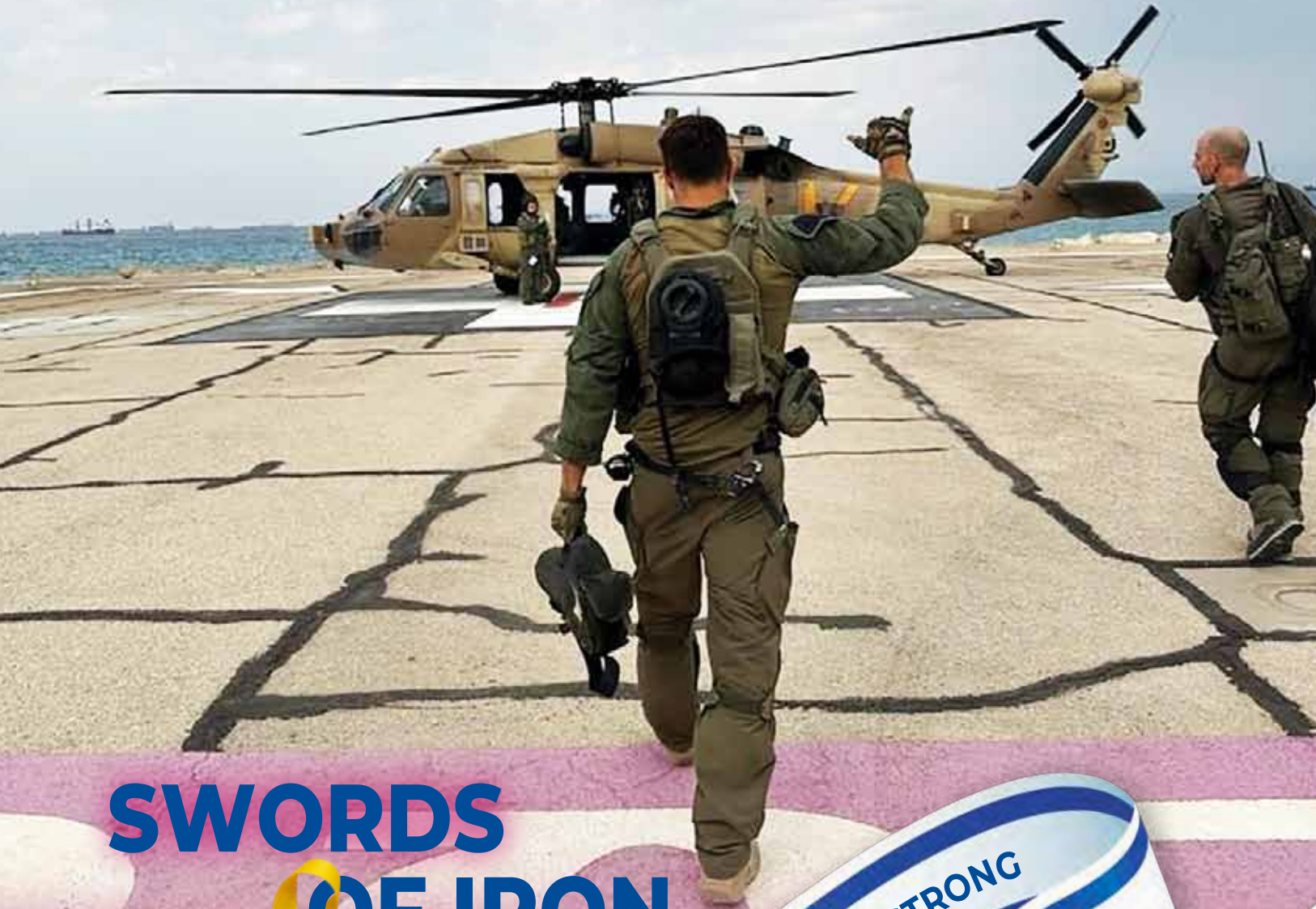


Rambam

on call

ISSUE NO.32 | JULY 2024

SPECIAL
ISSUE



**SWORDS
OF IRON**



TOGETHER WE STAND STRONG



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

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Milestones in Latin America



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

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PROF. MICHAEL HALBERTHAL

STATE OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Published by the Department
of International Relations &
Resource Development

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of International Relations &
Resource Development:
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Photography:
COURTESY OF RAMBAM
HEALTH CARE CAMPUS,
NITZAN ZOHAR
FREEPIK.COM

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Cover Photo:
IDF MEDICAL OFFICER AT RAMBAM
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SPECIAL EVENTS

DEAR FRIENDS,

The past year has been extremely challenging for the Jewish people worldwide, perhaps one of the most difficult years in our history. The October 7th attack affected each and every one of us. Once we realized the magnitude of the attack, and the enormity of the threat we confronted, we immediately sprang into action. Hundreds of staff members came to Rambam, some without being called up, and began preparing the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital for any emergency or mass casualty scenario.

I was in awe of the dedication of all sectors of our wonderful staff, physicians, nurses, administrative and support staff. All came together and worked collaboratively on a massive undertaking - preparing our aboveground and underground facilities to treat up to 2,200 patients in a fortified area when needed. The preparations included extensive purchases of medical and general equipment for four additional operating rooms deployed in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital.

We wanted to share with you a glimpse of the various activities over the past year, among them, the hospital's extensive war preparations, rallies and ceremonies marking war milestones. Rambam's most important asset is our human capital, our employees who faced great hardship over the past months. Many were called up for IDF duty, causing strain not only on their families, but also the hospital community. We salute both the international volunteers and our staff who put their lives on hold to help protect Israel. You will be able to read some of their stories in this issue.

Sadly, the Rambam family were not spared from tragedy: Police Supt. Alexei Shmeklov, who served in the elite YAMAM Unit. Shmeklov, son of Yelena Shmeklov, a nurse in the Department of Surgery; Sgt. First Class Adi Eldor, son of Dr. Liron Eldor, a physician in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the grandson of Professor Yosef Itzkowitz-

Eldor, a pioneer in fertility medicine and stem cell research, who worked at Rambam. Also, Reservist Lieutenant Colonel Netanel Elkouby z"l; Sarit, his widow, works in the Rheumatology Institute; All three fell in battle and our hearts are with the families.

Since the beginning of the war, we have treated hundreds of injured soldiers and civilians from the Northern border and continue to stand at the ready for any occurrence. As a result of the ongoing war, we are already seeing a rise in the number of PTSD patients. These patients, who have given so much to the country, deserve our utmost care. We are expanding the services we offer them through additional, dedicated staff, cutting-edge treatments and plans to open a new facility soon.

We pray for the release of the remaining hostages, we embrace the families of those who have lost their lives, and hope for the speedy and complete recovery of all the injured.

We feel it is imperative to continue with the development of the campus, even in times of crisis. This year we opened two very important services in Joseph Fishman Oncology Center-The Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER and a complementary medicine clinic. Both are transforming the lives of our patients and the treatments we are able to offer them. The opening of these units marks the completion of our Oncology Center, which is now home to all of Rambam's oncology services.

Recently, work began on construction of the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center. This is one of our most vital projects, as currently, there is no local solution for children requiring rehabilitation. On a personal note, my family and I know well the value of pediatric rehabilitation and I am proud that we will be able to offer this important service to the children of Northern Israel.

Development of our campus includes interior construction of three additional floors of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital. The third and fifth floors will house the Department of Cardiac Surgery operating rooms and the Cardiac Surgery





► Prof. Miki Halberthal speaking at the Memorial Day ceremony

Inpatient Department. The fourth floor will be home to the Terri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center and a Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. Work on these floors is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2024.

Last year we unveiled the Rambam Vision 2065: securing a healthy future for the people of Northern Israel, for many generations to come. The first phase of Rambam's Vision 2065 is the establishment of the North Campus. This three building compound will house various departments and clinics, including:

- The **Center for Neurology and Neurosurgery** - will encompass most of Rambam's neurology and neurosurgery departments and services
- The **Center for Brain Health** - will house both clinical and research facilities
- **Mother and Child Building** - will be home to comprehensive healthcare services tailored specifically for the unique needs of mothers and children

This year, we felt that it was not a time for celebrations, and so we postponed the 2024 Rambam Summit. We hope for more peaceful, calmer times, and that you will be able to join us for the next Rambam Summit.

Finally, on behalf of Rambam and the people of Northern Israel, I would like to personally thank you, our friends from around the world, especially from Israel, USA, Canada, Latin America and the UK, for your kindness and support. It truly warmed our hearts knowing that you were with us during this time of national challenge. We share a common calling—to deliver healthcare solutions and to be ready for every scenario.

With very warm regards,

Michael Halberthal, MD
Clinical Associate Professor
Director General, Rambam Health Care Campus



PREPARING FOR ANY SCENARIO

Opened in 2014, based on lessons learned from the Second Lebanon War, the 2,000-bed Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH) has become an international model. In peacetime, it is a three-level underground parking lot, but it transforms into a state-of-the-art fortified emergency hospital during national emergencies or wartime.

During the pandemic, the FUEH allowed us to isolate COVID-19 patients from regular hospital patients, saving tens of hundreds of lives. When the pandemic was over, we breathed a collective sigh of relief, and once again, the FUEH became a parking lot.

We hoped the FUEH would not be needed for a long time, but suddenly, October 7 was upon us, and in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Israel Defense

Forces Home Front Command, we began preparing our underground facility. Rambam's leadership sprang into action. Dedicated staff as well as three hundred IDF navy soldiers from the nearby base worked together around the clock to prepare the FUEH. Despite its logistical magnitude, within 36 hours, everything was in place. However, there is more to it than that.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Readiness also involves training, coordinating, and planning for every scenario, and a program of emergency drills was established.

In a time when medical staff, ambulance drivers, medics, social workers, and hospital support staff must cope with a continuous flow of hundreds of patients,



▲ IDF soldiers train on medical manikins



◀ L-R: Dr. Michal Mekel, deputy director, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Nissim Haim, deputy director and COO, Gila Hyams, director of Nursing, Prof. Yael Shachor, deputy director, Eli Ben Shlush, administrative deputy director, Amir Ben-Yosef, director, Operations Division, and Shay Tsadok, director of Purchasing, Logistics, and Biomedical Engineering with hundreds of IDF navy soldiers in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital

synchronization is of the essence. Days after the war commenced, an extensive Magen David Adom (MDA) drill mirrored a wartime scenario in which dozens of ambulances would need to access the FUEH safely and seamlessly.

One week later, a drill for receiving outpatients in need of dialysis was conducted. These patients were brought to the designated dialysis area in the FUEH and connected to their life-saving devices for four hours.

Rambam has accumulated vast experience and treated a higher numbers of severely injured patients. Since the early days of the war, Rambam staff held essential training sessions and simulations for IDF medical teams. Using medical manikins to simulate scenarios our staff trained military personnel in life-saving interventions, emergencies they might encounter in the field, and mass casualty situations.

MISSILE DRILL

Simulating a direct missile attack on city buildings was the focus of two specialized drills.

A drill in the Green-Wagner Department of Emergency Medicine trained teams to respond to a direct missile attack on a building, coinciding with a missile hitting one of the hospital departments. This precision exercise focused on Rambam

receiving the wounded from more than one location simultaneously evacuating the ER to receive large numbers of patients

Just days before Iran's missile attack in April, hospital personnel, the IDF, and MDA practiced admitting and treating 100 wounded residents of an apartment block. They were evacuated, admitted to the ER, and later transferred to other hospital departments for ongoing care.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION FOR HAIFA HOSPITALS

Rambam serves as the designated hospital for the Haifa region. In an emergency, patients from the unfortified Carmel Medical Center and Fliman Geriatric Hospital will be transferred and cared for at Rambam. To ensure a smooth transfer of patients and hospital staff, Rambam trained teams from Carmel and Fliman on patient information systems, triage, surgery, labor and delivery, and more, as well as specialized patient care specific to their institutions.

Drills testing workflow, patient reception, procedures, and functionality are ongoing, yet the positive feedback from the IDF, MDA, and healthcare providers confirms their success. This acknowledgment further substantiates Rambam's international reputation as a leading healthcare center.



▲ Gila Hyams (second right) oversees one of the drills



▲ IDF medics practice a life-saving intervention

FROM MILITARY UNIFORM TO HOSPITAL SCRUBS

RAMBAM'S MEDICAL "SUPERHEROES" FIGHT ON TWO FRONTS

Swords of Iron has demanded an all-hands-on-deck effort from all of Israel's citizens, and Rambam's staff members stepped up in many ways. Hundreds were called up for reserve duty, from every hospital sector. None gave it a second thought, and they all proudly reported for duty with the full support of the Rambam administration and other staff members who had to fill in whenever needed.

Of the hundreds, four share their experiences with us.



Dr. Yotam Shkedy, director of the Head and Neck Surgery Unit, divided his time between Rambam and Gaza. He attended to complex cases and performed urgent surgeries at Rambam whenever he could leave his unit in the IDF. He described his frequent transition from civilian doctor to military officer as strange and not an ideal situation; he feels extremely fortunate to be available for both his patients and fellow soldiers.

ER physician **Dr. Mor Kadusi** displayed unwavering dedication to both Rambam and the IDF. Not required for reserve duty, she volunteered within hours of the war's outbreak and served with a combat battalion in northern Gaza. She faced many medical challenges like shrapnel wounds, burns, illness, and infections, but her training and strong bonds with comrades helped her through.



Dr. Joseph Schnapp from the Maxillofacial Rehabilitation Department and Temporomandibular Disorders Unit served at the Shura Camp victim identification center.

Despite his volunteer experience for ZAKA search and rescue as a corpse identification specialist, the complex identification process at Shura involved DNA testing, X-ray interpretation, and other forensic techniques, the relentless flow of corpses and coffins took an emotional toll on him.



Dr. David Nikomarov, director of Musculoskeletal Oncology Surgery in the Orthopedic Surgery Section, specializes in musculoskeletal malignancies. He also continued many Rambam duties while serving in Gaza. Due to his rank and role, he was immediately called up for reserve duty and came to Rambam whenever possible, to perform surgeries and then return to his unit in Gaza.

He expressed pride in being able to serve in the army while treating patients at Rambam.



Our reservists rarely saw their families, however, they emphasized that the support they received from their families and Rambam colleagues helped them navigate the many difficult moments.

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS UNITE FOR WAR EFFORTS

DURING THE WAR, RAMBAM RECEIVED DOZENS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO TRAVELED FROM AFAR TO PITCH IN

Dr. Amnon Berger, an obstetric anesthesiologist from Boston, knew he had to contribute his experience. He explained, "I couldn't just stand by—I volunteered through the IL-USDocAid initiative, packed my bags, and within days, reported to Rambam." Before returning to Boston, he praised the hospital's response to the urgent medical needs of the injured.



Dr. Steven Frank, a professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, arranged to volunteer at Rambam through his friend Dr. Tomer

Charas, the deputy director of the Oncology Division. Before returning home, he shared, "The strength, resilience, and innovative ideas of the hospital staff, ensures the highest quality of care, and the spirit of volunteerism increases morale. Together, we are one."



Within days, Brazilian-born **Dr. Leonardo Gendzel**, a pediatric anesthesiologist in North Carolina, applied to volunteer. Reflecting on his time at Rambam, he said, "I did what I've been trained to do, and being here meant my colleagues could have some time off." He treated a seriously wounded mother and her teenage son, stating, "Treating the young boy was like treating my own son. The display of unity at Rambam was evident. I pray for Israel's safety and the hostages' return."

Anesthesiologist **Dr. Maxim Novikov**, from Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania, offered his experience and expertise. "I sat in front of the TV and watched the events unfold," recalls Novikov. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I wanted to help with whatever was needed." He returned home with a heavy heart but content, knowing he had done his part.



Swedish born **Dr. Jonathan Herdevall**, a physician and ex-Givati Brigade soldier, had planned a vacation in Israel when the attack occurred. "A week before my flight, the attack happened," he recalls. Feeling uneasy for not being involved, he arranged to volunteer. While here, Herdevall felt part of it all and praised everyone for their support and hard work.




32
volunteers

Longest stay
ONE MONTH

Most volunteers
ANESTHESIOLOGY

Volunteers from
 **USA**,  **SWEDEN**,
 **UK**,  **AUSTRALIA**,
 **BRAZIL AND**
 **IRELAND**

We continue to see the faces of volunteers across the campus and thank them for their dedication and commitment—their presence saves lives. •



▲ Rally for Nili Margalit



▲ Prof Miki Halberthal with the President of the State of Israel Isaac Herzog



▲ Prof. Halberthal addressing the audience at the sticker rally

ONE NATION, ONE HEART, UNITED WE STAND

Since October 7, Rambam management and staff have displayed unwavering solidarity, demonstrating a united front and commitment to the national cause.

AN UNBREAKABLE BOND WITH NILI

On November 14, dozens of Rambam's nurses gathered to stand in solidarity with their colleague, Nili Margalit, nurse at Soroka Medical Center who was taken hostage from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz. At the event, Gila Hyams, director of Nursing, commented, "We all want to see all the hostages brought home – today – safe and sound. We call for their immediate release."

STICKERS, YELLOW RIBBONS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS

On November 23, the families of Ofir Tzarfati (27) and Alon Ohel (22), kidnapped from Nova, participated in a solidarity rally together with hospital employees, patients, and visitors. Everyone placed stickers with the faces of the hostages, yellow ribbons, and messages of support on poster boards.

Fighting tears, Ofir's courageous mother – Rachel, and Shoval Gal, his partner whose life he managed to



▲ President Herzog and First Lady Michal with the Rambam staff

save, addressed the crowd and asked Rambam employees to keep fighting for the cause. "We are happy for each one who returns home to their families. We must continue for the women, the men, the fathers, for everyone."

Sadly, just six days later, on November 29, the body of Ofir Tzarfati was located in Gaza and returned to Israel for burial.

BANISHING THE DARKNESS

Rambam staff and special guests gathered for the lighting of the fifth Hanukkah candle. Rachel Tzarfati, mother of Ofir z"l, and Yelena Shmeklov, mother of Police Supt. Alexei Shmeklov z"l—a fallen soldier, participated in the candle-lighting ceremony.

Wishing for the soldiers' safe return, Prof. Halberthal said, "We are determined and steadfast to banish the darkness, fight until the end, and

return the light for the State of Israel."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL SALUTES RAMBAM

On December 31, the President of Israel, Yitzhak Herzog, and first lady, Michal, visited Rambam and met with staff and wounded soldiers.

During a ceremony, the President expressed his

appreciation to the hospital staff, "On behalf of the nation, I want to express my gratitude. Israel's healthcare system is coping in the face of a challenge never before experienced. You are an anchor for many individuals across the country, but Rambam is the anchor of the North."

100 DAYS LATER

On January 14, hundreds of Rambam employees gathered to mark 100 days since the massacre—part of many nationwide solidarity rallies.

Zohar Koval, a former nurse and a Nova survivor, spoke of her ordeal and thanked her Rambam colleagues for their support.

We all pray for the well-being and safe return of the hostages. We stand in solidarity with their families, our courageous soldiers, those directly impacted, and all of Am Yisrael.



▲ The one-of-a-kind underground, fortified children's area designed by volunteers from the School of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design

CARING FOR OUR STAFF UNDERGROUND & ABOVEGROUND

THE IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE

As war broke out, Rambam understood that the needs of our employees were a priority. The problem: while our staff were working 24/7, the education system was shut down. The solution: an on-campus daycare center for children ages 3-14.

The temporary center was an ideal solution and cared for hundreds of children. It was set up in less than 72 hours with age-appropriate educational and fun activities. However, we needed a long-term solution.

Through the support of the Frieze Family Foundation, a group of volunteers from the School of



▲ A group of children enjoying themselves in the daycare center

Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Tel Aviv, the impossible was made possible—a one-of-a-kind underground, fortified children's area in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital was created.

The challenge: design a soothing environment for the children who cannot be left home alone. The solution: safe from any aboveground threats, a brightly decorated children's area with play and study zones where caregivers and educators keep children occupied while their parents work, and the study area is fully equipped.

From concept to establishment, the teams demonstrated how innovation, architectural and design skills, a limited budget, and a short time frame could solve a significant and urgent problem.

A senior physician and father of

three said, "I can bring my children to a safe place where they can enjoy themselves and check in on them whenever necessary. My mind can be fully dedicated to work when my heart is calm."

EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

Understanding the need to support its staff, Rambam counselors provide assistance through in-person or Zoom sessions, and employees have access to various social resources to help them cope with war-related anxieties.

"With the right support, we can gather strength," says Liat Ariel, director of Psychological Service, "Connection and human contact are fundamental. National resilience begins with personal resilience—together, we will win." •



▲ In-person counseling sessions for Rambam staff

COURAGE, HOPE, LOVE, LIFE, AND LOSS

IN WARTIME, FAMILIES OFTEN ENDURE HEARTBREAKING SEPARATIONS AND MISS LIFE'S MOST MEANINGFUL MOMENTS. HERE ARE A FEW TOUCHING STORIES THAT HIGHLIGHT THE RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, SHOWCASING LOVE AND HOPE IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES.

RESERVIST GRANDAD

Yamit and Nissim Shemtov were expecting their first child—the family's first grandchild. On October 7, Yamit went into labor. Her father, IDF Brigadier General (Res.) Zvika Halperin, former Deputy Commander of the Northern District's Home Front Command, had been deployed.



Yamit prayed that the baby would arrive after midnight, knowing that the 7th would forever be a day of national mourning. At 1:52 a.m. on October 8, the couple's son was born at Rambam and later that day, Zvika arrived to meet his grandson.

► Yamit Halperin-Shemtov and her Husband Nissim Shemtov

32-HOURS LATER

Alon, an IDF reservist, was called up for duty, and his partner, Yarin faced giving birth alone.

Seven weeks later, when Yarin went into labor, she could not reach Alon. But, 32 hours later, with the help of his comrades, Alon finally received word of the birth. After the journey from Gaza to Rambam, Alon saw his son for the first time.



► Yarin and Alon reuniting

THERE'S PROOF

The birth of Hannah and Chai's son took an



unexpected turn. After sleepless nights on the battlefield, Chai arrived at Rambam for the birth. Exhausted, he slumped into a chair and fell asleep. "We couldn't wake him," recalls Hannah. "Finally, he woke up in time for the last two contractions; we filmed him and everyone laughed." Chai may deny it, but thanks to the camera on hand, proof of this delightful story exists.

► Hannah and Chai with their newborn

GOOD NEWS HASTENS BIRTH

Three months had passed since Efrat Kobi saw her younger brother, a paratrooper serving in Gaza. She was well past her due date and then a phone call from him announcing his imminent return hastened the birth. Within three hours, Efrat had given birth and the proud uncle was at Rambam, embracing his nephew.



► Left: Efrat's brother in the field, and Right: Efrat with her husband and newborn son

BIRTH AMIDST TRAGEDY

In April, **Shlomi and Astar**, Nova survivors, became parents at Rambam. Shlomi recalls a moment, "When my parent-ID-band was placed on my wrist, alongside my Nova event band, I started to cry." Since the birth the couple's lives have taken on a new meaning—there is hope, and there is love.



► Shlomi and Astar



► Alexei Shmeklov z"l



► Adi Eldor z"l



► Nati Elkouby z"l

FALLEN WARRIORS

Every year, on Memorial Day, Rambam honors the 73 staff, or their family members, who perished in Israel's attacks and conflicts. Sadly, we mourn three more heroes who have passed since the war began.

The late Police Supt. Alexei Shmeklov, who served in the elite YAMAM Unit, son of Yelena Shmeklov, a nurse in the Department of Surgery, fell on October 7 in the battle for the Sderot police station.

Sgt. First Class Adi Eldor (21) of the Maglan Unit fell on February 11, in a battle in Khan Yunis. His father, Dr. Liron Eldor, is a physician in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Adi was also the grandson of former Rambam physician Professor

Yosef Itzkowitz-Eldor, a Rambam Award recipient and a pioneer in fertility medicine and stem cell research in Israel.

Sarit Elkouby from Rambam's Rheumatology Institute lost her husband, Lt. Col. Netanel Elkouby (36), the father of their five young children. Lt. Col. Elkouby, commander of his battalion, bravely served on the frontlines from October 7 until his death four months later.

For 41 years, his late mother, Miriam Elkouby z"l, worked as head nurse in the hospital's recovery department.

These heroes and their families exemplify the spirit of dedication and sacrifice that Rambam holds dear. Their memories will forever be etched in our hearts.

CROSSING PATHS IN GAZA

On October 8, IDF reservist Dr. Arik Schechter, from the Department of Urology, joined his unit in Southern Israel. His sons were also recruited. Although difficult, they managed to communicate.

Some weeks later, Dr. Schechter's mission was complete, and he was preparing to leave. "Suddenly, a tank passed by, followed by soldiers," he shares. "I called out, 'Who are you?' It was my son's unit! After not having had contact for a while, we crossed paths and I was thrilled to see him."



► Dr. Arik Schechter and his son in Gaza

LIFE-SAVING INNOVATIONS

Rambam's physician-scientists aim to find practical solutions to real patient needs, and this is saving the lives of wounded soldiers, not only in the hospital setting, but also on the battlefield. By leveraging technological advances, they are finding practical solutions.

BATTLEFIELD INJURIES

Professor Benjamin Medalion, an attending physician in the Department of Cardiac Surgery, Professor Yitzhak Aharon from the Cardiology Institute, and engineer Yaron Shrim have developed a unique bandage for use in the field. During combat, medics must perform multiple first-aid procedures on injuries before dressings are applied. Now, the groundbreaking, easy-to-use bandage containing antiseptic and therapeutic agents reduces the risk of infection and ensures optimal treatment.



▲ Cylinder-like battlefield tech

LUNG & HEART FAILURE

Dr. Oved Cohen, deputy director of the Department of Cardiac Surgery, together with Vigor Medical Technologies are addressing battlefield chest injuries, which can result in an accumulation of fluid causing the lung and heart to collapse. Rapid drainage within the first hour of injury saves lives. The new cylinder-like device, is equipped with



▲ Ron using the "Tell Me" app

technology to efficiently penetrate and drain the affected area without endangering vital organs or arteries.



▲ Hypothermia smart patch

KEEPING WARM

Dr. Amit Lehavi, director of the Pediatric Anesthesiology Unit and a military physician, and Noyad-Biomed, are developing a "smart" heat patch that addresses hypothermia—when the body temperature drops below 35°C (95°F). The logistics surrounding the transfer of wounded soldiers from the battlefield to a trauma center can become life-threatening. Hence, preventing and treating hypothermia in the heat of battle saves lives.

Within 15 minutes, the patch Rescue Heat™ rewarms and maintains the patient's body temperature within a normal range. It is maintained for eight hours without causing burn wounds, a significant improvement over currently available solutions.

A NEW VOICE

Ron, an IDF lieutenant serving in the north, suffered multiple injuries and a shattered jaw caused by an anti-tank missile. He was admitted to the Department of Critical Care, where he remained with his head and limbs bandaged and his jaw fixed shut; he was unable to speak or write. He had only one uninjured finger, which was insufficient for effective communication.

Rambam and Ezer Mizion, Israel's largest health support organization, contacted Hilma – Tech for Impact, a non-profit organization. Together, they worked on a solution. Using a touch-screen iPad and a new, free app called "Tell Me," Ron began communicating with those around him.

"Tell Me" has changed Ron's life.

HEALING THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS: RAMBAM'S LIFELINE FOR PTSD VICTIMS

For over 40 years, Rambam has been more than just a hospital. It has been a sanctuary, a beacon of hope for IDF veterans and their families, offering solace and healing for those bearing the unseen scars of combat. As the most experienced facility in Israel operating a Ministry of Defense Veterans' Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic, Rambam's role is crucial. Today, 63% of the Clinic's 750 patients suffer from severe, chronic post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a haunting legacy of their bravery.

Swords of Iron War plunged many more soldiers and law enforcement officers into psychological turmoil. Since October 7, Rambam has opened its doors to 40 new patients, with hundreds more anticipated to seek urgent psychological support. The stakes have never been higher. These heroes, many from Israel's northern regions, carry wounds that – while invisible – are profoundly debilitating.

Rambam's leadership recognizes its critical role in meeting the increased demand, and in response to this overwhelming need, Rambam is tirelessly working to expand and adjust its services.

Clinical psychologist and the director of the Veterans' Outpatient Psychiatric Services at Rambam, Dr. Yael Caspi, captures the essence of the struggle, "PTSD is like a hostile takeover of one's personality. Individuals become trapped in cycles of automatic reactions, leading to a disintegration of self and loss of capacity. Young veterans often suffer chronic stress symptoms—heartburn, headaches, cognitive impairments—that make daily tasks daunting. Behavioral issues and a constant state of alertness erode self-esteem and relationships. Our intense intervention involves family from the start, addressing the sudden incapacity of former combat soldiers to handle even simple tasks. Despite



the emotional toll on our team, working and learning new trauma treatments provide strength and hope."

Recognizing that a traditional hospital environment can exacerbate PTSD symptoms, Rambam is in the process of renovating a facility to transform a space outside of the hospital in a warm, welcoming, "non-hospital" setting. The goal is to create a comforting environment where healing can truly begin.

With the addition of new staff, Rambam is expanding its treatment programming with innovative initiatives to enhance the level of care, including one-on-one sessions with mental health professionals and group therapy treatment, outdoor

group programming, neurofeedback treatments, and EEG-tracking of brain waves during meditation treatments.

Our commitment to healing extends beyond the hospital's patients. It encompasses the entire Rambam family, ensuring that caregivers are also cared for, enabling them to provide the highest quality of support to those who need it most.

Through all of these efforts, Rambam is not just treating patients; it is restoring lives, mending hearts, and healing the invisible wounds of war. The journey is long and fraught with challenges, but Rambam stands ready as a lifeline for those who have sacrificed so much in defense of Israel.

HONORING OUR HEROES: RAMBAM'S BRAVE NURSING STAFF



GILA HYAMS
Director of Nursing at Rambam, shares "We are incredibly proud of our valiant nursing staff serving Israel during this challenging time. I know that the skills and abilities they have acquired at Rambam undoubtedly bolster their efforts as they bravely serve. As we see them return to us, they are warmly received by their colleagues and resume the hospital's emergency routine".



EYAL HELFMAN
Nurse in Department of Critical Care Medicine – served 1.5 months in Southern Gaza Envelope, as a Paramedic in The Home Front Command



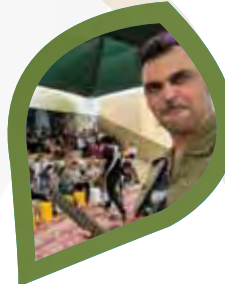
ALEXANDER KRAMSKY
Head Nurse, Department of Internal Medicine D – served 2.5 months; Medic, Northern Command



SHARON RUBIN
Nurse in Department of Ophthalmology – served 1.5 months; Ordnance Corps



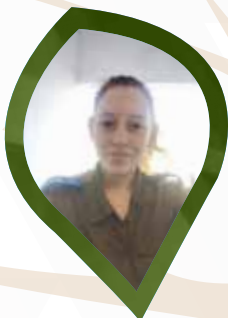
SIVAN MAOR YOSEF
Nurse in Department of Emergency Medicine – served 3 months, Home Front Command



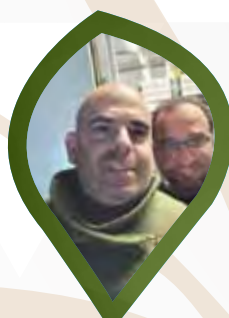
ELI AVRAHAM
Nurse in Ambulatory Medicine, Operating Room – served 3.5 months, Settlement Protection Unit



VLADIMIR KARLIN
Nurse in Department of Neurosurgery – served 4 months, 6010th Brigade



TAMAR NAGLER
Nurse in Department of Internal Medicine B – served 3 months, Air Force Emergency Medicine Unit



MARAT ALTER
Nurse in Department of Critical Care Medicine – served 5 months, Ordnance Corps



BARAK RESHEF
Nurse in Department of Critical Care Medicine – served 5 months, 14th Brigade, Resuscitation Company



YOGEV MORALI
Nurse in Department of Critical Care Medicine – served 3.5 months, 91st Brigade

WE TAKE IMMENSE PRIDE IN OUR DEDICATED NURSING STAFF, WHO HAVE NOT ONLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO HEALING WITHIN OUR HOSPITAL BUT ALSO TO SERVING COURAGEOUSLY ON THE FRONT LINES.



BAR OIERO

Nurse in Department of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology – served approximately 3 weeks, 252nd Brigade



MARK TALIS

Nurse in Department of Neurosurgery – served 4 months, Nahal Brigade



LUCIAN ABU HILU

Nurse in Department of Neurosurgery – served 5 months, IDF Search and Rescue Brigade



YAIR GAVRIEL SALOMON

Nurse in the Department of Emergency Medicine – served 4 months, Armored Corps



EVGENI SAS

Nurse in Department of Radiotherapy – served 4 months, Armored Corps



NOAM DAVID ILUZ

Nurse in Operating Rooms – currently serving, 669th Brigade



ANATOLI KUTSENKO

Nurse in the Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Institute – served 3 months, 982nd Brigade



YARDEN AZRIEL

Nurse in Pediatrics A – served six months, and currently deployed, Duvdevan Unit



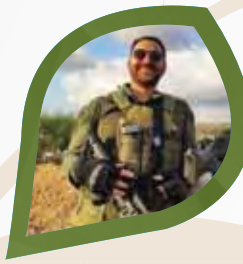
EVGENI LECHTMAN

Nurse in Operating Rooms – served six months, 91st Brigade



TOMER BEN MEIR

Nurse in Operating Rooms – served 4.5 months as a paratrooper



ADAM RUHANA

Nurse in Operating Rooms – served 3 months at Efraim Brigade



ALEXEY STARODUBSKI

Nurse in Operating Rooms – served 2.5 months, 300th Brigade

ACROSS THE POND

FROM COAST TO COAST

SHAPING HEALTHCARE RAMBAM STANFORD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

In 2018, the visionary Rambam-Stanford alliance was born, heralding a new era of healthcare innovation and pioneering solutions to complex medical challenges.

This March, American Friends of Rambam (AFORAM) orchestrated a transformative three-day mission to the Stanford University School of Medicine in California. Led by Prof. Miki Halberthal, the Rambam delegation, including esteemed leaders, such as Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Michal Mekel, and Gila Hyams, engaged in strategic discussions charting a visionary path for the next five years. Their counterparts at Stanford, led by doctors Lloyd B. Minor and Thomas Montine, welcomed the alliance's shared commitment



▲ Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar and members of the Rambam delegation at Stanford Hospital

to advancing clinical research and fostering cutting-edge solutions in data-driven medicine.

Over the next five years, Rambam and Stanford will intensify their collaboration in critical areas such as AI-based research, trauma management, disaster readiness, and healthcare innovation spanning cardiovascular disease, oncology, neurology, and beyond.

The collaboration between

Stanford and Rambam represents a powerful union of expertise and vision. By combining their strengths, both institutions aim to push the boundaries of medical research and innovation, ultimately improving healthcare outcomes worldwide.

The collaboration that began seven years ago has withstood the major challenges of the Covid-19 epidemic and remains strong. The shared excellence of both these institutions



▲ L-R: Prof. Irit Ben Aharon, Dr. Michal Mekel, and Dr. Aviv Regev



▲ L-R: Dr. Raluca Dinu and Prof. Miki Halberthal



▲ L-R: Oren Dobronsky, Richard Irving, and Dr. Levy Gerzberg



▲ L-R: Prof. Lior Gepstein, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Rick Beleson and Prof. Rafi Beyar



▲ L-R: Dr. Aviv Regev, Sari Arshadnia, and Michal Frostig



▲ L-R: Israel Consul General, Amb. Marco Sermoneta and Sari Arshadnia

in medicine, engineering, and innovation is the basis for this continued collaboration

In addition to meetings at Stanford, there were multiple engagements with the Jewish community. Long-time friends and supporters, Dr. Avi Katz and Dr. Reluca Dinu, hosted the delegation for a memorable dinner, which also included board members Dr. Levy Gerzberg, and Michal Frostig and their spouses, as well as other major donors and supporters.

These meetings highlighted several challenges confronted by Rambam, including preparedness for events as they unfold in Northern Israel, funding for collaboration, development at Rambam, and interdisciplinary research centers.

STRENGTHENING BONDS: RAMBAM'S VISIT TO NEW YORK FUELS COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT

In early May, Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar embarked on a pivotal three-day journey to New York, forging crucial connections and deepening partnerships with key stakeholders. Their visit was marked by meetings with influential figures from AFORAM, including Meri Barer, president of the BOD and Dave Adlerstein, alongside Ellen Pomerantz, director of the Northeast Region. The engagement extended across coasts, with board member David Sterling and, Sari Arshadnia, director of the Western Region, joining via Zoom, highlighting a



▲ L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Robert Kuhn and Prof. Rafi Beyar

united front in support of Rambam's mission.

The professors also engaged in impactful discussions with esteemed colleagues from NYU and Columbia University, including Dr. Paula Rackoff, Dr. Glenn Fishman, Dr. Dan Halpern, Dr. Caren Behar, and Dr. Lior Jankelson. This connection, facilitated by Dr. Paula Rackoff, emerged from a desire to volunteer in Israel post-October 7. These conversations underscored solidarity and explored avenues for creating fast-track opportunities for volunteering, future fellowships, collaborations, and innovative projects.

Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar dined with board members Jeff and Agnes Shemia and donors, Michal and Eli Gindi. Conversations revolved around future fundraising events and engaging the Jewish community in support of Rambam. The following day, the professors attended an enlightening session hosted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC), facilitated by Nathaniel Goldman, AFORAM's CFO. This gathering underscored the deep



▲ LR: Jeff Shemia, Ellen Pomerantz, Michal Gindi, Eli Gindi, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Agnes Shemia

interest and support for Rambam, as evidenced by the robust discussions and the promise of future visits from the AJC Board of Governors.

Lunch with Teri and Barry Volpert provided an opportunity to discuss the progress of the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center in the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, while the meeting with Michele Tocci from the David Berg Foundation opened doors for substantial grants focused on geriatrics and early cancer diagnosis.

Later that afternoon, a visit to Robert Kuhn, PhD, a prominent businessman, highlighted potential new avenues for support. Kuhn expressed a keen interest in increasing his contributions to Israel, paving the way for a promising partnership.

The day wrapped up with a tour and meeting with Alan Forman. Forman, a steadfast supporter of Rambam, reaffirmed his commitment to the hospital, expressing interest in potential future projects.

Prof. Rafi Beyar also had a, fruitful meeting with Eric Goldstein, CEO of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA). The meeting underscored UJA's interest in supporting Northern Israel's preparedness for conflict.

The East Coast visit reinforced existing relationships and opened new avenues for collaboration and support, highlighting a shared commitment to advancing healthcare and innovation. The unwavering support from influential figures and organizations will drive Rambam's mission forward, inspiring hope for a brighter future. Strengthened ties ensure Rambam's continued legacy of excellence, compassion, and groundbreaking medical advancements.



▲ Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar with representatives from the AJC

RAMBAM IS BUILDING BRIDGES TO LATIN AMERICA

Rambam is moving forward with its ambitious program in Latin America to develop new friends and supporters. Over the past year, Rambam's Director General, Professor Miki Halberthal, its former Director General and President of International Rambam Friends Organizations, Professor Rafi Beyar, Nobel Laureate Professor Aaron Ciechanover and Monica Davidovich, Director of Rambam's Latin America Desk, have traveled to a number of Latin American countries, where they received a warm welcome and extraordinary support from the local Jewish communities.

The following are a few highlights:



Rambam is honored to welcome renowned Brazilian banker and leader of the Sao Paulo Jewish Community, Marcelo Kalim, as the President of Brazilian Friends of Rambam. Marcelo and his wife, Fernanda, have a great love and passion for Israel, and they are opening many doors for Rambam. We are grateful that the Kalims have become our esteemed friends and partners.

Professor Aaron Ciechanover, Professor Halberthal, Professor Beyar and Monica Davidovich traveled to Brazil multiple times over the last year. In Brasilia, they met with representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Israel's ambassador in Brazil, Daniel Zohar Zonshine, and local hospital leaders.

At the University of Brasilia, Professors Halberthal and Beyar spoke about Rambam's future vision, and its important role in research and innovation. Professor Ciechanover presented a fascinating lecture, and



▲ L-R: Simone Assayag, Esther Dayan, Inna Katsenelson, Brazil with Prof. Miki Halberthal



▲ L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Marcela Zitune Birger, Brazil, Prof. Miki Halberthal

urged the next generation of students, especially those in Latin American countries, to continue scientific discovery and advances.

In São Paulo, they visited the Paulista School of Medicine – Federal University of São Paulo. In addition, they met with the leadership of Brazil's leading hospitals, the Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein. Many physicians from Einstein Hospital have already visited Rambam, and the hospital has generously supported Rambam's wartime preparations. Rambam's leadership was very proud to have



▲ L-R: Monica Davidovich, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Alberto Picciotto, Brazil, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Miki Halberthal



▲ L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Milton Steinman, Brazil, Prof. Miki Halberthal



▲ L-R: Abrão Lowenthal, Brazil, and Prof. Aaron Ciechanover



▲ L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Israeli Ambassador to Brazil, Daniel Zonshine, Brazil



▲ L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Elie Horn, Brazil, Prof. Rafi Beyar



▲ L-R: Dr. Claudio Lottemberg, Prof. Ciechanover, Prof. Halberthal, and Dr. Miguel Cendoroglo, Brazil

concluded a formal collaboration agreement with Einstein Hospital.

Prof. Halberthal and Monica had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful Beit Yaacov, a leading Jewish day school in Sao Paulo with over 1,000 students. The school has been flourishing under the dedicated leadership of its President, Esther Safra Dayan.

Rambam was honored to welcome renowned Einstein trauma and emergency medicine specialist, Dr. Milton Steinman, to our hospital. Dr. Steinman is a graduate of Rambam's international program for Trauma, Emergency and Mass Casualty Situations. Dr. Steinman volunteered at Rambam's Department of Emergency Medicine earlier this year, at a time when a number of physicians and staff were serving in the IDF Reserves. Dr. Steinman's contributions to Rambam were invaluable and we are profoundly grateful for his friendship.

Rambam's leadership also met with the Board of the National Confederation of Brazil-Israel Chambers of Commerce and leaders from 10 Brazilian states.



In May 2024, Professor Halberthal and Monica Davidovich met with Israel's Ambassador to Chile, the Honorable Gil Artzyeli, as well as with distinguished business and medical leaders of the Chilean Jewish Community. The Ambassador was enormously helpful in opening doors for Rambam. Professor Halberthal and Monica also met with Comunidad Judia de Chile, a vital organization which was able to provide invaluable insights into the Jewish Community of Chile and the challenges it now confronts.

We are looking forward to building on these relationships and strengthening our ties with the Chilean Jewish Community.



▲ L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal and Gil Artzyeli, Israeli Ambassador, Chile



▲ L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal and David Farcas, Chile



▲ L-R: Daniel Hasson, Dafne Englander, Prof. Halberthal, Monica Davidovich, Roberto Minzer, Chile



▲ Bertha and Ruben Goldberg, Mexico



Rambam is honored that Ruben Goldberg and his wife Bertha have graciously agreed to become Presidents of Mexican Friends of Rambam. Ruben is an esteemed investment banker and he and his wife are leaders of the Mexican Jewish Community. Ruben and Bertha have already introduced Rambam to prominent members of the Jewish Community, and they are helping Rambam to create a solid base of support in Mexico.

Ruben was instrumental in helping Rambam obtain a Memorandum of Understanding with one of Mexico's leading hospitals, ABC Medical Center, in Mexico City. As part of the celebration of ABC Medical Center's 70th anniversary,

Professor Ciechanover presented a lecture to the enthusiastic audience. Rambam's leadership was honored to be part of this important event, and deeply moved by the warm and gracious welcome.

Another highlight of the visit was the reception for Rambam hosted by the Honorable Einat Kranz Neiger, Israel's Ambassador to Mexico, at the Israeli Embassy. The elegant event afforded an outstanding opportunity to introduce Rambam to leaders of the Mexican Jewish Community.

In Monterrey, Professor Halberthal, Professor Ciechanover and Monica Davidovich met with renowned physician and philanthropist, Dr. Genaro Levinson. Dr. Levinson graciously initiated an impressive reception for Rambam at the Conference Israelite Center Monterrey, which featured Professor Ciechanover as the keynote speaker. This was an important opportunity to introduce Rambam to the warm, welcoming Monterrey Jewish Community.



▲ Ruben Goldberg, Mexico



▲ L-R: Dr. Raul Rivera Moscoso, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Dr. David Kershenobich Stalnikowitz, Mexico



▲ L-R: Monica Davidovich, Ruben Goldberg, Einat Kranz Neiger, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, and Bertha Goldberg, Brazil



▲ L-R: Pepe Shabot, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Silvia Cherem, and Ruben Goldberg, Mexico



▲ MOU ABC Medical Center, Mexico



▲ L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr Genaro Levinson, Mexico, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover



▲ Conference at ABC Medical Center, Mexico

A SIGNIFICANT VISIT TO

LONDON

In January, Prof. Halberthal made a pivotal appearance at the House of Lords, where he delivered a compelling speech. While in London, he also engaged with leaders of the Jewish community, supporters, and influencers. Dr. Hany Bahouth, director of the Emergency Medicine and Trauma System Section, accompanied him.

Samantha Rose of British Friends of Rambam coordinated meetings with several key figures, including Lennart Perlhagen and Richard Perlhagen; Paul Ramsbottom from the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust; Lee Rosenthal, founder of the Magen Avraham Foundation; Yoram Ben Israel, entrepreneur; Newsweek reporter Ellie Cook; and Roni Rosenthal, businessperson and former Israel footballer.



▲ Paul Ramsbottom and Prof. Miki Halberthal

AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Paul Anthony Elliot Bew, member of the House of Lords, chairperson of the Israel support group, "UK Israel Future Projects," and chairperson of the Anglo-Israel Association, invited Prof. Halberthal to speak at the House about Rambam's emergency preparedness. Lord Bew's close relationship with Israel, specifically Haifa, dates back to 1967.

Professor Halberthal's presentation, "Providing Health Care in Every



▲ L-R Lord Bew and Prof. Halberthal

Scenario—Commitment Leads to Novel Solutions," focused on Rambam's war-preparedness actions, including readying the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, training IDF personnel in emergency and life-saving procedures, and multiple drills for receiving and treating the injured.

Rambam friends and supporters Cathy and Danny Rosenkranz, Lennart Perlhagen, Gabriella Alexander-Passe from British Friends of Rambam, and others attended. The expertise of Ruth Saunders from UK-Israel Future Projects ensured a seamless event.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

As part of the synagogue's education program, Chazan Avromi Freilich and



▲ L-R Chazan Avromi Freilich, Rochelle Freilich, and Prof. Halberthal

Rochelle Freilich of the Hampstead Garden Suburb United Synagogue hosted an elegant evening attended by 100 Jewish community members. Prof. Halberthal addressed the congregants, discussing how Rambam is navigating and managing its challenging circumstances. The community's support and encouragement were heartwarming.

THE ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL



▲ L-R Anne Weaver, Clinical Director, Major Trauma Centre at Royal London Hospital; Professor Miki Halberthal, and Dr. Hany Bahouth

On the final day of their trip, Prof. Halberthal and Dr. Bahouth met with key staff at the renowned Royal London Hospital to discuss possible future collaborations. Royal London Hospital leaders, including its medical director, Dr. Malik Ramadhan, were excited by the prospects of joint efforts between the two healthcare centers, setting in motion future partnership.

This trip to London signifies the importance of keeping the international community apprised of the work Rambam is doing to care for and protect Northern Israel's citizens, serving as a beacon of hope for Israel during these challenging days.

RAMBAM SUMMIT

DARE TO DREAM – 85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The three-day 2023 Rambam Summit, incorporating the prestigious Rambam Awards Ceremony, was held from May 30–June 1, 2023. In addition to celebrating the hospital's 85th year, research and innovation were significant focuses of the event, and a groundbreaking master plan, taking the hospital well into the future, was announced.

Rambam's friends from the USA, Canada, the UK, Brazil, Bulgaria, Spain, and Israel, along with hospital leadership, VIP guests, and others, participated in the gala evening. With Israel's population set to reach 15 million by 2048 and Northern Israel's medical needs expanding proportionally, Rambam's master plan for the future was unveiled, including a blueprint to enlarge the campus fivefold. By 2065, when Israel's population is estimated to reach 20 million, 2,600 hospital beds will be needed (up from the current 1,100).

Recognizing the needs of the 21st century, Rambam is leaping forward with research and innovation, integrating the latest technologies and therapies into clinical practice.

Prof. Miki Halberthal says, "Rambam will be a beacon of light for healthcare, synthesizing research, innovation, and technology. The latest technologies will allow for the most advanced treatments, emphasizing aging and early disease detection."

Prof. Halberthal highlighted collaborations with esteemed institutions like the Technion, Stanford Medicine, and the University of Haifa, which influence research and innovation and create a solid foundation for advancing healthcare.

At an event at Haifa's National Museum of Science, Technology, and Space, Rambam physician-scientists presented their cutting-edge research and innovation projects.

Dr. Lior Lev-Tov from the Department of Neurosurgery spoke of the advancements in functional neurosurgery and MRI Guided Focused Ultrasound. Dr. Ofra Beyar-Katz, director of the Cellular Immunotherapy Unit, explained the use of CAR-T Cell Therapy in treating follicular lymphoma. A talk by Dr. Emily Avitan, director of the Department of



◀ L-R: Meri Barer, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dalia Beyar, Fruma Youdim, and Professor Emeritus Moussa Youdim

▶ Amir Dadon

Dermatology and a melanoma expert, explained her research and the effects of sun exposure. Dr. Ruth Perets, director of the Oncological Day Care Unit, is focused on understanding the effects of early pathogenesis on the treatment and prevention of ovarian cancer, and her presentation was fascinating.

Acclaimed scientist Dr. Tal Zaks, Moderna's former chief scientist who led the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, a Teva Pharmaceuticals board member, and a 2023 Rambam Award recipient, presented a riveting lecture entitled "Developing mRNA Medicines."

A tour of the Rose and Raphael (Ram) Angel MRI Institute was a highlight, and Rambam's unique research collaboration with the University of Haifa and innovative research, was explained. A state-of-the-art MRI machine with a magnetic field strength of 3-Tesla was jointly acquired and deployed in the Institute. This strategic partnership affords a unique opportunity to advance research.

Leaders of our International Friends Associations met to discuss their activities and new avenues of promoting Rambam. Creative thinking led to the generation of some novel suggestions.

The pinnacle event was a spectacular gala evening that included the Rambam Awards Ceremony and a sound and light show. The prestigious Rambam Award was bestowed upon three deserving recipients for their unparalleled contributions to Israel, healthcare, and humanity: Dr. Tal Zaks; Professor Emeritus Moussa Yadim, and the Tannous Family—Eva, Elias, Ghadir, Alla, and Wassim,

Ania Bukstein, an Israeli entertainer, emceed the evening. Popular singers Amir Dadon and Valerie Hamaty delighted the audience with their performances, and a youth ensemble and talented children of Rambam employees performed.

"In the past year, Rambam has seen tremendous growth, innovative research, and expanded facilities and services. New collaborations and relationships with communities worldwide have been cemented. Plans for the hospital's future are set," Prof. Halberthal proclaimed. "I have been at



▲ L-R Herta Amir and Dr. Esty Golan



▲ Prof Halberthal and Mayor of Haifa Yona Yahav

Rambam for 37 years and have served as CEO for the past four years—this is the most significant event of my term. We have announced a groundbreaking master plan for a groundbreaking medical center, bigger than the pandemic and bigger than anything I will ever do. Rambam is creating the future of medicine."

The magnitude of Rambam's accomplishments was further confirmed when warm words of encouragement from the previous Mayor of Haifa, Dr. Einat Kalisch-Rotem; Meri Barer, president of American Friends of Rambam; David Green, president of the Canadian Friends of Rambam; and Anita Alexander-Passe, director of British Friends of Rambam, were screened.

At the end of the evening, Prof. Halberthal thanked everyone stating, "The 2023 Rambam Summit was a resounding success. Excellence in healthcare and innovation are at the core of our DNA. Rambam is a world leader, and our reputation is made possible by the hard work of every staff member and the commitment of our many friends across the globe. We are sincerely grateful to you all."



► Summit delegation at the MADATECH, Haifa's National Museum of Science, Technology, and Space



► Performance by children of Rambam staff

2023

RAMBAM AWARD



ACKNOWLEDGING OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the highlight of the Rambam summit, the Rambam Award is presented to distinguished individuals in tribute to their achievements in the fields of science, medicine, and technology, and in recognition of their accomplishments and business leadership.



▲ L-R Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and the Tannous Family- Eva, Elias, Wassim, G'adir and Alla

THE TANNOUS FAMILY

The Tannous family is a deeply rooted Christian family in Nazareth. The head of the family, Badi, believed that the values of professionalism, excellence, innovation, and continuous dialogue applied equally to business and family.

Hence, in 1972, he established the BST Group which became one of the largest and most influential groups in Israel and overseas.

The company donated construction of protective shelters for the residents of Northern Israel as well as schools, sports halls, community centers, residential neighborhoods, and office buildings.

Badi promoted coexistence in the State of Israel by connecting the leaders of various social sectors, heads of local authorities, businesspeople, Knesset members, and current and former prime ministers.

Most recently, the Tannous family has sought to honor their father's memory by donating the full internal construction of three floors in the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital which comprise the Badi Tannous Heart Institute at Rambam Health Care Campus.

In acknowledgment of all of these profound contributions, the Honorary Awards Committee is proud to present the Tannous Family- Eva, Elias, G'adir, Wassim and Alla, and their late father, Badi Tannous, with the 2023 Rambam Award.



▲ L-R Prof. Miki Halberthal Dr. Tal Zaks, Prof. Rafi Beyar

DR. TAL ZAKS

Born in Haifa, Dr. Zaks reached the top of the global pharmaceutical industry when a quest for a cure for cancer led to the successful development of a COVID vaccine.

At Haifa's Reali High School, he studied math, physics, chemistry, and developed an interest in medicine and healthcare, becoming a volunteer in Magen David Adom (MDA). Despite being accepted by the Technion to study medicine, Dr. Zaks – to his family's chagrin – opted first to complete his army service.

These experiences laid the groundwork for what distinguished Dr. Zaks in his future accomplishments: flexibility, insatiable curiosity, and the desire to learn, with a rare and healthy attribute for introspection.

With an MD and a PhD from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, he was mentored by the late Professor Shraga Sego, and became intrigued by cancer immunology.

The quest for a cancer cure eventually made Dr. Zaks a leader at Moderna Therapeutics where eventually one of the coronavirus vaccines was developed. In so doing, he realized that impacting lives for the betterment of humankind was the most important accomplishment of his career.

In light of all the aforementioned achievements, the Honorary Awards Committee has deemed Dr. Tal Zaks deserving of the 2023 Rambam Award.



▲ L-R Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Emeritus Moussa Youdim, Fruma Youdim

PROFESSOR EMERITUS MOUSSA YOUDIM

Born in Iran, Prof. Youdim's family name, from the word "knowledge" in Hebrew, would be prophetic. His pursuit of knowledge led him to McGill University Medical School. Later, Youdim worked at the University of London, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Oxford.

In 1977, Professor Youdim immigrated to Israel and established the Pharmacology Department in the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine of the Technion. Youdim's leadership was marked by his passionate pursuit of pharmacological research.

During his nearly fifty years of research, Prof. Youdim elucidated the basic mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases and helped develop innovative drugs for treating Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other neurodegenerative diseases. He holds over 100 drug patents, published more than 900 scientific articles, and edited 45 books.

Professor Youdim, the recipient of multiple international prizes, awards, and honors, was awarded Israel's highest honor: the 2022 Israel Prize. His life's work, leadership, and vision, are an ongoing inspiration, and he has had an unparalleled impact on pharmaceutical innovation and neuropharmacology and its treatment worldwide.

With all of these astonishing accomplishments in mind, Rambam's Honorary Awards Committee is proud to present Professor Emeritus Moussa Youdim with the 2023 Rambam Award.

WE DARE TO DREAM & FRIENDS MAKE IT POSSIBLE



▲ Plaque unveiling of the Herta and Paul Amir Internal Medicine Building

HONORING HERTA AMIR FOR HER UNWAVERING SUPPORT

Herta Amir's support of Rambam is remarkable. Among the projects that she and her late husband Paul supported was the renovation of the internal medicine building, a Bauhaus design constructed in 1938 as Rambam's first building.

Thanks to her magnanimous generosity, the building was transformed into the state-of-the-art Herta and Paul Amir Internal Medicine Building.

During the Summit, Herta was welcomed at the official opening of the newly renovated building, now home to all the internal medicine departments. In a dramatic moment, a team of abseilers unveiled the signage on the building's façade. Herta toured the building and met with the medical teams who described the impact of the upgraded facility.

Prof. Miki Halberthal; Prof. Rafi Beyar; Dr. Michal Mekel; deputy director Prof. Yael Shachor-Meyouhas; Dr. Esty Golan, together



▲ Herta Amir, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar watching the plaque unveiling

with representatives from Rambam's International Friends Organizations and guests, participated in a moving ceremony in the hospital's auditorium, where a short clip highlighted moments of Herta's relationship with Rambam was shown.

Herta, thank you for your friendship and help towards achieving the hospital's long-term vision.

We cannot adequately express our gratitude to our friends in a few words, but during the 2023 Summit, we conveyed our appreciation to a few.

Personalized precision medicine is shaping the future of healthcare, and state-of-the-art facilities, equipment, and expert medical teams are essential—visionary friends help support our needs.

DELIVERING WORLD- CLASS URGENT CARE TO NORTHERN ISRAEL

Husband and wife Daphne Wagner and David Green, president of the Canadian Friends of Rambam, were honored at an appreciation and plaque unveiling ceremony for the Green-Wagner Department of Emergency Medicine. This Department serves as the frontline of medical care at Rambam, where rapid patient assessments, interventions, and stabilizations are performed.

A large crowd including Prof. Rafi Beyar, President of Rambam's



▲ L-R Prof. Miki Halberthal, Marlene Halberthal, Daphne Wagner, David Green, Rubi Halberthal



▲ Signed scroll

International Friends Associations and Dr. Golan, witnessed the plaque unveiling ceremony. The Hebrew, English, and Arabic plaque on a rooftop pergola adorns the entrance and the ambulance bay. The crowd watched a drill expertly coordinated by Dr. Hany Bahouth, director of Emergency Medicine and Trauma System and Gila Hyams, director of Nursing, and demonstrated by staff from the Teaching Center for Trauma, Emergency, and Mass Casualty Situations.

Dr. Avi Weissman, deputy director, emceed the appreciation ceremony. "Daphne and David are exceptional people," he said. He went on to explain that philanthropy runs in the Green-Wagner family and David's late mother, Goldie, and his late sister, Karen, were also close to Rambam.

Prof. Halberthal spoke of the Canadian Friends of Rambam's close and long-standing relationship with Rambam, the circumstances that bond them, and supporting some essential projects in line with Rambam's vision for the future. David thanked the hospital staff from every Department for their commitment to making Rambam an outstanding healthcare facility.

Daphne and David, we are humbled by your generosity, dedication, and devotion.



CATHY & DANNY'S IMPACT IS TRANSFORMATIVE

Cathy and Danny Rosenkranz are passionate philanthropists, whose work spans continents and countries, including Kenya, Ukraine, the UK, and Israel. Jewish causes and Rambam are particularly close to their hearts. Their generous donation has made the recently completed Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz Hematology/Oncology ER in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center a reality.

The ER is a 10,000-square-foot (985 m²) facility where immunocompromised cancer patients receive immediate care, separate from the hospital's general ER.

The event included a ceremony where a signed scroll was placed in a decorative capsule and laid into a cornerstone of the ER. Later, a moving video was screened, and Prof. Halberthal recounted moments that defined



▲ Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz and Prof. Miki Halberthal placing the scroll in the floor of the ER

Cathy and Danny's relationship with Rambam. Prof. Ben-Aharon highlighted the Oncology Center's international reputation. Dr. Golan, British Friends of Rambam delegates, and staff members attended.

Danny and Cathy are members of the Rambam family, and Rambam is part of their family.



▲ Bitu Nuhavandi (4th from left) and her family members and Sari Arshadnia (second from left)

DEDICATING THE DAVID MOROVATI EXAMINATION AREA

During a poignant moment, a large group gathered to honor the life of David Avitan Morovati z"l from Los Angeles. To celebrate him, David's widow, Iranian-born Bitu Nuhavandi, facilitated the creation of the David Morovati Examination Area in the Oncology/Hematology ER, enabling seamless admission and initial examinations.

After fleeing Iran, Bitu's health issues brought her to Rambam. Now well and settled in the USA, she remains committed to Israel. Bitu arranged a successful fundraising event in LA, together with Sari Katz Arshadnia,

director of American Friends of Rambam, Western Region. Many influential members of LA's Jewish community attended.

Prof. Halberthal thanked Bitu for her generosity, and Prof. Ben-Aharon spoke of the advancements in cancer therapy. Bitu fought back her tears as she recounted her life with David, and love for Rambam.

Bitu's family and friends, Meri Berer, president of American Friends of Rambam, Dr. Esty Golan, and others, participated in the ceremony.

Thank you, Bitu, for your generosity and vision.

RAMBAM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



In May 2023, in a remarkable cultural exchange initiative, Brazilian representatives from the University of Haifa, Hebrew University, and the **Jewish Federation of Sao Paulo** visited Rambam. The delegation, comprising 30 women, was warmly received by Rambam representatives who guided them through an enlightening tour of The Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH).



► Brazilian representatives from the University of Haifa, Hebrew University, and the Jewish Federation of Sao Paulo gathered



Last May, **San Francisco's mayor**, London Breed, led a delegation from The San Francisco-Haifa Sister City Committee, chaired by Bob Tandler, where a collaborative agreement was signed. Facilitated by American Friends of Rambam – West Coast leadership, the agreement established a partnership for emergency preparedness training. Prof. Miki Halberthal signed the agreement, with Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, and hospital leadership present. This partnership will train San Francisco healthcare and emergency workers and foster a valuable exchange of ideas and resources between the two cities.



► L-R: Gila Hyams, Prof. Lior Gepstein, Dr. Michal Mekel, Bob Tandler, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Mayor London Breed, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, and Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon



Last summer, **Drs. Ariella and Bruce Rosengard** visited Rambam and were hosted by Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, and Prof. Lior Gepstein. In honor of her father, Dr. Michel Mirowski z"l, who invented the groundbreaking implantable cardioverter-defibrillator, the Mirowski Family Foundation donated generously to Rambam. In recognition of this contribution, Rambam established an exhibition in the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital. This exhibition is a testament to Dr. Mirowski's pioneering spirit, commitment, and the impact of his work.



► Drs. Ariella and Bruce Rosengard (center) during their visit



Over the summer, as part of the Haifa-Boston **Connection (HBC)**, an ever-growing community partnership spanning over three decades under the umbrella of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) of Greater Boston, hospital employees of Ethiopian descent and children of employees were awarded **scholarships** for their academic pursuits or professional development. Among the hospital's more than 6,000 employees, members of the Ethiopian community are represented in many hospital departments including nursing and housekeeping. The HBC established this scholarship program to enhance the education and professional skills of Rambam employees and their children, promoting patience, social justice, and tolerance. Nine scholarships were awarded: four to employees and five to their children.



► Haifa-Boston Connection scholarship recipients, Rambam and Haifa-Boston representatives



Asaf Shemesh, general manager and vice president at the international technology company, Sanmina in Ma'alot, Israel, visited Rambam in August 2023. A long-time donor, Shemesh has generously supported Rambam's Department of Internal Medicine D. During his visit, hosted by Dr. Esty Golan, Dr. Ami Neuberger, the Department's director, and Inbar Shahaf Director, Unit of Resource & Market Development and Donor Relations, he toured the campus. Throughout Swords of Iron, Shemesh has continued to support Rambam, contributing to the hospital's initiatives to aid IDF soldiers. •



► (L-R) Inbar Shahaf, Asaf Shemesh, Dr. Ami Neuberger, and Dr. Esty Golan



Ella Galil, the beloved wife of Uzia z"l and true Rambam friend, was honored at the opening ceremony of the Ella and Uzia Galil Auditorium in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. Two plaques were unveiled including the naming plaque for the spectacular auditorium. Uzia was an innovator and industry giant. He received the Israel Prize in 1997 and three honorary doctorates from the Technion, the Weizmann Institute, and the Polytechnic University in NY. Uzia was regarded as the father of Israel's tech industry and was chair of the Technion's International Board of Governors. Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Lior Gepstein, Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, and Inbar Shahaf welcomed Ella and her son, Doron Lavie, and accompanied them on a tour of the auditorium and the campus where they witnessed latest developments. •



► L-R: Prof. Lior Gepstein, Inbar Shahaf, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Doron Lavie, Ella Galil, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon



Last September, a 30-person delegation from **Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein (Einstein)** in Sao Paulo, one of Latin America's leading medical centers, visited Rambam. They engaged in discussions on future healthcare and hospital collaborations. Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar welcomed the group, which included Einstein president, Dr. Sidney Klajner and Dr. Claudio Lottenberg, president of the Council of Einstein. The delegation explored Rambam's advanced clinical and research advancements across departments like Cardiology, Oncology, and Neurology, and learned about collaborations with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. They also visited the FUEH. •



► L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Sidney Klajner, Prof. Rafi Beyar, and Dr. Claudio Lottenberg



In September 2023, players from world-renowned **BARCA** (Football Club Barcelona) visited the courageous young patients of Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital—an unforgettable experience for them. Warmly welcomed by Prof. Miki Halberthal and Dr. Avi Weissman, Rambam's deputy director, the iconic Spanish football team brightened the day of these young patients.

Netanel, a patient's father, shared his sentiments, saying, "When Eli learned that BARCA would be visiting the hospital, he got up from his bed. The opportunity to meet his favorite football team inspired him." •



► BARCA players in front of Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital Pediatric Emergency entrance



In September, senior members of the **Brazilian Parliament**, politicians, leaders, respected members of the Sao Paulo Jewish Federation, and delegates from the Brazilian Confederation also visited Rambam.

Prof. Rafi Beyar, Prof. Zaher Azzam, director of Rambam's Division of Internal Medicine, and Dr. Esty Golan welcomed the visitors.

The group of dignitaries included Senator Fabiano Contarato, Orlando Silva, Renata Abreu, Tabata Amaral, Pedro Paulo, Adriana Ventura, Kim Kataguir, Luisa Canziani, Marcel van Hatten, Muriel Asseraf, Ricardo Birkenstat, and Daniel Bialski, vice president of the Brazilian Confederation.

They toured FUEH where they witnessed a simulation of an emergency situation and heard how the need for a fortified underground hospital developed.



► Senior members of the Brazilian Parliament, politicians, leaders, members of the Sao Paulo Jewish Federation, and delegates from the Brazilian Confederation gathered in the FUEH



As part of a plaque unveiling ceremony, long-standing friends and supporters, **Yossi and Anita Goren**, Luba Goren, Yossi's mother, and family members were all welcomed by Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Tony Hayek, director of the Department of Internal Medicine E, Prof. Mahmoud Suleiman, director of the Levine Family Electrophysiology Unit, and Inbar Shahaf.

The Goren Family Atrial Fibrillation Clinic located on the ground floor of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital offers superior follow-up care to patients with irregular and accelerated electrical heart activity.



► FIDF delegation with Dr. Avi Weissman



Members of the **Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York** visited Rambam last summer, led by its chairman, Shahram Yaghoubzadeh. They were welcomed by Prof Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, and Prof. Mahmoud Suleiman. The delegation sponsored the unveiling of the Post-Procedure Follow-Up Care Room. They toured the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital and the FUEH, strengthening ties and support for Rambam's critical work.



► Members of the Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York with Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, and others



Shortly after the tragic events of October 7, Los Angeles friends gathered at the beautiful home of **Asher and Jackie Shalom** to raise support for Rambam's urgent medical needs. Guests enjoyed emotionally stirring words of Torah from local rabbis, and Jewish singer-songwriter and musician Sam Glaser created an uplifting atmosphere of unity. Ariella Maghen was invited to speak about her time at Rambam as a Technion medical student, and Sari Arshadnia, director of AFORAM's Western Region, explained how the war was impacting Rambam, including the opening of the FUEH — *the largest of its kind in the world*.



► L-R: Sam Glaser, Asher and Jackie Shalom, and Sari Arshadnia



In January 2024, AFORAM hosted their first **Young Jewish Professionals event at HaSalon in NYC**. The gathering aimed to unite like-minded individuals in support of Rambam.

New board member, Joyce Chabbott shared her passion for Israel and the importance of unity. Nir Zelig former IDF officer also shared his experiences, and Ellen Pomerantz, director of AFORAM's Northeastern Region, was in attendance.



► L-R: Ellen Pomerantz, Joyce Chabbott, AFORAM board member, and her husband, Julian



In Fall 2024, over 100 attendees gathered at the **Moises Safra Center in NYC** for a fundraising event benefiting Rambam and Soroka Hospital in Beer Sheva, organized by Eli Gindi. Many were introduced to Rambam for the first time and were deeply moved by its vital work. Ellen Pomerantz, shared her experiences living in Israel, followed by an emotional video featuring Prof. Miki Halberthal in the FUEH. The event, held shortly after October 7, left many in tears and highlighted the community's strong support for Israel's hospitals.



► Joyce Chabbott at the fundraiser



In a remarkable show of support, at a private residence on Bishops Avenue in London, an exclusive black-tie charity dinner was hosted in November 2023. The successful fund raising event was hosted by Maya and Roy Zabłudowics and organized by Lee Rosenthal and Ethan Imzayim. The evening began with a video presentation by Prof. Miki Halberthal. More than 70 guests enjoyed live music and a gourmet meal prepared by chefs trained by celebrity chef, Nobu Matsuhisa. Nimrod, an IDF reserve's combat major, shared his gripping experience of a crucial battle on October 7, highlighting his bravery and role in preventing a terrorist attack. The event helped raise a significant donation for Rambam's war needs.



► Lee Rosenthal and members of London's Jewish community



In December, **Itzik Smuli**, former Israeli Minister of Welfare and Social Affairs and now director-general of the United Jewish Appeal–Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York's Israel office, visited Rambam. During the visit, he met with Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Rafi Beyar to discuss the hospital's urgent needs in light of the ongoing conflict. Dr. Esty Golan and Prof. Beyar led a tour of the FUEH, showcasing Rambam's readiness and resilience in times of war.



► L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Itzik Smuli, and Dr. Esty Golan



Members of the **Atlanta Israel Coalition** were warmly welcomed by Dr. Esty Golan and Sigal Amsalem, manager of Donor Relations and Communications. They toured the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital led by director of the Children's Hospital, Prof. Daniella Magen. Joined by Prof. Rafi Beyar and Dr. Esty Golan, the group then visited the FUEH. The visit concluded with a presentation of wall art brought by the group, which has been installed in the FUEH, symbolizing their support and solidarity with Rambam.



► L-R: Prof. Daniella Magen, Sigal Amsalem, Dr. Esty Golan, and Prof. Rafi Beyar with members of the Atlanta Israel Coalition



Maurizio and Ruth Picciotto and their family—friends from Brazil, visited Rambam in February. Through a generous donation, the Picciotto Family Gynecology Oncology unit and the Picciotto Jacques & Rita Maternity Department in the Sammy Ofer Tower, were made possible. The Maternity Department is named for Maurizio's father. On both visits the extended Picciotto family and a representative from the Israel office of the family's foundation joined them. The family was warmly received at Rambam by Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Hagit Avneri, and Kobi Bossel, head of Rambam's Construction Division. During the visit, Bossel explained the planned extensive renovation of the maternity rooms to the family, who were excited by the progress. Rambam is uplifted by the Picciotto's dedication and their desire to help us during these dark, challenging times. Their visit also included a comprehensive tour of the campus.



► The Picciotto family with Hagit Avneri (left), Dr. Esty Golan (second left), and Prof. Miki Halberthal (third right)



Following the outbreak of the war, four delegations of Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces (FIDF)-Midwestern Region, led by Tamir Oppenheim, visited Rambam. Among Rambam's other achievements, the hospital's training of IDF personnel, preparedness drills, and the FUEH, were of special interest to them. Welcomed by Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Avi Weissman, deputy director, and Dr. Yael Caspi, Director of the Veteran's Outpatient Psychiatric Services explained the hospital's support for the IDF and specialized psychiatric services for veterans.



► FIDF delegation with Dr. Avi Weissman



Earlier this year, a large delegation of **senior leaders of communities from Mexico** visited Rambam. They were received by Prof. Miki Halberthal, who gave an insightful presentation on the hospital's work and future plans. The group toured various hospital facilities and concluded their visit with a tour of the FUEH.



► Members of the delegation with Prof. Miki Halberthal (center) and Monica Davidovich, director of Rambam's Latin America desk (front row right)



A delegation of 15 of Brazil's top journalists from various publications recently visited Rambam. They were welcomed by deputy director Dr. Avi Weissman, who provided insights into the hospital's latest developments and the current situation amid the ongoing conflict. The journalists gained a comprehensive understanding of Rambam's critical role and the challenges faced during these times.



► Delegation of journalists from Brazil with Dr. Avi Weissman in the Underground Hospital



In a heartfelt ceremony at the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, **Sami Noufi** was honored for his donation. The event, attended by his extended family, celebrated the unveiling of a naming plaque for the Department of Pediatric Surgery. Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, and Inbar Shahaf, director of the Unit of Resource & Market Development and Donor Relations. Following the plaque unveiling, the guests toured the FUEH and the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital.



► Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, and Inbar Shahaf with Sami Noufi and his family



Against the backdrop of the challenges faced by the State of Israel since October 7 and the global surge in anti-Semitism, a group of 25 academic colleagues—faculty members from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), chose to stand in solidarity with Israel.

Their visit was facilitated by the Jerusalem-based organization Israel Destination, in collaboration with the hospital's deputy director, Dr. Avi Weissman, and UCLA faculty members.



► The UCLA delegation



In March, a 25-person delegation from **Yale** including esteemed physicians and senior Yale personnel, met with Dr. Nati Horowitz, director of Rambam's Lymphoma Service and Hematology Clinical Trials and head of Operational Hospitalization Logistics. The Yale visit included an enthusiastic exchange of ideas between the two institutions and discussion of medical innovations.



► Dr. Nati Horowitz and the delegation in the Command Center of the FUEH



In mid-March, three Rambam experts met with **Israel's National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA)** representatives to examine professional launch points for increasing innovation in healthcare and cybersecurity. Contributing to the discussion from Rambam were Prof. Lior Gepstein, director of both the Department of Cardiology and the Division of Research, Dr. Shahar Shelley, head of the Neuromuscular Clinic in the Department of Neurology, and Dr. Roee Atlas, CEO of Rambam MedTech Ltd., the hospital's technology transfer company.



► The delegation from Israel's National Cyber Security Authority with Dr. Roee Atlas (2nd left), Prof. Lior Gepstein (2nd right), and Dr. Shahar Shelly (far right)



In March and May, our longstanding, visionary, and committed friend, **Herta Amir**, visited the hospital campus. Her visit was punctuated with a tour of the Herta and Paul Amir Department of Internal Medicine A in the Herta and Paul Amir Internal Medicine Building. Her remarkable visits, given the current circumstances in Israel, was an example of her unwavering dedication to Rambam. Her time on campus included meeting some of the hospitals' incredible doctors and nurses and hearing about the critical work they are doing.



► L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Ken and Michal Salkin (Herta's daughter and son-in-law), Herta Amir, Dr. Esty Golan, Gerry Teitelbaum, Herta's good friend, and Prof. Miki Halberthal



Mark Wilsker and his extended family were honored for establishing the Dr. Genia and Joshua Wilsker Fellowship. This fellowship will support physicians from the Department of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation. During the appreciation ceremony, Mark shared the inspiring story of his mother's determination to pursue a career in medicine. Hosting the Wilsker family for the event were Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, and Prof. Tsila Zuckerman, director of the Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Institute.



► Mark Wilsker (center) and his family with Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Eldad Dann, director of the Blood Bank at the Institute of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation and Prof. Tsila Zuckerman



Recently, Rambam welcomed a diverse delegation of representatives from 15 different **Jewish Federations from North America**. After meeting with Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Inbar Shahaf and other Rambam staff, they visited the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower and the FUEH, where they witnessed a simulation of an emergency scenario using medical manikins. This crucial visit gave the delegation an inside-look into the hospital's wartime efforts. They were fascinated by a presentation highlighting the trauma training Rambam provided Israeli Defense Force at the beginning of the war.



► Delegation from the Jewish Federations of North America with Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, and Inbar Shahaf



Ultrasound imaging is a common diagnostic procedure and waiting weeks for an appointment and test results in a community health clinic can affect clinical outcomes. Thanks to **Shlomit Shreiber**, in memory of her husband, Dr. Reuven Shreiber z"l, Rambam was able to purchase another ultrasound machine for the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital. An event honoring the donation was attended by Shlomit, her four daughters and other family members.



► Shlomit Shreiber and her daughters with Prof. Miki Halberthal and Dr. Esty Golan



Renowned Mexican journalist and novelist, **Silvia Cherem**, visited Rambam in April to show her support, followed by a visit from her son, **José Shabot**, a prominent entrepreneur from Mexico, in May. Cherem was warmly received by Prof. Rafi Beyar, who shared insights into the hospital's impactful work and its pivotal role in the community. Several weeks later her son José was welcomed by Dr. Esty Golan, who guided him through the hospital's state-of-the-art facilities and highlighted its innovative medical services.



► Dr. Esty Golan with José Shabot



► Prof. Rafi Beyar with Silvia Cherem



A delegation of **fifteen Spanish-speaking U.S. journalists** visited Rambam earlier this year. They were warmly received by Prof. Rafi Beyar, who introduced them to the hospital's advanced facilities and discussed its vital contributions to healthcare and the community. Monica Davidovich accompanied the delegation.



► Delegation of Spanish speaking journalists from the US with Prof. Rafi Beyar and Monica Davidovich



Einat Feld z"l and Danny Nishlis z"l were both patients at Rambam's Hematology Institute. After their mutual treatment at Rambam, their families bonded and became friends. Sadly, both patients succumbed to their illness and in their memory, their families chose to make a donation to support the Institute's renovation. Both families attended the moving joint, plaque-unveiling ceremony honoring two incredible people no longer with us.



► The Nishlis family with Prof. Tsila Zuckerman (third left)



► The Nishlis family with Prof. Tsila Zuckerman (center)



In a significant gesture of support, David Zadok, Pastor of Grace & Truth Congregation, alongside Pastor Shmuel Awida, of the Beit Eliyahu Messianic Congregation visited Rambam. They generously donated an EMDR device and a Mobile X-Ray machine and the necessary training required.

The met with Rambam staff: Dr. Esty Golan, Inbar Shahaf, Debbie Hemstreet, and Shirley Erulkar, and engaged in meaningful discussions about the hospital and the community. In recognition of their generosity, they were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a small gift. This collaboration marks a new chapter of partnership and mutual support.



► L-R: Dr. Esty Golan, Pastor David Zadok, Pastor Shmuel Awida, Inbar Shahaf, and Debbie Hemstreet



In May, Prof. Miki Halberthal together with Prof. Lior Gepstein, director of both the Department of Cardiology and the Division of Research, Dr. Shlomit Yehudai-Reshef, director of the Clinical Research Institute, and Dr. Amir Minerbi, deputy director of the Pain Institute, welcomed **Gila Gamliel**, Israel's Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, and Prof. Avi Domb, Chief Scientist and Director General of the Ministry. The visit addressed concerns over the impact of boycotts in the US and Europe on research freedom. Gamliel announced the creation of a dedicated forum to counteract these boycotts and directed ministry officials to collaborate with Rambam and other medical centers to develop a funding model for local research.



► L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Avi Domb, Minister Gila Gamliel, and Prof. Lior Gepstein



The **Jewish Community of Stamford**, Connecticut, united for a heartwarming inaugural 5km run-walk marathon to support Rambam. Organized by Aryeh and Alyssa Frager, the event featured a short run for young children, a 1km activity for those over the age of five, and a run-walk for all. Children created arts and crafts projects to send to patients at Rambam—the entire community participated. The aim is to make this an annual event to support soldiers being treated for PTSD at Rambam, commitment to making a difference.



► Ellen Pomerantz addressing the participants

► The young participants of the community run-walk



Dr. **Avi Katz** and his wife, **Dr. Raluca Dinu** were warmly welcomed to Rambam by Prof. Zeev Weiner, director of the Division of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Dr. Esty Golan, and Kobi Bossel, director of Engineering and Construction. Their visit began with a tour of the labor and delivery rooms, where they observed the renovations being carried out. They then proceeded to explore the FUEH, experiencing firsthand Rambam's commitment to advancing healthcare infrastructure and patient care. As part of their commitment to Rambam, Dr. Katz and Dr. Dinu are making the renovations for the Doron Feingold Delivery Room Unit, possible.



► Prof. Zeev Weiner, Dr. Esty Golan, Dr. Avi Katz, and Dr. Raluca Dinu during their visits



A delegation of about **20 Spanish-speaking influencers** from North and South America visited Rambam in May. They were warmly received by Prof. Miki Halberthal, who provided an overview of the hospital's cutting-edge medical services and its role in the region. The visit aimed to raise awareness and foster support for Rambam's initiatives through the influential voices of the visitors.



► Delegation of influencers from North and South America visit the FUEH



During his visit to Rambam, Haifa businessman and entrepreneur, **Edgar Khayat** was warmly welcomed by Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, and Hagit Avneri, manager of the Foundation Section in the Department of International Relations and Resource Development. They began by visiting the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, followed by a tour of the Green-Wagner Department of Emergency Medicine where they met with Dr. Hany Bahouth, director of the Emergency Medicine and Trauma System Section. The visit culminated with a tour of the FUEH, highlighting Rambam's commitment to emergency medical care.



► L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Hagit Avneri, and Edgar Khayat



SPECIAL
EVENTS

A NEW HOME FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



▲ Lennart Perlhagen with Richard Perlhagen and the Palti family

Helene Keller's quote, "True friends are never apart, maybe in distance but never in heart," describes Professor Emeritus Yoram Palti and Swedish-born, London-based investor Lennart Perlhagen's profound and unique friendship. Even though they live on different continents, they are connected in every way, including their hearts and souls.

More than two decades ago, Palti explored an idea for an entirely new cancer treatment from his laboratory in the basement of his Haifa apartment.

When the two met in 2000, Perlhagen recognized the genius of the concept and understood the risk was high. He knew that developing a new cancer treatment would be an immense challenge.

The two founded Novocure, whose revolutionary treatment for Glioblastoma – a form of brain cancer, received FDA approval in 2011, and the company became a global concern.

In June 2023, Perlhagen and his son, Richard,

participated in the cornerstone laying ceremony for The Palti and Perlhagen Center for Research & Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine in the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital. Perlhagen, wished to honor Palti's contributions, dedication, and commitment to advancing healthcare. The Center will be an environment for pioneering physician-scientists to conduct basic, translational, and clinical research, ultimately answering some of the most pressing challenges in cardiovascular medicine.

"Working with Yoram is exciting—his ideas are so out of the box," Perlhagen says. "He never gives up."

At the ceremony, Prof. Miki Halberthal spoke of Palti and Perlhagen's unique friendship. Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Lior Gepstein, hospital executives, and senior physicians participated. During the ceremony a moving video was shown focusing on Lennart and Prof. Palti's friendship and achievements and special scroll was signed and placed in the floor of the center.



◀ L-R Dr. Esty Golan,
Prof. Miki Halberthal,
Prof. Yoram Palti,
Lennart Perlhagen,
Prof. Rafi Beyar

A WINDOW INTO THE HEART



▲ L-R Prof. Rafi Beyar, Teri Volpert, Barry Volpert, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Dr. Esty Golan

Echocardiography is the single most useful imaging test for accurately diagnosing the function of the heart. This technology enables physicians to determine the size of the heart, the strength of heart muscle contraction and the structure and function of the heart valves. Echocardiography is central to modern cardiovascular care, and directly responsible for saving thousands of lives.

In a moving ceremony in September 2023, Rambam friends Teri and Barry Volpert, from New York, participated in the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center on the fourth floor of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital. Nine spacious examination rooms will provide patients access to cutting-edge echocardiograph image testing.

A scroll, signed by the Volperts, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, and Dr. Esty Golan, was cemented in a decorative case in a corner of the Imaging Center. The couple received a second scroll as a keepsake. Teri and Barry expressed their delight and thanks. Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Dr. Michal Mekel, and Prof. Yael Shachor-Meyouhas, both deputy directors, Mrs. Gila Hyams, director of Nursing,

members of Rambam's building engineering team, members of the hospital's International Relations Department, participated in the event.

Following the ceremony, Teri and Barry toured some hospital departments and the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital.

Thanks to friends like you, Teri and Barry, Rambam's plan for the future is being realized. We eagerly await your return for the official opening of the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center, which is now nearing completion.



▲ L-R Dr. Esty Golan, Barry Volpert, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Teri Volpert, Prof. Rafi Beyar

FRIENDS MAKE THINGS POSSIBLE



▲ The Nidam Family with Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Miki Halberthal and Inbar Shahaf



▲ Emeli and Eli Nidam

In April, recognizing Emeli and Eli Nidam's generosity and commitment to advancing human health, the Nidams were honored at the appreciation and dedication ceremony of The Emeli and Eli Nidam Advanced Radiotherapy Center in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. Here, physicians use state-of-the-art technology and equipment to create an accurate, individualized treatment plan for our oncology patients, leading to better outcomes. The Center includes examination rooms, the most advanced CT simulator, and offices for physicians.

At the commencement of the appreciation ceremony, Prof. Halberthal thanked the Nidam family for their magnanimous support. Dr. Tomer Charas, deputy director of the Oncology Division, spoke of advances in cancer therapy and how radiotherapy and new technologies are improving patient care and reducing the side effects of cancer treatments.

A touching video telling Eli's impressive life story was screened and showcased the development of his business from its humble beginnings. Eli was deeply moved—he spoke of the importance of philanthropy and explained his reasons for supporting Rambam. The family then joined Emeli and Eli on the stage and Prof. Halberthal and Dr. Golan presented tokens of appreciation, including a donor recognition certificate.

Following the appreciation ceremony, the family participated in the plaque unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony, and Eli's father affixed a mezzuzah to the doorpost of the Center. The event concluded with the Nidams and their guests touring the Center.

Among their generous contributions, this year Emeli and Eli's kindness is enabling two outstanding Rambam physicians to travel to leading international medical centers where they will participate in fellowships and pursue advanced training. Upon their return, these physicians will bring cutting-edge capabilities back to Rambam.

Emeli and Eli Nidam are treasured members of the Rambam family, and we thank them wholeheartedly for their visionary friendship. •



▲ Cutting the ribbon



▲ The extended Nidam family

SUPPORT FROM A FAR - BENEFITING ONCOLOGY PATIENTS



▲ Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz by their plaque at the entrance to the ER



▲ L-R Prof. Miki Halberthal Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, Danny Rosenkranz, Cathy Rosenkranz, Dr. Esty Golan

Long-time Rambam friends, Cathy and Danny Rosenkranz have demonstrated their love for Rambam in numerous ways, and their actions reflect their deep commitment. In May 2024, they flew in from London to participate in the official dedication ceremony of the Danny & Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center.

A rare service offered by cancer centers, Rambam's Danny & Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER is one of only two in Israel. A dedicated oncology ER provides cancer patients with suppressed immune systems with holistic and comprehensive approaches to their conditions based on the highest international standards. It also reduces general ER referrals where the risk of infection is high.

Prof. Alona Zer, director of Medical Oncology, emceed the ceremony, which took place in the lobby of the Cheryl Spencer Auditorium.

Danny shared that the opening of the Oncology/Hematology ER was part of his and Cathy's ongoing support of Rambam and the State of Israel, which he emphasized was extremely important at this time. He went on to thank the hospital's dedicated teams for their commitment.

"With the support from Danny and Cathy, the hospital was able to complete the construction of the final piece of the puzzle of the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, allowing us to provide our oncology patients all services under one roof," said

Prof. Halberthal at the ceremony. Following Prof. Halberthal's warm welcome, Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon added, "In addition to addressing the side effects of chemotherapy, which are becoming increasingly complex with the newer biological and immunotherapeutic treatments, the Oncology/Hematology ER also provides supportive and urgent care to our patients in need, and we receive positive feedback daily."

Deputy director, Dr. Michal Mekel, deputy director & COO Nissim Haim; Dr. Esty Golan; Prof. Tsila Zuckerman director of the Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Institute, Fishman management, the Engineering department, Samantha Rose from British Friends of Rambam, and others attended.

▼ L-R Prof Alona Zer, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Danny Rosenkranz, Cathy Rosenkranz, Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, Dr. Esty Golan





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