Rambam *on call*

ISSUE NO.34 | OCTOBER 2026

PRINTING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

REDEFINING PATIENT CARE
Transforming Breakthroughs into Better Outcomes

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

INNOVATION IN ACTION
From Bench to Bedside

LANDMARK PROJECTS
Ushering in a New Era

A WORLD FIRST
3D-Bioprinted Cornea Restores Sight



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

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RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year has been one of the most significant of my professional life. It marked my first year serving as Director General of Rambam Health Care Campus, a role I am deeply honored to hold. At the same time, our nation has continued to face extraordinary challenges as a result of the ongoing war and its direct impact on Rambam.

Throughout this period, our foremost responsibility was clear: to ensure that every patient continues to receive the highest standard of care, even under emergency conditions. We adapted quickly, relocating patients to fortified areas, caring for civilians alongside wounded soldiers, while maintaining more than 90% of our routine medical services. Our underground facility was also home for patients from other hospitals in the region that did not have sufficient fortified areas.

Despite these circumstances, we remained committed to advancing medicine through research, innovation, development, and education. One of our most exciting areas of progress has been expanding the artificial intelligence revolution at the hospital. AI is already helping our medical teams to improve diagnostic accuracy and treatment planning. While these technologies are transforming healthcare, we have a responsibility to navigate this new frontier thoughtfully and safely. In this issue, which focuses on innovation, you will discover several examples of how Rambam is leading the responsible integration of AI into patient care. We also shine a light on several of our leading researchers and focus on new strategic collaborative projects with global tech leaders such as PTC and EOS and others.

Our commitment to our patients has also been reflected in the continued development of our campus. Earlier this year, we proudly celebrated the opening of the Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR) within the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. The Tower represents far more than a new building. It establishes Rambam's position as the center of Israel's biotechnology ecosystem by bringing together clinical expertise, industry, research, and HealthTech companies. Uniting clinicians, researchers, engineers, and entrepreneurs under one roof, will accelerate the transformation of groundbreaking ideas into tomorrow's medical breakthroughs.

Just a few months ago, we celebrated the completion of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital with the opening of its final two floors. This state-of-the-art facility not only provides world-class cardiology and cardiac surgery care, but also serves as a center for groundbreaking research, innovation on a global scale. We also completed the renovation of the Internal Medicine C department, caring for our elderly patients in an advanced and calming facility.

The soon-to-be open Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, the region's first center of its kind, will treat severely injured and physically disabled children, reinforcing our role as the leading referral center in Northern Israel. This will complement our ability to provide children with comprehensive care, from acute or surgical treatment to full recovery and rehabilitation.

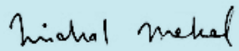
Looking to the future, we are taking a bold step forward with the planning of a dedicated Neuroscience Institute. The Institute will bring together all disciplines related to the brain, including neurology, neurosurgery, pain medicine, neuroscience research, and mental health, in one integrated environment.

Over the years, our staff coped with every challenge it faced with professionalism, courage, and unwavering commitment. I am immensely proud of our staff, who has continued to provide exceptional care under extraordinary circumstances while balancing the personal challenges faced by their own families and communities.

Many members of the Rambam family continue to serve in the IDF reserves. Tragically, we mourn the loss of Master Sergeant (Res.) Basil Sweid, an Operations Coordinator in our Administration Management Department, who was killed in June 2026 in southern Lebanon. A highly respected colleague and a proud member of the Druze community, Basil embodied the values that define Rambam - dedication, service, resilience, and coexistence. May his memory be a blessing.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Rambam's friends and supporters around the world. Your partnership has never been more meaningful. Whether through philanthropy, advocacy, collaboration, or messages of encouragement, your unwavering support has strengthened our ability to care for patients and advance medical research. The bond between Rambam and our global community is a source of great strength, and together we are ensuring that medicine continues to thrive.

Warm regards,



Dr. Michal Mekel

FROM **INNOVATION** TO **TRANSFORMATION**

DR. YONA VAISBUCH

Dr. Yona Vaisbuch, Rambam Deputy Director, ear and skull base surgeon, and Vice Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery is also the Founder and Director of Biodesign Israel, a national academy for Health-Tech innovation leaders, based on the Stanford Biodesign model.

Dr. Vaisbuch explains that for many years, the health system in Israel has focused on the question of how to generate new ideas: "We have established innovation centers, developed technologies, connected doctors, researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs, and industrialists, and succeeded in building an exceptional ecosystem of healthcare innovation," states Dr. Vaisbuch.

This was the guiding impetus for Biodesign Israel, which sought to build an infrastructure that would allow medical innovation to grow out of the real needs of the health system. But after almost a decade of activity, Dr. Vaisbuch states that another insight has become clear: "The main challenge of the health system today is not to create more innovation. The challenge is to make innovation succeed."

Dr. Vaisbuch explains: "It is not enough to develop a good solution, you need to understand how people embrace change, how organizations make decisions, what are the cultural, managerial, and operational barriers to change."

If we know how to gather this knowledge systematically, says Dr. Vaisbuch, we can build organizational capabilities that will enable the next solution to be implemented better than the previous one.

Emerging technologies, particularly AI, create an opportunity not only to improve individual implementation processes, but to transform the way healthcare organizations learn from them. Dr. Vaisbuch states: "By systematically capturing knowledge, identifying patterns and applying these insights across hundreds of projects and processes, hospitals can build a continuously learning system, facilitating innovation and impact at an unprecedented scale."



Dr. Vaisbuch is excited about his new role as Deputy Director of Clinical Operations and Digital Transformation at Rambam, because it will allow him to influence a major Israeli organization to more effectively adopt new and innovative approaches to healthcare.

Dr. Vaisbuch states: "In my view, the success of innovation is not measured by the number of patents, companies established, or solutions that have been developed. It is measured by a much simpler set of questions: Have we succeeded in improving the lives of patients? Have we made our medical teams more effective? Have we built a better health system than the one we received?"

RAMBAM INNOVATION

INNOVATION AS A **WAY OF LIFE**

PROF. LIOR GEPSTEIN

Prof. Lior Gepstein is a world-renowned cardiologist, Director of the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Research Division at Rambam Health Care Campus. He is a full professor at the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, where he also heads the Sohnis Family Research Laboratory for Cardiac Electrophysiology and Regenerative Medicine.

Research has been at the heart of Prof. Gepstein's career for more than 35 years. Following his medical internship, he pursued a PhD in cardiac physiology. During his doctoral work, he participated in the development of technologies for electrical mapping, intracardiac navigation, and ablation that went on to become a global standard in the treatment of cardiac rhythm disorders.

Prof. Gepstein believes that research conducted within a hospital environment is fundamentally different from research performed solely in academia. While academic research may sometimes focus primarily on expanding scientific knowledge, hospital-based research is driven by specific clinical challenges that directly affect patients' lives. It seeks to understand the mechanisms of disease and, most importantly, to develop solutions that can improve diagnosis and treatment. Ultimately, discoveries made through this research can be translated into clinical practice, potentially transforming the care provided to patients at Rambam and hospitals around the world.



Prof. Gepstein's vision is to make Rambam a home for healthcare professionals who aspire to conduct research at the highest level. The division supports basic, translational, and clinical research, alongside digital health, artificial intelligence, and medical innovation. Partnerships with academia, industry, and leading international institutions–including the Technion and Stanford University–are central to that strategy.

Looking a decade ahead, medicine is expected to change dramatically. Advanced cell and gene therapies, tissue engineering, personalized medicine, AI-driven drug development, organoids and organ-on-chip technologies, and artificial intelligence supporting diagnosis and clinical decisions are likely to reshape how diseases are understood, treated, and ultimately prevented.

Hospitals themselves will also evolve. Acute care and complex surgical procedures will remain central to hospitals, while much of routine treatment, will increasingly take place in patients' homes, supported by remote medicine and advanced digital technologies. This transformation will enable healthcare to become more precise, accessible, personalized, and centered around the needs of each individual patient.

A NEW ERA OF PERSONALIZED IMPLANTS

WHEN ONE SIZE NO LONGER FITS ALL

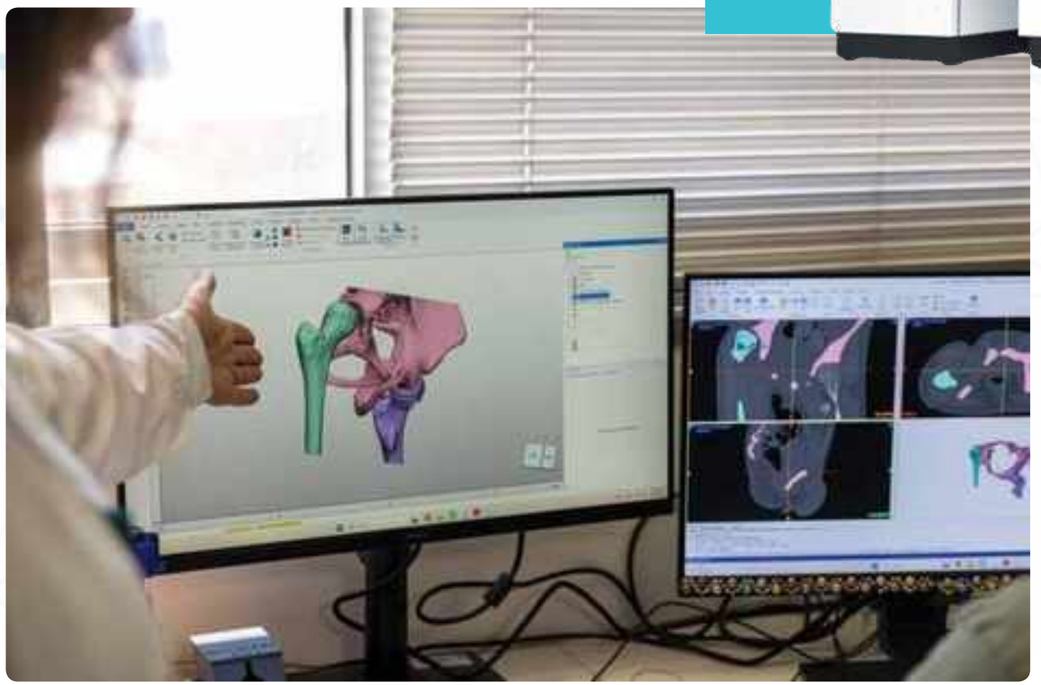
Rambam is establishing a world-class center that will provide patients in Northern Israel and beyond with next-generation personalized implants.

Imagine a patient with a complex bone defect—a child whose anatomy is still developing, or someone recovering from cancer surgery, a traumatic injury, or a revision surgery.

For these patients, a standard off-the-shelf bone implant may simply not be enough. Today, many bone implants are designed and manufactured in standard shapes and sizes. Surgeons must often work within the limitations of what is available. But what if, instead, an implant could be designed for each patient?







Every patient deserves the best possible care—and, when standard solutions are not enough, a patient-specific solution may offer a more appropriate path to treatment.

Rambam is building that future.

In partnership with EOS GmbH in Germany and Parametric Technology (PTC) in the United States, Rambam is establishing the Digital Implant Engineering Center on its hospital campus. This pioneering facility will integrate advanced digital engineering and industrial-grade 3D metal printing into the hospital environment.

The vision is clear: to create a world-class, hospital-based capability to design, develop, and ultimately manufacture patient-specific implants and related medical devices.

"Personalized medicine is already the foundation of modern healthcare across many clinical disciplines. Now, Rambam is setting a new benchmark in patient-specific medical devices and implants through its dedicated in-house Digital Implant Engineering Center," says Dr. Michal Mekel. "This initiative further strengthens Rambam's leadership and underscores our commitment to delivering the highest standards of clinical care through innovation and operational excellence."

The Center is built on a collaboration that brings together three complementary strengths. Rambam contributes advanced medical expertise and extensive experience treating a large, diverse patient population. EOS brings expertise in additive manufacturing while PTC provides the digital engineering technologies required to translate clinical needs into precise, manufacturable designs.

At the Center, physicians and engineers will work together to develop solutions beginning with the clinical need. A complex clinical challenge will be translated into a digital design, which will then be evaluated and refined before the implant is manufactured, tested, and prepared for clinical use—all through an integrated, hospital-based process. For patients, this could mean a more precise anatomical fit, improved surgical planning, and new options for complex cases in which standard implants are unsuitable. The integrated process could also strengthen collaboration between surgeons and engineers and reduce reliance on external manufacturers.

The impact can extend beyond individual patients. By developing this capability locally, Rambam can make advanced personalized treatment more accessible to patients throughout the region. The knowledge, workflows, engineering expertise, and quality processes established at Rambam will also support wider adoption across Israel and contribute to progress in the field worldwide.

"This is not simply about bringing new technology into Rambam," says Dr. Arbel Artzy-Schnirman, PhD, Director of Rambam's Applied Medical Technology Research Center. "We are building a new capability—one that allows us to turn complex clinical needs into patient-specific solutions."

Establishing this Center requires investment not only in advanced equipment, but also in specialized personnel, engineering expertise, research, testing, quality systems, clinical studies, and infrastructure.

For Rambam, this is an investment in the future of healthcare—one in which clinical needs drive engineering innovation and the hospital has the capabilities to develop solutions tailored to each patient.

RAMBAM INNOVATION

TRANSFORMING BREAKTHROUGHS INTO BETTER PATIENT CARE

RAMBAM CONTINUES TO ADVANCE PATIENT CARE THROUGH MEDICAL INNOVATIONS THAT ACHIEVE WORLD-FIRST, ISRAEL-FIRST, NORTHERN ISRAEL, AND RAMBAM-FIRST MILESTONES.

FIRST IN THE WORLD

VIOLA™ Advances Safer Heart Surgery



▸ The Viola device

Coronary artery bypass surgery carries serious risks, including stroke. Traditionally mechanical clamps are used to temporarily block a segment of the aorta while attaching vascular grafts. In patients with atherosclerosis, this pressure can fracture calcified plaque, which could travel to the brain, block blood flow, and cause a stroke. A new device, VIOLA is inserted through a small opening in the aortic wall and expands inside the vessel to enable graft attachment while maintaining blood flow. Avoiding pressure on the vessel wall reduces the risk of calcified deposits fracturing. Rambam is the first medical center in the world to implement this technique in the Department of Cardiac Surgery, directed by Prof. Gil Bolotin.



▸ Prof. Gil Bolotin

FIRSTS AT RAMBAM AND IN ISRAEL

A Medical Miracle and Therapeutic Breakthrough



▸ The ultrasound image output

Recently, Rambam became the first medical center in Israel to perform an innovative treatment using novel focused sound wave technology developed by Israeli medical device company Insightec, as part of an international clinical study evaluating its safety and potential as a treatment for opioid use disorder.

During the procedure, Dr. Lior Lev-Tov, Director of the Functional Neurosurgery Unit and principal investigator of the study, together with a multidisciplinary team, modulated the electrical activity of a patient's brain region associated with the reward system.

"This technology enables us to intervene directly and precisely in the brain's electrical activity and influence specific control centers according to the condition being treated," explains Lev-Tov.

Following the 20-minute treatment, the patient reported a complete absence of opioid cravings. One week later, both cigarette and alcohol consumption had declined significantly.

Dr. Amir Minerbi, Director of the Rambam Institute for Pain Medicine, explains that even after pain subsides, patients may continue using opioids simply to feel calm and function normally. Traditional approaches, including gradual withdrawal and substitute medications, often achieve limited success.

Dr. Lev-Tov and his research colleagues believe this technology



▸ Dr. Lior Lev-Tov

may eventually help treat OCD, PTSD, eating disorders, severe depression, neurodegenerative diseases, and other disorders linked to dysfunctional brain circuits.

A New Star in Diagnostic Imaging



▸ StarGuide

Rambam installed one of only a handful of StarGuide GX systems in the world in its Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET/CT. "This advanced scanner produces highly sensitive 3D images, shortens examination times, reduces radiation exposure, and supports theranostic treatments that combine diagnosis and targeted radioactive therapy," explains Prof. Zohar Keidar, Director of the Department. "By improving early disease detection and treatment monitoring, the system enhances patient care and enables Rambam to participate in clinical trials of promising next-generation therapies."



▸ Prof. Zohar Keidar with the StarGuide device

Four Precision Therapies for Prostate Cancer



▸ Dr. Tomer Charas

Dr. Tomer Charas, Head of the Oncology Department, Deputy Director of the Oncology Institute, and Head of Genitourinary Oncology Services and Dr. Avivit Peer, Director of the Urinary Tract and Genital Tumors Clinic and Head of the Clinical Research Unit are integrating four advanced, highly targeted prostate cancer therapies tailored to the patient's genetic and biological profile, to improve outcomes while minimizing radiation exposure and side effects.



▸ Dr. Avivit Peer

Rambam is a leader in advanced prostate cancer treatment, offering four innovative approaches for increasingly precise and personalized care: (1) high-dose-rate (HDR) brachytherapy: highly targeted radiation delivered with exceptional precision in fewer sessions; (2) a customized hydrogel spacer separating the prostate from the rectum to reduce radiation exposure and side effects–Rambam is the first and only hospital in Israel to combine this technology with HDR brachytherapy; (3) alpha-particle radiation therapy: Rambam is the first medical center in the world to offer this next-generation treatment targeting prostate cancer cells while minimizing damage to surrounding tissue; and (4) radioligand therapy: radioactive molecules seek out prostate cancer cells and deliver radiation directly to the tumor.

As these technologies evolve, Rambam continues to advance treatments that improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

FIRST IN THE NORTH

New Hope for Knee Damage Sufferers

Patients with localized knee cartilage and bone injuries that did not require knee replacement were typically treated using tissue taken from another part of their own knee. Rambam is the first medical center in Northern Israel to implement a new coral-based biological implant that promotes bone and cartilage regeneration that promises better outcomes, fewer complications, and faster rehabilitation.

Made from a laboratory-processed coral scaffold, the implant provides a porous framework that encourages the patient's own bone and cartilage cells to grow and regenerate. As new tissue forms, the scaffold is gradually absorbed by the body, leaving behind healthy, naturally regenerated bone and cartilage.

A series of these surgeries were recently performed by senior physicians from Rambam's Knee and Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine Units, in the Orthopedic Surgery Section, led by Dr. Bezalel Peskin, together with Dr. Mazen Falah, Dr. Barak Segal, Dr. Shadi Sadia, Dr. Shahem Elias, and Dr. Pavel Kotlyarsky.

Developed by Israeli startup CardiHeal, marketed by Smith & Nephew, the treatment has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration underscoring its clinical potential.

RAMBAM AI FACTORY

A LIVING MAP OF THE PATIENT

RAMBAM'S AI FACTORY



In modern medicine, information is everywhere. It fills screens, accumulates in records, and grows with every test, note, and observation. Clinicians often stand at the center of massive amounts of data, and it's now within the realm of possibility to create an advanced digital infrastructure designed to transform large-scale data into intelligence: insights, forecasts, decision-support products, and AI-based outputs that can operate at industrial scale. At Rambam, where complexity is routine and time is often measured in heartbeats, to see the patient as a dynamic whole has never been more urgent, and artificial intelligence can support us in this need. At the forefront of this effort is the AI Factory initiative, which will research how patient information can be unified, interpreted, and applied in clinical practice.

This is the space in which Hagar Trau, Head of Rambam's Digital and Information Technologies Division, leads the AI Factory project, and where the potential for a living digital infrastructure takes shape, not as a replacement for clinical judgment but as an extension of it, a tool designed to illuminate what cannot always be directly seen. She is responsible for shaping the hospital's digital, data, and technology strategies, connecting infrastructure, information, AI, clinical practice, and research into a common direction for Rambam's future.



▸ Hagar Trau

An AI Factory can be understood in industrial terms but with one fundamental difference. A traditional factory is designed to manufacture what it was originally built to produce: its machinery, production lines, and outputs are largely defined from the outset. By contrast, an AI Factory is built to evolve. Its raw material is data - clinical, operational, administrative, financial, physiological, imaging-based, and unstructured - and much of the future value hidden within that data is not yet known.

As more information is connected, standardized, interpreted, and reused, the Factory becomes more capable. Models can improve, new questions can be asked, new clinical and operational products can be developed, and insights generated in one field can create value in another. In that sense, the AI Factory is not a static production line but a learning infrastructure that can continuously become richer, more sophisticated, and more valuable over time.

The initiative is therefore not a single AI project or a standalone research laboratory. It is intended to become a long-term institutional capability, through which Rambam can repeatedly transform data into knowledge, tools, and measurable value.

An AI Factory could function as a model that would replace isolated analytics with continuous learning and support clinicians at the bedside, managers across departments, and patients navigating complex care. It would operate every day, under real clinical conditions, and, although it is hospital infrastructure, it can also serve external activity. Today, startups and pharma companies come to Rambam, and they want data that's extremely hard to extract. This infrastructure would upgrade Rambam clinically, operationally, and in research. It could also make Rambam an increasingly attractive partner for industry, academia, and healthcare organizations seeking to develop and validate new data-driven solutions in a real clinical environment.

The Factory will run on advanced computing infrastructure, combining high-performance hardware at



Rambam with resources from a leading global cloud provider. This secure hybrid architecture will provide the scale and flexibility required for AI development and data processing, while retaining control over critical hospital data and workloads.

At its center will be an internationally leading data platform that brings together hospital data and makes it usable for research, clinical care, operations, medical administration, financial management, and decision-making. Its success will be measured by whether its value is felt in the everyday work and experience of Rambam's patients, caregivers, managers, and employees.

Alongside advanced medical knowledge and sophisticated equipment, hospitals now require an industrial-grade capability to collect, store, process and research clinical and operational data at scale. This capability enables the hospital to understand complex patterns, forecast operational and clinical scenarios, support medical decisions and tailor care to each patient.

The platform will also serve as Rambam's AI agent infrastructure: software systems that can interpret information, support decisions, and perform defined tasks alongside people, under clear permissions and human oversight. This human-machine model is intended to extend professional capability, not replace it, and to make data and AI part of everyday clinical, research, and operational work.

In high-acuity environments, this shift carries particular weight. Patients in circulatory shock do not follow predictable paths. Their conditions evolve, sometimes rapidly, often unpredictably. Clinicians must make decisions based on partial evidence, guided by experience, intuition, and the fragments of clarity available to them.

At the core of the platform could be the convergence of different ways of knowing. Mechanistic physiology, clinical data analysis, causal inference, and population-based comparisons could work together, each contributing a layer of interpretation. Their purpose wouldn't be to dictate answers but to expand the field of possibilities, offering scenarios, probabilities, and alternative paths that might otherwise remain unseen.

For the medical professionals working on the AI Factory project, this would mean a new kind of data visibility.

Prof. Shahar Shelly, Director of the Department of Neurology, is one of the leading innovators in applying artificial intelligence to clinical medicine. His flagship platform, SHAKED, is among the first large-language-model-based clinical support systems to be prospectively evaluated in a live hospital environment, including Rambam's emergency department. Rather than functioning as a standalone chatbot, SHAKED integrates patient histories, laboratory results, imaging data, and real-time clinical information to assist physicians with differential diagnosis, triage, risk assessment, and treatment planning. The system can identify unusual clinical presentations, flag patients at risk of rapid deterioration, prioritize diagnostic testing, and surface clinically relevant information that might otherwise be overlooked during busy emergency care workflows. Beyond SHAKED, Shelly's laboratory develops retrieval-augmented AI systems, safety evaluation frameworks for medical AI, and machine-learning models that predict hospitalization, detect treatment-related risks, and support outcome prediction in

neurological disorders. His work is notable for focusing not only on AI performance, but also on rigorous real-world validation, safety monitoring, and the responsible integration of AI into clinical decision-making.

Dr. Oren Caspi is Director of the Heart Failure Unit and Head of The Center for Cardiovascular Research and Innovation at Rambam. A physician-scientist and leader in cardiovascular precision medicine, digital health, and AI-driven clinical research, Caspi's work focuses on improving outcomes for patients with complex cardiac disease through advanced analytics and personalized care. In the proposed initiative, a clinical application could for example target heart failure, cardiogenic shock, and adult and pediatric cardiac intensive care populations – patient groups that generate vast amounts of real-time data and require rapid, high-stakes clinical decisions.

This year, Dr. Caspi and his team launched the prospective randomized clinical trial of Rambam's Targeted Recommendation System (TRS). This marks a major milestone: a causal clinical decision support system is now being tested prospectively, as part of routine cardiovascular and internal medicine workflows. The trial will examine several hundred patients for an array of issues, including rehospitalization, clinical condition, renal recovery and mortality. TRS is embedded into Rambam's electronic health records, and the data acquired will be used to refine the system, and make it more effective. The TRS program holds enormous promise for treating patients suffering from devastating life-threatening conditions.



▸ Prof. Shahar Shelly

Prof. Danny Eytan, Director of the Wagner-Green Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Co-Founder of the Rambam-Technion Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, also plays a central role in advancing Rambam's vision of AI-driven and precision medicine. Trained as both a physician and neuroscientist, Eytan's research seeks to transform the vast streams of physiological data generated in intensive care units into real-time clinical insights, enabling earlier detection of deterioration, more accurate prediction of disease trajectories, and increasingly personalized treatment strategies. Eytan has been a leading advocate



▸ Prof. Danny Eytan



▸ Dr. Oren Caspi





for integrating AI into bedside medicine in ways that are practical, actionable, and meaningful for clinicians. His work spans predictive modeling, continuous physiologic monitoring, and decision-support systems based on the physiology of the critically ill child, combining medical knowledge with the power of artificial intelligence technologies designed to help care teams anticipate complications before they become clinically apparent. Through the Rambam-Technion AI initiative, he has helped foster collaborations and is widely recognized for bridging medicine, neuroscience, and computational science, contributing to the emerging field of digital critical care, emphasizing developing innovative algorithms and their clinical usability and impact on patient outcomes.

By combining this clinical expertise with the advanced technologies described above, Rambam could effectively accelerate scientific discoveries into real-world healthcare solutions.

The AI Factory could allow scrutinizing "what-if" scenarios, to consider how a patient might respond to a treatment change, and to see not only the likely trajectory but also the uncertainty that surrounds it. In doing so, it would essentially preserve human judgment, supported by a more deeply integrated understanding.

Equally important is what happens afterward. Medical theory comes from experience but often in ways that are informal and difficult to scale. Here, learning can become structured. Predictions would be compared with outcomes, differences examined, and the system would evolve. Each patient, in turn, would contribute to a growing body of insight.

The first steps are necessarily focused. By concentrating on patients in high-acuity settings, the platform could begin where the need is most immediate and the data most revealing. From there, it could move toward a broader future, one in which such models may extend across disciplines and patient populations.

At its heart, real-time patient-centered digital infrastructure reflects a familiar Rambam principle: medicine is not only about treating conditions, but about understanding people in their full complexity. Technology, in this context, does not replace that understanding. It sharpens it.

The subtle promise is not certainty but clarity. Better questions can provide more precise answers and the potential to see the patient as a living moment in time and a life in motion.

RAMBAM FACILITIES

A CAMPUS IN TRANSFORMATION

MULTIPLE LANDMARK PROJECTS ARE TRANSFORMING THE HOSPITAL CAMPUS AND REDEFINING PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION.

A STATE-OF-THE-ART INSTITUTE FOR BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

The Leir Charitable Foundation has partnered in many transformative initiatives across the campus, including The Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR) directed by Dr. Shlomit Yehudai-Reshef, PhD.

In June 2026, the Institute relocated to the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. The Institute houses 26 state-of-the-art laboratories and collaborative workspaces that provide scientists with the technology, infrastructure, and resources needed to address some of medicine's most pressing challenges.

Here, scientists pursue breakthroughs in gastroenterology, cardiology, neurology, and hemato-immunology while advancing emerging fields such as microbiome science, gene therapy, and regenerative medicine. CRIR supports the full continuum of biomedical research, from basic discovery to translational and clinical studies.

By bringing together exceptional talent, innovative technologies, and multidisciplinary collaboration under one roof, CRIR will accelerate the development of new diagnostics, therapies, and treatments that improve patient care in Israel and beyond.



The Heart of Cardiovascular Discovery

Rambam clinician-scientists have helped shape modern cardiology through groundbreaking advances in stent technology, electrophysiological mapping and catheter ablation, robotic interventional cardiology, cardiovascular regenerative medicine, and research into the genetic factors underlying sudden cardiac death.

The Palti & Perlhagen Center for Research and Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine, which opened in June on the eighth floor of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital (EOHH), marks an exciting new chapter in Rambam's cardiovascular leadership. By bringing together multidisciplinary expertise and cutting-edge technologies under one roof, we can transform promising ideas into life-saving therapies.

Serving as a catalyst for scientific discovery, the Center will accelerate the development of novel diagnostics, therapies, and medical technologies that improve outcomes for cardiac patients in Northern Israel and around the world. By advancing research, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation from bench to bedside, it will further strengthen Rambam's position at the forefront of cardiovascular medicine.

The Palti & Perlhagen Center was established through the generosity of Lennart Perlhagen in tribute to Prof. Yoram Palti z"l, his close friend and business partner at Novocure and a recipient of the 2022 Israel Prize. Reflecting on their more than two-decade partnership, Perlhagen said that working with Palti was inspiring because of "his innovative thinking and perseverance."





A New Era in Heart Failure Care

As the prevalence of heart failure continues to rise, Rambam's new Advanced Heart Failure Center, occupying the entire seventh floor of the EOHH, represents a critical investment in the future of cardiac health. "The Center will provide comprehensive, expert, and accessible care for patients by combining highly trained multidisciplinary teams, advanced therapies, remote monitoring technologies, and innovative educational programs," says Dr. Oren Caspi, Director of both the Advanced Heart Failure Center and The Palti & Perlhagen Center for Research and Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine.

The new Advanced Heart Failure Center will include an intermediate care unit, multidisciplinary outpatient clinics, an advanced ambulatory treatment unit, and Israel's first dedicated intensive care unit for patients with advanced heart failure, where highly specialized medical teams will use state-of-the-art equipment and smart technologies to deliver the highest standard of care.





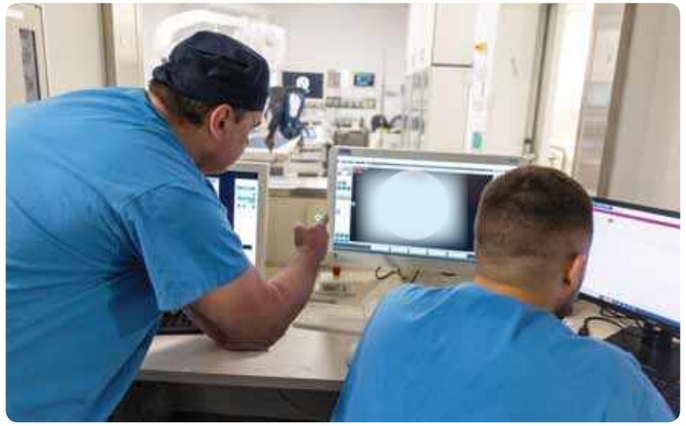
Expanding Access, Improving Outcomes: The New Urologic Ambulatory Surgical Center

A new Urologic Ambulatory Surgical Center was established to transform the delivery of urological care across Northern Israel. Designed to provide minimally invasive treatments, the Center serves patients with a broad spectrum of conditions, including genitourinary cancers, congenital abnormalities, trauma-related injuries, age-related disorders, sexual dysfunction, and more.

Located in the Sammy Ofer Tower, the 3,200-square-meter facility combines sophisticated clinical infrastructure with a modern outpatient environment designed to maximize both patient comfort and medical efficiency. The Center includes two procedure rooms, five preoperative day-care treatment stations, a recovery unit, a state-of-the-art infusion center providing immunologic and chemotherapeutic treatments, alongside additional support facilities, two physicians' offices, three nurses' stations, and staff facilities.

Prof. Gilad E. Amiel, Director of the Department of Urology, explains that transferring appropriate procedures from inpatient operating rooms to an ambulatory setting has already increased Rambam's surgical capacity and is expected to increase it by more than 50 percent annually. Patients are already benefitting from faster access to treatment, shorter recovery times, and the convenience of returning home the same day.





BEHIND EVERY UNIFORM IS A STORY OF HOPE, COURAGE, AND HEALING

Our brave soldiers face unimaginable challenges. They embody the resilience, courage, and determination of an entire nation. Yet behind every uniform is a deeply personal story of sacrifice, perseverance, hope, and the long journey to recovery. At Rambam, those stories are written every day.

After three and a half months of intensive treatment, Lieutenant Matan'el Krieger–the most severely wounded IDF soldier treated at Rambam since the start of the war–was discharged on June 16 to begin a lengthy rehabilitation process.

A lieutenant in the elite Givati Brigade, Krieger was critically injured when a Hezbollah anti-tank missile struck an IDF position on the Lebanon border, throwing him into a nearby ditch and resulting in the amputation of both legs.

Airlifted to Rambam, he underwent prolonged resuscitation, multiple complex surgeries, and months of intensive care. Throughout his hospitalization, including in the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, multidisciplinary teams fought tirelessly to save his life.

His family remained constantly by his side, drawing strength from the support of hospital staff, fellow soldiers, the people of Israel, Jewish communities around the world, and a visit from President Isaac Herzog and First Lady Michal Herzog.



▸ Sergeant Major (Res.) Nadav Kadishi leaves Rambam amidst cheers from his medical team

As Krieger prepared to leave Rambam, Dr. Michal Mekel and members of the medical staff applauded his remarkable progress and expressed hope that one day he would return standing on two prosthetic legs.

"I arrived at Rambam dead," Krieger said in his farewell remarks. "Because of you all, I am alive. You fought for me. I thank you for my life. I will come back on prosthetic legs–I promise."

For Nadav, recovery meant more than healing his physical injuries.

On April 13, after serving 200 days of reserve duty, Sergeant Major (Res.) Nadav Kadishi (44) was evacuated to Rambam after sustaining extensive upper-body injuries when a military Humvee overturned in the Bint Jbeil area of Southern Lebanon.

Kadishi's injuries extended beyond the physical. As he struggled with the ongoing war and the loss of those who had fallen, he began channeling his thoughts into lyrics. With the help of AI, those lyrics became a fully produced song titled *I Just Want to Go Home*, expressing emotions shared by many during wartime.

"When I play the song, people burst into tears," says the soldier, poet, and lyricist. "From the very first words, they understand exactly what I am talking about."

One month later, on May 13, Kadishi was discharged to continue his rehabilitation.

Recovery is measured not only in medical milestones, but also in the precious moments families are able to share.

In May, when reserve soldier Boaz Sluck was seriously wounded by an explosive drone while fighting in Southern Lebanon, he feared he would miss his son Noam-Mordechai's upcoming Bar Mitzvah. Determined to make the occasion possible, his medical team, together with hospital staff, volunteers, family, friends, fellow soldiers, generous members of the community, and the local Chabad House, brought the celebration to Rambam.



▸ Matan'el Krieger upon his discharge with his family and the Rambam team

A few weeks later, in a wheelchair, Sluck was escorted from his hospital room to the courtyard of Rambam's historic stone building, where guests from across the country gathered to celebrate. Among them were family members, his reserve duty comrades, Noam-Mordechai's classmates, and Israel's Minister of Economy, Nir Barkat, who was visiting wounded soldiers and joined the festivities.

Although Sluck's recovery remains a long journey, celebrating this milestone alongside his son created memories he and his family will cherish for years to come.

Every wounded soldier presents a unique challenge, and sometimes the decisions facing Rambam's physicians leave no margin for error.

Captain (Res.) Malachi Moundani was wounded in Southern Lebanon and airlifted to Rambam with multiple penetrating injuries. Imaging revealed that a piece of shrapnel had come to rest just millimeters from his aorta.

The finding presented the surgical team with an extraordinarily rare dilemma. While the shrapnel required immediate removal, even the slightest movement risked perforating the aorta, with catastrophic consequences.



▸ Noam-Mordechai Sluck's Bar Mitzvah celebrations

After careful consultation with Prof. Gil Bolotin, the surgical team determined that the shrapnel had to be removed despite the significant risks. Dr. Tzvi Adler, an attending physician in the Department of Cardiac Surgery, and resident Dr. Kamal Morshed successfully performed the exceptionally rare procedure, saving Moundani's life.

"The shrapnel was resting directly against the aorta," explains Prof. Bolotin. "We carefully weighed the risks of leaving the shrapnel in place against removing it. We chose to operate. The surgery went smoothly, Moundani's condition stabilized, and he was transferred to the department for continued care."

Nadav, Matan'el, Boaz, and Malachi are just a few of the soldiers Rambam has cared for over the past year. With every war and security operation, we come to know these young men and their families, celebrate each discharge, and recognize that although physical recovery takes time, emotional healing can take a lifetime.



BENEATH THE SURFACE

RAMBAM'S FORTIFIED UNDERGROUND EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

WHEN ISRAEL CALLS, RAMBAM IS READY

When the threat to national security intensified during Operation Roaring Lion, within hours and in coordination with the Home Front Command and the Ministry of Health, we transitioned our unfortified departments belowground, relocating hundreds of patients and staff in less than 12 hours to the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH). As the primary referral center for Northern Israel, we maintained our position as a frontline asset, receiving not only our own patients but those from 12 district hospitals, including their medical staff, into one protected space, ensuring continuity of care under fire.

"Above all, we have a culture of service that places the patient first, no matter the responsibility," says Aviad Keren, Head of the Department of Transportation and Logistics. "The patients' well-being is our highest priority. We put ourselves in their shoes because sometimes a smile and a few reassuring words are all it takes to ease their anxiety." Behind every patient journey lies this network of professionals whose work makes care possible. The department's staff support the hospital's daily rhythm through constant coordination and problem-solving, responding to changing needs with speed, flexibility, and a commitment to service that becomes especially apparent when conditions are at their most challenging.

What further defines the underground space is not only how fast we moved into it but what happens once we were there. Patients looked around in quiet disbelief, realizing they're in a converted parking garage. Soldiers arrive alongside civilians, often from the same tragic events, each carrying different stories.

Physicians, nurses, support, security, and administrative staff were a constant in all this, moving swiftly between urgent and routine tasks. Adapting instantly, they treated trauma and attended to families. The untiring support of our global network of scientific partners, dedicated donors, and our International Friends organizations continuously strengthened their work.

Our security response showed us the layers of our lives—birth and recovery, fear and relief, work and family—all unfolding together in close quarters beneath the surface, where everything seems to become more immediate, more human.

We believe that what matters most is not where we are but what we continue to do: deliver excellent medical care and to see each person fully.







A WORLD FIRST IN SIGHT RESTORATION

A 3D-BIOPRINTED CORNEAL IMPLANT



▸ Surgical team



▸ Prof. Mimouni during the groundbreaking procedure

In October 2025, following years of collaboration with Rambam's clinician-scientists, an invention developed by Israeli regenerative medicine company Precise Bio reached a historic breakthrough at Rambam. The breakthrough forever changed one patient's life and holds the potential to transform treatment for many more.

As part of a Phase I clinical trial, Prof. Michael Mimouni, Director of Rambam's Cornea Unit, led the surgical team that performed the world's first transplantation of a fully 3D-biofabricated, cell-based corneal implant. The procedure restored sight to a patient who had been legally blind in the treated eye.

Unlike conventional transplantation, the implant was grown from laboratory-cultured human corneal cells rather than directly from donor tissue. Remarkably, cells cultured from a single healthy donor cornea were used to create approximately 300 additional implants.

A global shortage of donor corneas leaves millions of people without access to potentially sight-restoring transplantation and the chance to see the world in a new way. Years of scientific development and collaboration between Rambam clinician-scientists and Israeli regenerative medicine company Precise Bio made the achievement possible. Using human cells and 3D-printing technology, Precise Bio created a layered, transparent corneal structure designed to replicate the clarity and function of a healthy human cornea.



▸ Prof. Michael Mimouni

For Prof. Mimouni, the moment the lab-grown cornea restored the patient's sight was unforgettable. "It was a glimpse into a future where no one will have to live in darkness because of a shortage of donor tissue," he recalls.

The breakthrough represents an important first step, but the research continues. The ongoing Phase I clinical trial at Rambam is evaluating the implant's safety and tolerability in patients with corneal endothelial disease. If further clinical development is successful, the technology could help reduce dependence on donor tissue and expand access to corneal transplantation worldwide.

Looking ahead, Rambam's future Eye Institute in the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower will bring clinical care, surgery, research, and training together under one roof, creating an environment designed to accelerate discovery and advance new approaches to preserving and restoring sight—giving more people the chance to better see the world around them.

RAMBAM STATISTICS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



PATIENT CARE

YEAR	2025	2024
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS	84,507	78,644
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS	177,021	162,375
OUTPATIENT VISITS	765,024	740,069
TOTAL PATIENTS TREATED	297,150	290,285
IMAGING PROCEDURES	350,507	331,725
LABORATORY EXAMS	15,008,277	14,549,109
SURGICAL PROCEDURES	70,394	65,429
DELIVERIES	4,653	4,352

DONORS FROM 18 COUNTRIES

1,100 **Total** Number of Donations

769 Donors

DONATIONS

$23 Million
Total Amount Raised

$21,050
Average Donation Amount

IN NUMBERS

EMPLOYEES

6,622 EMPLOYEES

1,523 PHYSICIANS
2,208 NURSES
1,391 ALLIED HEALTH
1,500 HOUSEHOLD & ADMINISTRATION

RESEARCH

399 NEW RESEARCH
1,958 ACTIVE RESEARCH
6 PATENT APPROVED

OVERALL CAPACITY

1,095 HOSPITAL BEDS

40 MEDICAL INSTITUTES
65 INPATIENT WARDS
78 SPECIALIZATION UNITS
115 OUTPATIENT CLINICS

RAMBAM RESEARCH

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO **CHILDREN'S RESPIRATORY HEALTH**

DR. ROTEM LAPIDOT

Director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Unit, Rambam's Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital; Principal Investigator, Lapidot Laboratory, CRIR; Faculty Member at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

Dr. Lapidot's research focuses on respiratory infections, one of the leading causes of illness and death worldwide. "From my early days as a pediatric resident, I was fascinated by the question: Why do some children become critically ill from a respiratory virus or bacteria, while most children experience only mild symptoms or remain symptom-free? That question has driven my research ever since."

Most respiratory infections are caused by common viruses and bacteria, yet only a few lead to severe disease. They first interact with our bodies in the nasopharynx, a small area behind the nose. Whether they remain harmless or progress to disease depends on complex interactions between the germs themselves, our immune system, and microorganisms that naturally live in our airways. Dr. Lapidot's research aims to unravel these interactions.

One area of her research focuses on how viruses and bacteria interact. For example, pneumococcus, the most common bacterial cause of childhood pneumonia, peaks during the same season as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Dr. Lapidot explains: "Although pneumococcus usually lives harmlessly in the nasopharynx, RSV can trigger it to behave differently and cause disease through multiple mechanisms which we study in our lab".



Dr. Lapidot, together with Dr. Arbel Artzy-Schnirman, who established and directs the Applied Medical Technology Research Center at Rambam, are working on developing a nasopharynx-on-chip, an advanced model that replicates human biology. The chip can be used for multiple purposes, including studying complex viral-bacterial interactions, disease modeling, and immune responses to pathogens.

Dr. Lapidot's research also explores how vaccines influence these infections. "Understanding how vaccines affect respiratory disease patterns, and why some diseases continue to persist despite vaccination, is essential for guiding the development of new vaccines and informing public health policy."

Dr. Lapidot enthusiastically states: "What I love most about my research is how closely it connects to my work as a physician. Every winter I care for children with severe respiratory infections. In the laboratory, I can investigate the questions that arise at the bedside, with the goal of finding better ways to prevent these illnesses and improve children's health." •

RAMBAM RESEARCH

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE **HUMAN BRAIN**

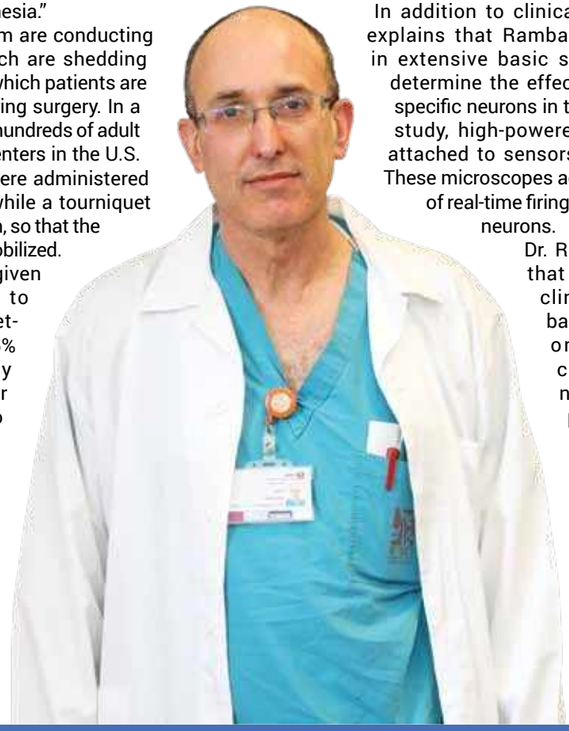
DR. AEYAL RAZ

Chair of Rambam's Department of Anesthesiology and Principal Investigator, Raz Laboratory, CRIR.

Dr. Raz is on a mission to unlock some of the mysteries of the human brain. He has been studying the effects of anesthetics on the brain for decades. He explains that anesthesia is a remarkably effective tool which eliminates sensation, memory and immobilizes the body. Although we have been using anesthesia for about 180 years, Dr. Raz states: "We still do not fully understand the mechanisms underlying loss of consciousness and amnesia under anesthesia."

Dr. Raz and his team are conducting multiple studies which are shedding light on the extent to which patients are truly unconscious during surgery. In a major study involving hundreds of adult patients in multiple centers in the U.S. and Israel, patients were administered general anesthesia, while a tourniquet was placed on one arm, so that the arm would not be immobilized. Patients were then given a verbal command to move the tourniquet-isolated arm. About 5% of patients, primarily women and younger people, responded to these commands, demonstrating that intraoperative consciousness occurred quite frequently, in certain patient cohorts.

Dr. Raz expressed great excitement about the potential for AI to further enhance our understanding of the patient experience under anesthesia. While monitors currently in use provide information about heart rate, blood pressure and the electrical activity of the brain, with the assistance of AI, Dr. Raz explains that we should be able to build models which predict when a patient is undergoing stress or remains responsive. Anesthesiologists will then be able to adjust medications or add new drugs, to improve the effectiveness of anesthesia.



In addition to clinical research, Dr. Raz explains that Rambam is also engaged in extensive basic science research to determine the effect of anesthetics on specific neurons in the brain. In one such study, high-powered microscopes are attached to sensors on small animals. These microscopes actually allow tracking of real-time firing patterns in individual neurons.

Dr. Raz states: "We hope that in the near future, clinical research and basic science research on the brain will converge, providing new and improved pathways for the treatment of our patients." •

TOMORROW'S LEADERS HERE TODAY

The Tamar & Netzer Leadership Program

Grounded in the belief that the hospital's next generation of leaders are already among us, Rambam's Nursing Administration has launched the second cohort of the Tamar & Netzer Leadership Program, a unique track designed to identify, develop, and mentor future clinical and managerial leaders from within the nursing staff.

First introduced in 2018, the program has proven its impact: over 90% of graduates from the first cohort now hold senior clinical and managerial positions. Building on this success, a second, expanded, and updated cohort has been opened.

Following a comprehensive selection process, including group exercises, personal presentations, evaluation of leadership skills and communication abilities, and in-depth interviews, 30 out of 84 applicants were chosen.

The program includes nine extensive in-person sessions and focuses on leadership development, management tools, resilience and burnout, innovation, and research, alongside hands-on experiences: shadowing senior leaders in their daily work, participating in cross-organizational meetings, and learning directly from real-world practice.



Program leadership: Gila Hyams, Einat Peretz-Bernstein, Ayelet Goldhagen, Amit Shiffer, and Bahaa Rafoul



Course sessions



Course participants

A central component is personalized mentorship. Senior leaders from the Nursing Administration and senior nursing staff guide small groups in developing professional identity, systems thinking, and leadership capabilities.

Another key pillar is the implementation of a personal cross-organizational project. The entire program is accompanied by a longitudinal comparative study evaluating the effectiveness of leadership development in nursing–adding significant academic depth.

Upon completion, participants join a growing legacy, marking another milestone in building Rambam's future leadership, serving patients, staff, and the wider community. •

WHAT A DOG DOES

Rambam's Four-Legged Therapists

Dogs may be man's best friend, but hospital regulations generally prevent patients from enjoying the comfort of their beloved pets at the bedside. At Rambam, however, there are two welcome exceptions: Tinka and Kelly, two loving, tail-wagging therapy dogs who bring comfort, companionship, and joy to patients, visitors, and staff alike.

Tinka and Kelly are official members of the Rambam team, complete with personal ID tags proudly displayed on their collars.

Accompanied by their trainers – Idit Leiba, a perioperative nurse and head of Rambam's Canine Therapy Service, and Keren Nagin of the regional Service Dog Training Center – the four visit war-injured soldiers, children, new mothers, and other patients in need of emotional support throughout the hospital's aboveground facilities.



Idit Leiba and Tinka visit a new mother



During recent hostilities, when Rambam's Underground Hospital was activated as well as its special daycare center, children eagerly gathered around Tinka and Kelly, showering them with hugs and happily accepting the affection they returned.

Leiba and Nagin make it their mission to visit as many patients as possible during every shift. Over the years, they have witnessed the remarkable impact therapy dogs can have. Tinka and Kelly bring smiles to everyone's faces, encourage conversation, motivate patients to get out of bed, and play an important role in physical and emotional recovery.

After the Rotem family was evacuated from their home in Northern Israel, 13-year-old Yotam was admitted to Rambam after breaking his nose. Although treatment is straightforward, he would require sedation to ensure his comfort. Understandably anxious, Yotam and his family were relieved when Rambam's secret weapons–Tinka and Kelly–arrived. "I petted them and I wasn't as scared," he recalls. Their visit helped prepare him for what lay ahead.



Keren Nagin, Idit Leiba, Kelly and Tinka with a young patient

Tinka and Kelly's impact was also evident in the story of an injured reservist who had been separated from his beloved German shepherd for months. Overjoyed by their bedside visit, he immediately bonded with the affectionate Labradors, finding comfort, companionship, and a welcome respite from the loneliness of recovery.

"Therapy dogs can sense anxiety, stress, and pain," explains Leiba. "A simple gaze, a gentle touch, or resting their heads on someone's lap can ease loneliness and provide comfort during a difficult hospitalization." •

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH TEACHING AND HEALING

WHEN DISASTER THREATENS, RAMBAM LEADS



▸ Dr. Sharoni examines a young child.

For more than two decades, Rambam's Teaching Center for Trauma, Emergency, and Mass Casualty Situations has trained healthcare professionals from around the world to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

After a wartime hiatus, the Center welcomed participants back for its 16th International Trauma Course in October 2025. This year's cohort included 29 professionals from 17 countries, among them physicians, nurses, and emergency response specialists from four continents.

Through intensive workshops, realistic simulations, expert-led lectures, and site visits across Israel, participants gain firsthand insight into managing mass casualty incidents and emergency preparedness. The course draws on Israel's extensive experience while fostering collaboration among professionals from diverse healthcare systems.

Gila Hyams, Director of Nursing and Director of the Teaching Center, and Dr. Hany Bahouth, Director of the Emergency Medicine and Trauma System Section and Medical Director of the Center, view the program as both a professional and humanitarian mission.



▸ Gila Hyams (front row, fourth left), Dr. Bahouth (front row, fourth right) with course participants

"The course has become a professional and human bridge connecting medical teams worldwide around a shared mission: saving lives," says Hyams.

To date, 590 professionals from 83 countries—including 454 physicians, 122 nurses, and 14 paramedics and emergency system managers—have completed the strengthening of a global network committed to saving lives in times of crisis.

Changing Lives, Strengthening Healthcare

Beyond their demanding roles at the hospital, many Rambam physicians volunteer their time and expertise on humanitarian missions around the world.

In May 2026, Dr. Omri Emodi, Director of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Dr. Zach Sharoni, senior physician in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Head of the Cleft Lip and Palate Treatment Program, continued a tradition spanning more than a decade. During a mission to Tanzania, they trained local medical teams and performed life-changing cleft lip and palate surgeries on 44 patients.



▸ Dr. Sharoni (left), Dr. Emodi (second right) with members of the Tanzanian medical team



▸ Dr. Emodi performs life-changing surgery with a member of the local medical team

Over the years, Emodi and Sharoni have participated in humanitarian missions in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Vietnam, Ghana, India, and beyond. For them, these missions are more than opportunities to provide specialized care—they are a source of inspiration that reinforces their commitment to return time and again, bringing hope, healing, and expertise to communities in need. •

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE TANNOUS FAMILY

BUILDING LEGACIES, STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE



▸ L–R: Prof. Rafi Beyar with members of the Tannous family–Liliane, Elias, Eva, Ghadir, Waseem, and Alaa–receiving the 2023 Rambam Award.

NAZARETH AND BEYOND

The Tannous family has a longstanding heritage from Nazareth, whose history combines entrepreneurship, community leadership, and philanthropy. Educated at the Nazareth Baptist School, family patriarch Badia Tannous founded BST Group in 1972 and helped grow it into one of Israel's leading construction and development companies. Through real estate, educational, and public projects, the company contributes to developing communities throughout the country. Known for his generous spirit and deep commitment to giving back, Badia also believed strongly in promoting coexistence, fostering dialogue and meaningful relationships among people from diverse communities and backgrounds. Guided by vision, determination, and a commitment to excellence, he built a business that greatly contributed to Israel.



▸ Badia Tannous

BUILDING AS A FAMILY

Badia Tannous believed that excellence, innovation, professionalism, and dialogue should guide both business and family life. He viewed family as the foundation of any successful enterprise and instilled these values throughout BST Group. Following his passing in 2018, his wife Eva and children Elias, Alaa, Ghadir, and Waseem continued his generosity through business leadership, charitable initiatives, and civic engagement.



▸ Elias Tannous addressing the audience at the inauguration ceremony of the Badia Tannous Heart Institute

COMMUNITY GIVING

Beyond business success, the family has remained deeply committed to public service and social responsibility. Their philanthropic activities include support for educational, religious, and community institutions, as well as charitable initiatives that expand opportunities and strengthen local communities. Through the Eva and Badia Tannous Foundation, they also promote women's empowerment and community development, reflecting a longstanding belief that success should encourage coexistence and create meaningful opportunities for others.

A particular focus of the family's giving has been the advancement of young people through programs that promote empowerment, education, and professional development. Through both personal involvement and foundation-supported initiatives, they have invested in projects designed to help individuals realize their potential and contribute to their communities.

BUILDING A LEGACY TOGETHER

Today, the entire Tannous family remains deeply involved in the family business and in its longstanding commitment to philanthropy and community development. Each family member contributes to the continued growth of the Group while carrying forward the values of excellence, responsibility, generosity, and service that defined Badia Tannous's legacy.

- **Elias Tannous – CEO of the Group**
- **Alaa Tannous – CEO of BST Global**
- **Ghadir Tannous – Head of Contracts and Agreements**
- **Waseem Tannous – VP of Assets**

Together, the family combines strong business leadership with a deep commitment to giving back. In particular, Elias Tannous has played an important role in advancing the family's business and philanthropic vision, helping carry its values into the next generation. Their shared involvement reflects a family culture in which business success and social responsibility go hand in hand.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMBAM

In honor of Badia Tannous, the family made a major contribution toward the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital. Their gift supported the full internal construction of three floors that now comprise the Badia Tannous Heart Institute, helping strengthen cardiovascular care for patients across Northern Israel.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Recognizing the family's outstanding business leadership, entrepreneurial achievements, philanthropy, and commitment to healthcare, Rambam presented the Tannous family with the 2023 Rambam Award. Their partnership with Rambam embodies shared values of excellence, innovation, service, and coexistence. By supporting advanced medicine while investing in stronger, more inclusive communities, the family continues to honor Badia Tannous's lifelong dedication to building a better future for the country he loved.

TERI AND BARRY VOLPERT

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON SHARED VALUES



L-R: Teri Volpert, Barry Volpert, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Yael Shachor-Meyouhas, Dr. Michal Mekel, Prof. Mahmoud Suleiman, and Inbar Shahaf.



Barry Volpert at the Groundbreaking Ceremony



Teri Volpert at the Groundbreaking Ceremony

Behind Teri and Barry Volpert's remarkable achievements lies a shared commitment to the people, communities, and causes that matter most to them.

A trailblazer in business, Barry Volpert's career has been marked by significant achievements. A graduate of Amherst College, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Business School, Barry earned some of the institutions' highest academic honors, including recognition as a George F. Baker Scholar. He was also selected as a Luce Scholar and completed his fellowship in Singapore.

The same drive that distinguished Barry academically has characterized his professional life. Following an impressive 18-year career at Goldman Sachs, Barry cofounded the private equity firm Crestview in 2004, where he continues to serve as CEO and Chairman of the Investment Committee. Beyond his business career, Barry serves on the Dean's Advisory Board at Harvard Law School and the Board of Overseers of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and is a former director of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

Teri Coleman-Volpert is a graduate of Tufts University and Columbia Business School. Her longstanding relationship with Tufts extends well beyond her years as a student: she served as a University trustee from 2009 to 2019 and is now a Trustee Emerita. Her commitment to Judaism is reflected in her service on the board of the UJA-Federation of New York, and her former seat on the board of the 120-year-old Jewish Museum. She is an art collector with a particular interest in contemporary art, reflecting her engagement with the social and cultural issues explored through this medium. Teri also serves on the board of Citymeals on Wheels, a nonprofit organization that addresses food insecurity among older New Yorkers, with the goal of ending it by 2040. Through her board service, Teri contributes to an organization that has provided more than two million emergency food packages to over 21,000 isolated or homebound New Yorkers—a remarkable reflection of its purpose, reach, and dedication to those it serves.

In the field of healthcare, the Volperts have supported research into juvenile diabetes, breast cancer, hearing, and dysautonomia, a group of disorders that includes familial dysautonomia, a rare genetic condition that occurs primarily among people of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Teri and Barry's connection with Rambam began through an introduction by longtime friends and partners Eyal and Marilyn Ofer. Since then, they have become valued supporters, helping to realize one of Rambam's strategic projects—one that makes a difference every day—the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center.

With approximately 10,000 echocardiographic studies performed at Rambam each year, the Center plays an important role in the diagnosis and clinical decision-making of thousands of patients. By providing advanced cardiac imaging on this scale, Rambam has strengthened access to timely diagnosis and specialized cardiac care for patients throughout Northern Israel.

In September 2023, while the Center was still under construction, Teri and Barry visited the campus and participated in a moving cornerstone-laying ceremony and a scroll bearing their signatures was placed in a decorative case at the site.

Teri and Barry are blessed with four children: Michael, Steven, Lauren, and Jack, who embody their parents' values and integrity. Their deep commitment to family is also reflected in Teri and Barry's decision to establish the Richard S. Volpert Professorship of Economics in memory of Barry's late father, Richard, at his alma mater, Amherst College.

The entire Rambam family is deeply grateful to Teri and Barry and the Volpert Foundation for their extraordinary generosity. As Rambam continues to evolve, guided by its vision for 2065, we look forward to welcoming them back to the campus in the near future and sharing the next chapter in the hospital's development.

Prof. RAFI BEYAR

DEAR FRIENDS,



In recent years, Rambam has demonstrated what it means to deliver exceptional care under extraordinary circumstances. During the war, our fortified underground hospital became a lifeline, highlighting the indispensable role this unique facility plays in protecting Israel's healthcare system. Even as threats persisted, our teams continued to provide uninterrupted, world-class care to every patient while treating wounded soldiers evacuated from the northern front.

Despite these circumstances, Rambam never lost sight of its commitment to growth and innovation. We recently opened the completion floors of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, marking the final stage of this important project. We also marked the official opening of the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, where The Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR) has moved into its new home. This remarkable facility will significantly expand Rambam's research capabilities, shaping the future of medicine.

We are now launching an ambitious initiative to establish a dedicated Neuroscience Institute. The Institute represents a bold roadmap toward unlocking the mysteries of the brain, revolutionizing treatment, and bringing hope to patients facing conditions once thought untreatable.

These achievements were made possible by collaborating with our friends and partners around the world. Your unwavering support, trust, generosity, and commitment have enabled Rambam to move forward with confidence, investing in the people, technology, and facilities that drive excellence in patient care, research, and innovation. You have stood by us, raised awareness of our mission during challenging times for the Jewish people globally. Your partnership has given us the strength, together, we are not only responding to today's challenges, but also building a stronger, more innovative future for medicine in Israel and beyond.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the former President of Canadian Friends of Rambam, David Green, for more than three decades of extraordinary dedication and leadership. David, together with his partner, Daphne Wagner, has made an enduring and transformative contribution to Rambam. Thank you both for your friendship, generosity, and impact.

At the same time, I am pleased to welcome the incoming President of Canadian Friends of Rambam, Jeffrey Brown. Jeffrey's connection to Rambam is deeply personal; his son was wounded during the war and received outstanding care at our hospital. We look forward to working together as we continue to strengthen our shared mission.

With your continued support, I remain as optimistic as ever that Rambam will continue moving forward stronger than ever, serving the people of Israel through excellence in patient care, research, innovation, and education.

Warm regards,

Prof. Rafi Beyar
President, International Friends Organizations

Dr. ESTY GOLAN

DEAR FRIENDS,



Rambam's progress is built on long-term vision, optimism, and determination. Together, these have enabled transformative developments across our campus and strengthened Rambam's standing as a regional and global leader in medical excellence. Your unwavering commitment and solidarity continue to reinforce our ability to serve our community and provide exceptional care to the people of Northern Israel and beyond.

Recent months have brought important milestones. The Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute has relocated to its new home in the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, while the Advanced Heart Failure Center and the Palti & Perlhagen Center for Research and Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine have also been inaugurated. Soon, the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center will open its doors, providing a home for Rambam's established pediatric rehabilitation services and expanding specialized care for children recovering from serious illness and trauma.

The national emergencies we faced have underscored the importance of ensuring that the most critically ill patients can receive uninterrupted care at all times. Thanks to the generosity of our partners and friends, together with the support of the Ministry of Health, construction is already underway on the Helmsley Fortified Division of Critical Care Medicine. This nationally important project will consist of two-floors and will be fully fortified to ensure continuity of critical care across a wide range of emergency scenarios.

Another major project we are planning is our landmark Neurosciences Institute, which will bring together the full spectrum of neuroscience disciplines in a purpose-built environment. By integrating clinical care, research, and innovation, the Institute will open new possibilities for advancing brain health and treating neurological disease.

The past year has been especially challenging as conflict and regional instability have affected every aspect of life in Israel. Yet throughout this period, VIP delegations, public officials, healthcare professionals, international media representatives, and you, friends from around the world have continued to visit us. They have been a powerful source of support and pride and we are truly grateful.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to David Green as he steps down from his role as President of Canadian Friends of Rambam, and to his partner, Daphne Wagner, for her steadfast commitment. Their longstanding support for important projects have had a profound impact on the care we are able to provide and on the lives of countless patients. We are deeply grateful for all they have done to help shape the Rambam of today.

As we look to the future, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Your partnership gives us the strength to keep building, innovating, and reaching higher as we advance our shared mission of better medicine, discovery, and care.

Dr. Esty Golan, PhD
Managing Director of International Relations
and Chief of Strategic Development

A GROWING CIRCLE OF FRIENDS IN **LATIN AMERICA**



A delegation of medical specialists and university faculty from Ecuador

Rambam continues to forge relationships with medical professionals, business leaders, and members of the Jewish community in Latin America. Throughout the year, regular delegations to and from the region, facilitated by Monica Davidovich, Director of Rambam's Latin America Desk, have fostered strategic relationships that are impacting campus development.

Thirty-five students from the Jewish Leadership Academy in Miami were welcomed by Prof. Rafi Beyar and Dr. Esty Golan. They visited patients in the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital and distributed gifts. Prof. Lior Gepstein spoke about the potential of stem cell technology while Dr. Shlomit Yehudai-Reshef, Director of the Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR), introduced them to Rambam's research ecosystem. The day concluded with a tour of the Underground Hospital.



L-R: Monica Davidovich, Dr. Esty Golan, and Sally Serur



Dr. Danny Eytan being interviewed by Brazilian press

As part of a series of visits organized by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), a delegation of medical specialists and university faculty from Ecuador met with Prof. Beyar and toured the Heart Hospital. Another MFA delegation, including Isais Wassermann, Press and Cultural Affairs Officer at the Israeli Embassy in Chile, together with clinicians, academics, educators, and politicians, met with Dr. Netanel Horowitz, Deputy Director. At the Children's Hospital, they met the hospital's medical clowns who bring joy to the patients. Both groups toured the Underground Hospital.

Filmmaker Marcio Pitliuk, whose work explores the human consequences of conflict, visited Rambam to learn about the hospital's role during the war. Gila Hyams, together with Dr. Danny Eytan, Director of the Wagner-Green Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, shared their firsthand experiences in delivering care under challenging circumstances. The visit provided an opportunity to document Rambam's resilience and capture the human stories behind its lifesaving work through the powerful medium of film.



Students from the Jewish Leadership Academy during their tour of the Underground Hospital



Dr. Michal Mekel and Sally Serur

Sally Serur's appointment as President of Mexican Friends of Rambam, opens a new chapter in Rambam's developing relationships in Mexico. Her two-day visit of meetings and campus tours provided insights into hospital operations. She met with Dr. Mekel, Dr. Golan, Gila Hyams, Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, Director of the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center; Dr. Nira Arad-Cohen, Director of the Joan & Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation; Prof. Shahar Shelly, Director of the Department of Neurology; Dr. Yehudai-Reshef, and Lea Tetro, Head Nurse, Delivery Rooms.

A delegation of medical students from Brazil learned about advances in gastroenterology, 3D bioprinting, infectious diseases, and gynecologic oncology. They met with Prof. Iyad Khamaysi, Director of the Uzia Galil Innovation Center and Senior Physician at the Institute of Gastroenterology; Dr. Artzy-Schnirman; Dr. Michal Meir, Attending Physician, Infectious Diseases as well as Dr. Liron Berger, Lab Manager at the Perets Lab at CRIR.

ISRAEL AND COSTA RICA PARTNER FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Directed by Gila Hyams, Rambam's Teaching Center for Trauma and Mass Casualty Situations is internationally recognized and has trained more than 3,500 medical professionals, emergency responders, military personnel, and others from over 80 countries.

In February, in collaboration with the Israeli Embassy in Costa Rica and with funding from the Genesis Prize Foundation (GPF), a trauma team led by Hyams, traveled to Costa Rica to train local emergency teams in managing mass casualty situations. Joining her were Dr. Elias Manassa, a general surgeon in the Department of Emergency Medicine, and Guy Caspi, Director of Exercises and Training at Magen David Adom.

The four-day course included a symposium and workshops, focused on preparedness and management of mass casualty events. Combining theory with hands-on practice, the program incorporated real-life simulations and training in high-pressure decision-making.

The Israel delegation also participated in a gracious event hosted by Israeli Ambassador to Costa Rica, Michal Gur-Aryeh.

The visit reflects Israel and Costa Rica's shared commitment to strengthening emergency preparedness through collaboration and knowledge exchange. We are deeply grateful to the Israeli Embassy in Costa Rica and the GPF for making this mission possible.

Rambam continues to strengthen its ties throughout Latin America, building partnerships that help shape the future of healthcare.



Back row, L-R: Mr. Guy Caspi; Mr. S. Fitzgerald "Fitz" Haney, Managing Director, Latin America, Genesis Prize; Dr. Elias Manassa; Dr. Marco Vargas Salas, Head of the Trauma Unit, Hospital Nacional de Niños, Costa Rica; and Mr. Ilya Oshman, Chief Operating Officer, Genesis Prize. Front row, L-R: Shir Senderovitch-Sarfati, Consul and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel in Costa Rica; Gila Hyams; Dr. Carlos Jiménez Herrera, Director, Hospital Nacional de Niños, Costa Rica; and Israel's Ambassador to Costa Rica, Michal Gur-Aryeh (2023-July 2026)

RAMBAM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Rambam's reputation for clinical excellence, innovation, and research attracts visitors and friends from around the world. Despite the challenges of the past year, delegations continued to visit the hospital to learn how Rambam delivers uninterrupted emergency care while maintaining its routine operations. Through tours of the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, specialized facilities, and meetings with hospital leadership and senior physicians, visitors gained a firsthand understanding of Rambam's resilience, unique capabilities, and impact.

On October 23, a delegation from Keren Hayesod International Women's Division in the Netherlands met with Dr. Michal Mekel and Dr. Esty Golan. The delegation also heard presentations from Tamara Makhlouf Musa, Deputy Chief Nurse in the Department of Surgery and Rambam Pathologist Dr. Polina Stein.



▸ The delegation from Keren Hayesod being addressed by Dr. Michal Mekel

During their November 4 visit, a delegation from the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) participated in roundtable discussions with Dr. Mekel, Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, Dr. Shlomit Yehudai-Reshef, and four Rambam clinician-scientists: Dr. Emily Avitan-Hersh, Director, Department of Dermatology; Dr. Ruth Perets, Director of the Oncological Day Care Unit; Dr. Erez Hasnis, Attending Physician in both the Department of Internal Medicine D and in the Institute of Gastroenterology, and Dr. Chen Buxbaum, Attending Physician in the Department of Neurology, whose research has been supported by the ICRF. The delegation visited CRIR, underscoring Rambam's significant contributions to advancing cancer research and innovation.



▸ ICRF delegation

Rambam welcomed Yasmin and Juad Dabbah and their family members, whose generous donation toward the Dabbah Family Physiotherapy Unit in memory of Juad's father, Kassem Dabbah in the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center will help provide life-changing physiotherapy for our youngest patients. A moving ceremony was attended by members of the Dabbah family, together with Dr. Mekel, Prof. Yael Shachor-Meyouhas, Dr. Golan, Dr. Vardit Gepstein, Acting Director of the Pediatric Division, Dr. Lihi Mansano, Director of the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, Inbar Shahaf, Director of the Unit of Resource & Market Development, and Shirley Erulkar, Manager, Donor Recognition.



▸ The Dabbah family with Rambam staff

On November 10, a 44-member delegation from American Physicians and Friends (APF) spent an afternoon at Rambam participating in roundtable discussions with clinicians. They were welcomed by Dr. Netanel Horowitz, together with Tali Schmitz Golik, Emergency Preparedness and Professional Competency Coordinator, and Rima Benenson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Nursing Administration. Since October 7, APF volunteers have taken up temporary positions at Rambam, replacing staff called up for reserve duty. Their commitment to serving alongside Rambam's staff was a heartwarming demonstration of friendship and solidarity.



▸ Roundtable discussions with the APF delegation

On November 16, Kerry Auriat, a committed Rambam supporter and long-serving Board member of Canadian Friends of Rambam, returned to the campus with his family, where they met with Dr. Esty Golan and Prof. Rafi Beyar, and saw firsthand the many advancements achieved since his previous visit in 2016.



▸ Kerry Auriat (right) and his family together with Dr. Golan and Prof. Beyar (both center)

Rambam hosted the French-Israel Symposium in Pediatric Oncology, bringing together leading clinician-scientists from medical centers and universities in both countries to discuss the latest advances in pediatric cancer treatment. Among the VIP guests were Dr. Muriel Haim, President of Fondation France-Israël; Mr. George Diener, Consul General of France in Haifa; and Prof. Ami Aronheim, Dean of the Technion's Bruce & Ruth Rappaport Faculty of Medicine. Guests were welcomed by Dr. Mekel, Dr. Nira Arad-Cohen, and Prof. Myriam Ben Arush, senior physician in the Division and close friend of Dr. Haim.



▸ L-R: Dr. Nira Arad-Cohen, Prof. Myriam Ben Arush, Dr. Muriel Haim with guest lecturers at the conference

During the first week of December, Ali and Rim Ayoub were honored for their support and friendship. Inspired by the exceptional care Rim received during a life-threatening medical emergency, and by Rambam's commitment to providing outstanding care to every patient regardless of background, they chose to make a generous donation. Their gift reflects the shared values of inclusion, coexistence, and compassion that define Rambam and its mission.



▸ Ali and Rim Ayoub

On December 10, a healthcare delegation facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israel Embassy in Washington, was welcomed by Dr. Mekel who presented an in-depth view of Rambam today and into the future. Their tour of Rambam's Applied Medical Technology Research Center was followed by a tour of Prof.Lior Gepstein's lab at the Technion's Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, opposite Rambam where he explained his award-winning cardiac research. The visit concluded with a tour of the Underground Hospital.



▸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Israel Embassy delegation

On December 18, Rambam hosted the final Beutler Symposium: *Israel's Frontiers in Genomic Medicine*, bringing together many of the country's leading scientists and clinicians for a celebration of discovery, innovation, and collaboration in genomic medicine. Supported by the Ernest and Bonnie Beutler Research Program of Excellence in Genomic Medicine, the symposium has inspired a generation of physician-scientists. Nobel Laureate Prof. Bruce Beutler delivered the keynote lecture, exploring cancer-resistant mutations and their implications for future cancer therapies. Dr. Mekel thanked the Beutler family for their vision and commitment and Prof. Beyar, Chair of the Beutler Program's Scientific Advisory Council, spoke of the Beutler's enduring legacy. The symposium also showcased advances in genomic research presented by Rambam scientists and researchers from institutions across the country, including Prof. Karl Skorecki, Principal Investigator of the Skorecki Lab at the Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute.



▸ L-R: Prof. Jacob Row, Prof. Bruce Beutler, Dr. Michal Mekel, Prof. Rafi Beyar

In early February, a delegation of senior public officials and community leaders led by Sheikh Muwaffaq Tarif, spiritual leader of Israel's Druze community, visited Rambam to meet patients evacuated from Syria for life-saving treatment during the Syrian Druze conflict that began in July 2025. The delegation thanked Rambam staff for their compassionate care.



▸ Dr. Michal Mekel with Sheikh Muwaffaq Tarif and members of the delegation

On March 25, the President of the State of Israel Isaac Herzog and his First Lady, Michal Herzog visited Rambam to meet wounded soldiers. Accompanied by Dr. Mekel, President Herzog visited patients in several hospital departments and received a briefing on their medical care. He thanked the hospital's physicians, nurses, and staff for their dedication and commitment.The President also met Ali Kudra, a bus driver who was injured after evacuating his passengers and moving them to safety following a missile strike in Kiryat Shmona. He also visited Lieutenant Matan'el Krieger, who sustained severe injuries in an anti-tank missile attack on the northern front. (See the full story on page 18)

"I wish to express my deep appreciation to you all for your courage and steadfast resilience," said President Herzog. "Your spirit reflects the strength of Israeli society. I wish you a swift and complete recovery."

Later that day, IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir made a separate visit to wounded soldiers receiving treatment at Rambam. He praised them for their determination, personal courage, and the fighting spirit of the IDF. Zamir also expressed his appreciation to Rambam's medical teams, as well as IDF personnel from the Casualty Unit and the RAM 2 Liaison Unit for their work in both routine times and during emergencies.



▸ President Isaac Herzog, First Lady Michal Herzog, Dr. Michal Mekel, and members of the IDF during the visit

During the last week of May, Prof. Shachor-Meyouhas visited Long Island for two events through the efforts of Sigal Amsalem, Manager, Donor Relations and Communications with Friends' Organizations, together with Debbie and Sol Lerner. The program included a Friday evening dinner with special guests and a gathering at Merrick Jewish Center and Temple attended by philanthropists and influential members of the Jewish community. Prof. Shachor-Meyouhas spoke about Rambam's recent achievements, the challenges ahead, and plans for the new Helmsley Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division. The visit concluded with optimism for developing meaningful, long-term relationships within the community.



▸ Prof. Shachor-Meyouhas at the dinner hosted by the Lerner family

On June 2, Rambam was delighted to welcome a delegation of 60 students from King Solomon International School in Ramat Hasharon. Accompanied by Inbar Shahaf and Hagit Assaf, VIP Visits & Delegations Coordinator, the students met with Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf, Director of the Neurosurgical Anesthesia Unit, whose presentation on her revolutionary EyeCon™ system, which enables communication with minimally conscious patients, sparked an engaging question-and-answer session.



▸ Delegation from King Solomon International School

On June 17, Rambam held an appreciation ceremony honoring the generosity of the family of the late Supreme Court Justice, Salim Joubran whose commitment to equality and inclusion left a lasting mark on Israeli society. Joubran was treated at Rambam's Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Institute before his passing in March 2024. The appreciation ceremony was attended by family members as well as colleagues from the Judicial Authority. Dr. Mekel, Prof. Azzam, Haifa Mayor Mr. Yona Yahav, Prof. Tsila Zuckerman, Director of the Institute and Joubran's attending physician, and Dr. Tony Karram, Director, Department of Vascular Surgery & Transplantation reflected on Joubran's impact. Joubran's son, Assad spoke on behalf of the family before a plaque was unveiled.



▸ Members of Salim Joubran's family together with Dr. Esty Golan (left), Dr. Michal Mekel (center), and Prof. Zaher Azzam (second right)

Cathy and Danny Rosenkranz, visited Rambam on June 21. Warmly welcomed by Dr. Mekel, Prof. Beyar, and Dr. Golan, Cathy and Danny also met with Prof. Ben-Aharon, Dr. Alona Zer-Kuch, Director of Medical Oncology. During their visit, they spoke with patients and nurses in the Danny & Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/ Hematology ER. They visited the site of the soon to be opened Danny & Cathy Rosenkranz Multidisciplinary Therapy Unit in the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center and toured the newly-opened seventh and eighth floors of the Heart Hospital. Cathy and Danny's philanthropy touches countless lives and its impact is visible every day.



▸ Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz

Prof. Yoram Palti z"l, left an enduring legacy through his pioneering work. Among his many achievements, together with his business partner, Lennart Perlhagen, he co-founded Novocure, whose revolutionary technology transformed the treatment of glioblastoma. On June 22, Rambam and the Technion hosted a conference, organized by Prof. Beyar, in Palti's memory.

Dr. Mekel and Prof. Ori Sivan, President of the Technion, paid tribute to Palti whose ideas changed modern medicine. Speaking on behalf of the family, Dafna Palti-Wasserman thanked everyone for attending this important conference. The program included lectures by Prof. Beyar and by Prof. Gepstein and other prominent researchers. Perlhagen made a significant donation for the establishment of the Palti & Perlhagen Center for Research and Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine in honor of his friend. Read more on page 14.



▸ Members of the Palti family with Dr. Michal Mekel and Prof. Rafi Beyar

On June 22, members of HaYitsiaHaTzfoni (The Northern Stand), the supporters' organization of Maccabi Haifa, visited the Joan & Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation. They gifted multimedia equipment in memory of Maccabi Haifa midfielder Gadi Kinda, a young Israeli footballer who passed away in May 2025 after a serious illness. The dedication ceremony was attended by Dr. Golan, Dr. Arad-Cohen, and Division staff members. The visitors offered encouragement and support to patients and their families. May Kinda's memory be a blessing.



▸ Members of HaYitsia HaTzfoni with Dr. Nira Arad-Cohen

The Israel Law Center–ShuratHaDin facilitated a visit of academics and legal, medical, and business professionals from around the world. They were welcomed by Dr. Netanel Horowitz, and Dr. Adi Katz-Biton, a resident in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Discussions and presentations offered insight into the complex reconstructive surgery performed at Rambam resulting from trauma, war injury, congenital conditions, and more.



▸ The delegation from the Israel Law Center

From October 2025 through June 2026, Rambam welcomed multiple delegations as part of a series of visits organized by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visitors, from South Africa, the United States, and Europe, represented a broad cross-section of leadership and influence, including senators, mayors, state legislators, congressional staff, public officials, Jewish religious and community leaders, healthcare professionals, filmmakers, and journalists. Each delegation watched an audiovisual presentation, toured the campus and the Underground Hospital, gaining firsthand insight into Rambam's emergency preparedness, wartime response, and broader healthcare mission. The visitors returned home with a deeper understanding of Israel's societal and healthcare challenges.



▸ The delegation from the USA

On June 29, Biodesign Israel, the national healthtech innovation training program at Rambam, developed in collaboration with the Technion, and based on the Stanford Biodesign model, hosted its annual innovation funding award ceremony. Dr. Yona Vaisbuch, Rambam Deputy Director and Founding Director of Biodesign Israel, praised the recipients for their outstanding contributions to medical innovation.



▸ Dr. Yona Vaisbuch

In July, at an event at the Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, New York, Dr. Mekel led a presentation and lively discussion highlighting Rambam's strategic significance, groundbreaking medical innovations, contributions to improving global healthcare, and vision for the future.

For Rabbi Marc Schneier, congregants, and members of the Jewish community it was a meaningful opportunity to learn more about Rambam's transformative impact and the critical role philanthropy plays in the hospital's mission. We thank Bryce Diamond, Director of AFORAM, Northeast Region, for her assistance in arranging the event.



▸ L-R: Mona Sterling, David Sterling, and Dr. Michal Mekel



▸ L-R: Nathaniel Goldman, Bryce Diamond, Rabbi Marc Schneier, Dr. Michal Mekel, Meri and Sol Barer

Rambam supporters Mollie Wine and Jeffrey Silverman chose to honor the memory of their beloved dog, Steinway, in the most meaningful of ways. Rather than grieve quietly, Mollie and Jeffrey turned their loss into a gift – launching a fundraising campaign in Steinway's memory to benefit Rambam Canine Therapy Service. Steinway's legacy lives on through a program which brings comfort to patients in their most vulnerable moments. We thank Sari Arshadnia, Chief Major Gifts Officer at AFORAM, West Coast, who leads this friendship.



▸ Jeffrey and Mollie Wine and Sari Arshadnia

Each year, the Association of Friends of Rambam France (AFHORA) offers pediatric patients living with serious illnesses the opportunity to enjoy a memorable respite. From June 17–22, 12-year-old Emily and seven-year-old Rani, accompanied by their mothers, spent four unforgettable days exploring some of Paris's most iconic attractions: Disneyland Paris, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the dinosaur exhibition at the Atelier des Lumières, a cooking workshop, and a shopping trip at Galeries Lafayette. For children facing the challenges of serious illness, even a few days of carefree fun can have a profound impact on their emotional well-being. Special thanks to our friends in France and Joëlle Abitbol, President of AFHORA, for making this possible.



▸ Emily, Rani, and their mothers at the Eiffel Tower

A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR YOUNG PATIENTS

In October 2025, Rambam had the privilege of welcoming Naomi and Sharon Azrieli–recipients of the prestigious Rambam Award–together with representatives of The Azrieli Foundation from Canada and Israel for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center on the eighth floor of the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital. The Center is being established through the Foundation's transformational gift to Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Center and will positively impact the lives of pediatric patients for decades to come.

The ceremony included a tour of the site of the new Center, followed by the placement of a scroll signed by Naomi and Sharon Azrieli and Rambam's leadership inside a decorative capsule embedded in the cornerstone.

During the ceremony, Naomi emphasized the Foundation's commitment to healthcare. Prof. Miki Halberthal, Rambam's former Director General, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the



L-R: Danny Hakim, Naomi Azrieli, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Sharon Azrieli, Dr. Esty Golan, and Dr. Avi Weissman

Foundation for their visionary support, and Dr. Michal Mekel explained the significant impact of such a service. The delegation also met with two young patients already receiving rehabilitation services at Rambam.

The Rambam Award is traditionally presented at the annual Rambam Summit. However, as the family was unable to attend the 2025 event, we were honored to present the award during their visit in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Israel and humanity.

HEALING INVISIBLE BATTLES

On December 3rd we inaugurated the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Mental Health and Wellness Clinic off-campus in Haifa's City Center Mall in the presence of Soraya Nazarian and her daughter, Dr. Sharon Nazarian, President of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Family Foundation. The ceremony included remarks by Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav, Dr. Michal Mekel, Dr. Yael Caspi, Director of the Clinic, and IDF veteran Lior Levi. Dr. Caspi described the opening as "a dream realized to serve our veterans," while Levi spoke of the Clinic as a place where he feels "at home."

The event concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, plaque unveiling, and the dedication of We Will Dance Again, a striking sculpture created



L-R: Dr. Michal Mekel, Dr. Sharon Nazarian, and Soraya Nazarian

and donated by artist Soraya Nazarian, whose acclaimed stone carvings are exhibited internationally. The sculpture is displayed prominently in the Clinic lobby.

During the ceremony, Dr. Sharon Nazarian reinforced the Foundation's commitment to creating a lasting impact by supporting the healing of Israel's veterans in the heart of the city they care so deeply about–Haifa.

Since October 2023, Rambam has seen a sharp increase in the number of active-duty personnel and military veterans requiring support for post-traumatic stress disorder. Offering patients, a calm, warm, and welcoming environment outside the hospital is an integral part of Rambam's approach to addressing the emotional impact of trauma.

A GOLDEN MILESTONE
EMPOWERING NURSES THROUGH EDUCATION

Advancing nursing education remains a top priority at Rambam. On December 16, the hospital celebrated a meaningful Hanukkah tradition, marking the 50th Cheryl Spencer Nursing Scholarships Award Ceremony in the Cheryl Spencer Auditorium.

Among their many contributions to Rambam, Aaron Spencer and his late wife, Irma z"l, established the scholarship program in loving memory of their daughter, Cheryl, who was a nursing student at the time of her passing. Since its inception, the program has awarded 569 Cheryl Spencer Nursing Scholarships to Rambam nurses pursuing advanced clinical, managerial, leadership, and academic career pathways. This year, 14 outstanding nurses received scholarships.

Mark Spencer, now a member of the AFORAM



Scholarship recipients with Mark and Cole Spencer

Board, attended the ceremony and conveyed warm wishes from his father, Aaron. Cole Spencer, Mark's son, also attended, representing the third generation of the Spencer family's enduring friendship and commitment to Rambam.

A CORNERSTONE OF VISION

Ella Galil has championed several significant projects at Rambam. In November 2025, the hospital recognized her generous support of the Ella Galil Section in the Helmsley Fortified Critical Care Division at a ceremony emceed by Dr. Netanel Horowitz.

The event was especially meaningful as it coincided with Dr. Michal Mekel's first day in office as Rambam's Director General. In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Mekel reflected on the significance of the occasion, highlighting both



L-R: Inbar Shahaf, Ella Galil, Dr. Esty Golan, Dr. Michal Mekel.

Ella's extraordinary generosity and the shared vision they bring to Rambam's future.

Prof. Yaron Bar-Lavie, former Director of the Critical Care Division and Dr. Assaf Miller, Director of the Division of Critical Care Medicine, spoke about the vital importance of the new facility. Guests also viewed a short film about IDF Staff Sgt. Yonatan Ron who sustained a devastating leg injury after a 50-kilogram explosive device detonated during an operation in Jenin and whose life was saved at Rambam. Together with her late husband, Uzia Galil z"l, Ella has helped shape a legacy of visionary philanthropy rooted in innovation and community. The event also included the placement of a scroll, signed by Ella and Rambam's leadership, which was embedded in the cornerstone. Among those in attendance were her son and daughter-in-law, Doron and Shira Lavie, who share her commitment to Rambam; Prof. Beyar, Prof. Shachor-Meyouhas, Dr. Golan, Gila Hyams, and Inbar Shahaf, as well as many of Ella's family members and close friends.

Contact us now for more information on how you can impact the lives of the people of Israel

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