

Taking Command

The Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital Inaugurates a New Command Center Rambam Leads the Nation in Preventing and Treating PTSD

RAMBAM CELEBRATES

<u>years</u>

Highlights from the 2018 Rambam Summit

Supporters from around the world Swim From the Heart From Haifa to Guatemala Rambam's Humanitarian Earthquake Relief Effort

Eighty years of Excellence, Innovation and Humanity



RAMBAM 80 Health Care Campus



Dear Friends,

As we mark our 80th anniversary, Rambam continues to go strong! Our guests at this year's exciting Rambam Summit witnessed the impressive results of our energy and vision. This issue of Rambam on Call covers the opening of a new Command Center in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, gifted by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, headed by Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, and our new innovative center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) prevention and treatment. Herein you will rediscover Rambam's invaluable contribution to the security and resilience of our citizens during times of conflict and crisis.

I am also pleased to advise of an exciting expanded collaboration with Stanford University's School of Medicine; we are partnering on digital healthcare, medical innovations, natural and human-made mass casualty events response, and other cutting-edge healthcare issues. Closer to home, a national report has designated Rambam as Israel's leading hospital for innovative clinical research. In addition to our medical center being a trusted clinical research partner, our patients benefit from the most advanced therapies long before they are broadly available!

Several developments of note are contributing to the frontiers of novel therapeutics for our cancer patients, including completion of the linear accelerator and radiotherapy floors in the Joseph Fishman

Oncology Center, enabling patients to receive highly effective treatments with fewer side effects, along with other new technologies to combat cancer. Professor Irit Ben Aharon has been appointed to serve as Director of the Oncology Division and the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. She is a gifted and accomplished physician, researcher, and world renowned clinician scientist. We wish her the best of luck!

We have also marked two major milestones to ensure the future of healthcare in Northern Israel: the cornerstone has been laid for the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, and full-fledged construction of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital is now underway. These projects offer many exciting opportunities for donors wishing to have along term impact on our region, our nation, and the world of medical science.

I want to thank again all our friends and supporters from around the world. Your visionary support has helped to make these extraordinary achievements possible.

Yours, PROF. RAFI BEYAR

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Director and CEO Rambam Health Care Campus



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Director of the Marketing Department: Oded Mayer

Editor: Abbie Rosner

Producer: Merav Ganot

Senior Executive Editors: Inbar Shahaf, Shirley Erulkar

Photographers: Eran Yardeni, Pioter Fliter, Offer Golan, Netanel Ayzik, Nizan Zohar, Miki and Gal Koren, ziv koren, Shutterstock **Special Thanks:** Abigail Zohar, Deborah Hemstreet

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Graphic Design: Analia Dobovizki

Concept Director: Aviva Mezamer

CEO: Shoshi Asael Malka

Production: CONCEPT-Content Solutions Tel: 972-3-6386615 e-mail: aviva-m@yedioth.co.il All written and/or published content in *Rambam on Call* magazine is for general information purposes only and is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis and/or treatment or an endorsement for any medical or pharmaceutical product. All advice, diagnosis and treatment should be given in person by a physician and under his/her supervision.

Letters to the Editor: ROC@rambam.health.gov.il



Cover Photo: 80th anniversary concept: Raaya Gilboa Studio

A Physician and a Gentleman



Prof. Mogher Khamaisi

Introducing: Prof. Mogher Khamaisi, 47, Director of Rambam's Internal Medicine D Department, Specialist in Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, director of a basic research laboratory in Biology, and Professor at the Technion's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine

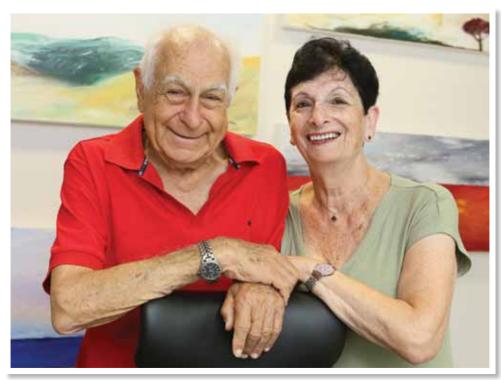
Kalmi Recanati, 75, wife of Mordechai Recanati, 79

Prof. Khamaisi: "My relationship with the Recanatis stems first and foremost from their characters. They are both sensitive, considerate, open, understanding, and easy to communicate with. Over time, with his many illnesses and hospital admissions, our connection grew stronger. Kalmi had immigrated to Israel from Egypt after the revolution of 1952, and we spoke of the time of Mohammad Naguib, Egypt's first president after the revolution, about Arabic language and literature, and Middle-Eastern culture and cuisine. Mordechai had worked, among others, as a tour guide in Cyprus, and we discussed places to visit. We found many different topics for conversation, above and beyond his illnesses.

The day we diagnosed his aortic aneurysm, I had to administer an exam to medical students at Tel Aviv University. I remember standing in a sea of people on a noisy train station platform, speaking with the intern at Internal Medicine D who was caring for Mordechai. I actually ordered him not to leave Mordechai's bedside, and only return to the department after he had transferred him to the care of the vascular surgeons. And that's what happened.

When Kalmi would text me in a panic over a change in Mordechai's condition, I would make every effort to explain things to her, to help her calm down. And when Mordechai and Kalmi came for checkups at the outpatient clinics, they would always surprise me with a visit. I was always so pleased to see them together.

I will always remember: "When we diagnosed Mordechai's aortic aneurysm, he was admitted to the Vascular Surgery Department, where he underwent surgery to implant a stent. I remember that I came to visit him in that department, which had a little porch. It was late when I got there, and Mordechai and Kalmi were sitting next to each other on the porch with their backs to me, quietly looking at the view. Seeing her dedication and their love, just like a pair of love birds, was the most touching sight."



Mordechai and Kalmi Recanati

Kalmi Recanati: "Our lives changed on the first of September 2017. It was a Friday, two days before Mordechai and I were supposed to leave on vacation. During lunch, he suddenly had a seizure and wasn't speaking coherently. We immediately called an ambulance to take him to Rambam, thinking he was having a stroke.

At the hospital, it became clear that it wasn't a stroke, and he was admitted to the Internal Medicine D Department. There we first met Prof. Khamaisi. Every morning at 7:00 AM, Prof. Khamaisi would come into Mordechai's room to ask how he was feeling. Again, at 7:00 PM before he went home, he would do the same. At the time, we didn't dream that he would be checking up on us many times during the months ahead.

Mordechai was in and out of the hospital, always for something different. Once it was a severe eye infection, then an aggressive bloodstream infection, and another time, poor kidney functioning. Once he developed an infected aortic aneurysm, which prevented him from eating properly. He lost weight, became weak and anemic, and Prof. Khamaisi used to jokingly ask him if he'd finished his shwarma sandwich, or if anyone had brought him one. He always humored him to try to get him to eat more.

When he developed life-threatening complications from the aortic aneurysm, Mordechai was admitted to the Vascular Surgery Department. There too, Prof. Khamaisi was in the picture. He visited Mordechai, gave him emotional support, and texted answers to my questions as soon as I asked them. He was always smiling, polite, and sensitive.

A few days before last Passover, Mordechai was hospitalized once again. At that point, we were experienced enough to ask specifically for him to be admitted to Internal Medicine D. The staff there had become like family, and the department director's door was always open to us. He was never patronizing to us; we were more like friends. Once, Prof. Khamaisi overheard me saying I was going to prepare stuffed zucchinis for my grandchildren, and he started to ask where I buy my zucchinis and how I prepare them. What department head talks with you about cooking and not just illnesses?

As Passover eve was approaching and our children were wondering how we would celebrate the holiday as a family, Prof. Khamaisi made sure that Mordechai was discharged so he could join us for the Seder.

We have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. When one of our granddaughters was about to finish her officer's course in the army, Mordechai was terribly disappointed that he wouldn't be able to attend. My daughter filmed the ceremony and we watched it on his phone in real time. That's how, from Mordechai's room in Internal Medicine D, we were able to share the joy and excitement, exactly as if we were there.





Emergency Situation

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Under Control

A New Command Center Opens in the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital

>> Abbie Rosner





Rambam has a vital role in protecting the northern population during war or emergency scenarios.... We are prepared for any eventuality. Prof. Rafi Beyar

nly about 50 kilometers -some 30 miles - separate Rambam from Israel's northern border, covering an area populated by over 1 million Israeli citizens. When violence erupts from the north, as happened during the 2006 Lebanon War, Rambam springs into action as the primary hospital treating the region's military and civilian casualties. Yet as Rambam experienced during that war, carrying out this mission while under missile fire jeopardized the safety of both patients and staff. For Rambam's leadership, this untenable situation inspired one of the most ambitious public safety initiatives in Israel's history.

Opened in 2014, the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital at Rambam is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the world. In peacetime, it serves as a 3-level parking lot. But within 72 hours, the space can be converted into a 2000-bed, full-service hospital, protected against both conventional and chemical weapons.



A Command Center Whose Time has Come

While the emergency hospital's original design specified a fortified central Command Center, its construction was postponed due to budgetary constraints. This meant that Rambam's wartime operations had to be coordinated from an unprotected, improvised control room situated on the hospital's main floor. In the event of missile attacks on Haifa, as experienced in 2006, the emergency management team would need to evacuate to a protected area, leaving this critical resource unmanned.

Now, thanks to a magnanimous \$1 Million donation from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, headed by Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein (in the photo below, with Prof. Rafi Beyar to his right, at the opening ceremony), the Command Center has been built, equipped, and is ready for service. With the new Command Center, Rambam's emergency management team will be able to focus on the mission at hand - treating incoming casualties and hospital patients - without fearing for their safety.

Preparing for Any Eventuality

The new Command Center was inaugurated in May with an official ceremony, attended by Rabbi Eckstein, senior figures from the Israel Defense Force's Northern Command, and other honored guests. Rambam's Director and CEO, Professor Rafi Beyar, affirmed the significance of the new facility and the importance of Rambam's valued friends in making it possible: "Rambam has a vital role in protecting the northern population during war or emergency scenarios. With a practical vision and help of many friends, we established the Sammy



Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. Today we completed the mission so that we can respond to emergency events in the best possible way for the hundreds of patients expected to reach us from the entire northern region. We are prepared for any eventuality".

Rabbi Eckstein spoke movingly of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews' commitment to supporting life-saving projects in Israel, and the organization's role in renovating shelters, outfitting first-responders, and purchasing equipment and fortifying hospitals in conflict zones. "In these days of tension on the northern border and the Gaza Strip," Rabbi Eckstein explained, "it is important for us to make sure that the rescue forces are equipped with the best technologies to deal with any situation and treatment of casualties. I hope the Command Center inaugurated will enable the wonderful staff of Rambam to cope with any situation, in order to be able

to treat and save the lives of northern residents and Israeli security forces."

Located on the 1st level of the 3-level underground hospital, the Command Center is built around a central, closed room, equipped with the essential computing and communication technologies needed to control the entire hospital during an emergency situation. Special emergency software, developed by Rambam's Information Technology Unit, generates real-time updates on the conditions of each patient in the hospital and each new admission, as well as the status of the blood bank, operating rooms and other essential functions. This information is displayed on monitors in the Command Center and also transmitted to the Ministry of Health. Additionally, the software provides functional support for any one of dozens of potential scenarios. Cameras located throughout Rambam's campus deliver images to the Control Center, enabling monitoring of above-ground activity.



monument

Preventing PISD Before it Happens

A new program using IDF research is building Israel's resiliency

>> Abbie Rosner

n a country that doesn't ask whether there will be another war, but only when it will happen, Rambam is stepping up to contain the inevitable fallout. Dr. Eyal Fruchter, Rambam's new Director of the Division of Psychiatry and a leading expert on suicide prevention and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), has established a new multidisciplinary center for PTSD prevention and treatment, designed to help those involved in traumatic situations recover without suffering debilitating psychological consequences.

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Medical Consultant:



Dr. Eyal Fruchter Chairman Division of Psychiatry Rambam Health Care Campus

Dr. Fruchter joined Rambam three years ago after a long and distinguished career in the Medical Corps of the Israel Defense Forces, from which he retired in 2014 as head of the Mental Health Department. During his IDF tenure, Dr. Fruchter conducted an extensive research and prevention program that significantly reduced suicides among soldiers. Another pioneering line of research, in collaboration with the US Department of Defense, examined how the brain processes trauma, aiming to help soldiers develop the resilience and resources to cope with traumatic situations. The insights from this research underlie Rambam's new PTSD-prevention efforts.

Action over Emotion

As part of their PTSD research, Dr. Fruchter and colleague Prof. Talma Hendler, used functional MRI to scan the brains of soldiers likely to be exposed to highly stressful situations - before and during their active duty.

Dr. Fruchter: "The soldiers were assessed at baseline during a stress training, and again after about a year. Among soldiers with greater symptoms of PTSD at the follow-up screening, their baseline scans revealed an over-active amygdala - the area of the brain responsible for memory and emotions. This over-activity proved to be a main factor in predicting later PTSD.

"We observed that the wave of intense emotions elicited by trauma can effectively 'freeze,' and repeat itself over and over, manifesting as symptoms of depression or PTSD." But we also found that engaging the pre-frontal area of the brain, which controls executive functioning and the ability to choose our actions, immediately following the trauma can prevent this from happening. Teaching first responders a simple set of communication skills focusing on 'cognitive speech' which activates the pre-frontal area instead of 'emotional speech' which activates the amygdala, could help steer trauma victims towards a healthier recovery.

"Many first responders ask trauma victims how they feel. This well intentioned question, however, can flood the victim with emotions that refuse to dissipate. However, presenting the victim with an operative question, such as 'can you sit up or would you like to drink some water?' can prevent this from happening, and make all the difference for their eventual outcome."

Creating a Multidisciplinary PTSD Center at Rambam

After retiring from the IDF, Dr. Fruchter was invited to collaborate on PTSD treatment and prevention through a fellowship at the University of Southern California. After a productive and enjoyable year in LA, the return to Israel was obvious. The question was, to where.

"Rambam leads the country in trauma care, treating all serious trauma cases in the north. It will also be the home-front hospital if a war at our northern border erupts. Yet relatively little was being done at the hospital for trauma in terms of mental health. I saw an opportunity to bring to Rambam the work we had done in the military, with its focus on prevention, treatment and early intervention.

"When I shared my vision to create a multidisciplinary center for PTSD prevention and treatment with Professors Beyar and Skorecki, they were enthusiastic. While most Israeli hospitals are simply struggling to keep their heads above water, Rambam's leadership has an exceptional ability to look to the future. They welcomed my ideas and pledged their support."

A Unique Approach to PTSD Prevention and Care

The new Trauma Center established by Dr. Fruchter and Dr. Talma Cohen was launched in July 2018, and aims not only to provide the best, evidence-based care to patients with PTSD, but also to build resilience to trauma among the citizens of northern Israel. To achieve this ambitious goal, the center has adopted an innovative threetiered approach to prevention and care.

At the heart of the new center is a **Primary and Secondary Prevention** outreach program which employs a low-cost intervention that can prevent the development of PTSD after a major disaster. An interdisciplinary team of psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists and nurses visits communities across northern Israel, where they teach first responders, teachers and social workers a relatively simple set of communication skills to use when treating trauma victims. According to Dr. Fruchter, after this four-hour course, they will be able to guide those under their care to healthier outcomes. The center also



Dr. Eyal Fruchter and Dr. Talma Cohen with the clinic team

works in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the IDF's Northern Command to provide expert guidance to their teams in the region in emergency situations.

The center's Tertiary Prevention program employs a second interdisciplinary team, fluent in Hebrew and Arabic and expert in treating patients of all ages who come to the center suffering the after-effects of trauma. The center offers excellent evidence-based tertiary care for the most complex cases of PTSD from throughout the north.

Research is a strong component of the new center, and data is being collected on the risk factors for developing PTSD and other outcomes of trauma, early intervention techniques and their success in reducing PTSD, and physiological and chemical changes during the peri-trauma period, which could help determine who is at risk of later development of PTSD.

As Dr. Fruchter notes, "Addressing the entire spectrum of PTSD care in one institution makes our center here at Rambam unique, in Israel if not in the world. By starting with primary prevention, we avoid the risk of being overwhelmed with the secondary and tertiary cases. In this regard, the new center will provide an important international resource, based on objective data, for PTSD prevention and treatment."



Biological Pacemakers, Epigenetics and Epilepsy Surgery



The Epileptic Brain - from Bondage to Freedom

Dr. Mony Benifla, Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery

bout one-third of Israelis with epilepsy do not respond to drug treatments, and multiple seizures can limit their daily lives. For some children with drug-resistant epilepsy, a surgical solution can be the answer. Rambam is one of two centers in Israel offering this procedure, at the Zukier Family Comprehensive Epilepsy Center of Excellence. First we do extensive pre-surgical evaluations to try to identify the functional and seizure-causing areas of the patient's brain. After that, we open the skull

to expose the patient's brain, place multiple electrodes on different sites across the brain surface, then close the scalp. The patient is then monitored for several days, during which time verbal and operational tests enable us to create a precise map showing the source of the seizures and surrounding functional areas. The surgeon can then safely remove that area of the brain without impacting any essential functioning. Children who have undergone this procedure have been cured and now live normal lives.

For children with drug-resistant epilepsy, surgery can leave them seizure-free.

A group of stellar clinicians and researchers treated Rambam Summit guests to an inside look into the future of medicine as it is being shaped today at Rambam. Following are highlights from some of these talks:



The Heart -Healing Power of Stem Cells

Dr. Oren Caspi, Cardiologist, Department of Cardiology

wenty years ago, Rambam's Prof. Joseph Itzkovitz-Eldor was one of the pioneers who first generated human embryonic stem cells. Since then, we have been advancing stem cell research to develop groundbreaking approaches to personalized medicine. We are now able to use stem cell technologies to create unique cardiac cells from a patient's skin sample, which allow us to evaluate the effects of different drugs before they are administered to the patients. We are also

testing stem cell technologies that can actually renew damaged cardiac tissue to improve heart functioning - a promising new approach for treating congestive heart failure. At Rambam, we are also excited to be part of a global, multicenter clinical study now testing this approach for the first time on human patients! In addition, we can now differentiate and replicate cardiac cells responsible for the heart's beating function, and are leveraging this ability to create a new type of "biological pacemaker."

At Rambam, we are developing the next generation of treatments for Congestive Heart Failure.







On Small Children, Hope and Modern Medicine

Dr. Daniella Magen, Director of the Pediatric Nephrology

hen we established the pediatric nephrology center at Rambam twenty years ago, dialysis for infants was relatively new and the outcomes were often poor. But after successfully treating Miri, our first infant at the center, extending her life until she could receive a kidney transplant at age two, we developed an expertise in dialysis for very young children. Our excellent interdisciplinary team gained experience, the technologies improved, and the equipment got smaller and better.

This served us well due to Rambam's unique patient population, which has a disproportionately high prevalence of genetic diseases, including those associated with kidney disorders. We found ourselves treating a higher relative number of infants compared to any other hospital in Israel or the world - with great success. Now, advances in genetic science have given us access to new treatments for children who in the past had little chance of survival.

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I will never forget the first time I performed dialysis on an infant.





Heredity Extends beyond DNA

Dr. Yuval Ginsberg, Obstetrician Gynecologist, Deputy Director, Obstetrics Department

ore than a thousand years after Maimonides, "the Rambam," described the essential elements needed for human health, scientists are now looking at our DNA, and beyond, to understand the factors that determine our wellbeing. Researchers post-WWII first demonstrated that a mother's experiences during pregnancy can strongly determine her child's future health. They found that babies born during war, famine and other stressful situations tend to be smaller and less robust. Even more, an

Israeli study found that babies born during wartime were at a higher risk of developing mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and ADHD, than those born during peacetime. These external factors actually modify the way that the infant's genes are expressed. The study of this phenomenon is known as "epigenetics". Epigenetic studies are now moving beyond early infancy, and findings are being applied to develop new drugs that can activate or disable specific genes, for example, to break down resistance to chemotherapy drugs.



What exactly determines how long we will live, and our chances for a healthy life?







It Takes a Village to Raise a Surgeon

Dr. Shurouk Nara, Intern in the Ear Nose and Throat, and Head and Neck Surgery Department

was born and raised in Nazareth, the only daughter in a Christian Arab family. Ever since I was a child, I knew I wanted to be a surgeon. My parents fully supported my choices, and fortunately, everything worked in my favor. I was accepted into a PhD program for cancer research at the Technion, and an internship at Rambam. I received a Futures research scholarship from Rambam, which supported my work with my mentor, Prof. Ziv Gil, and others, studying tumors of the thyroid gland. I was especially proud

when one of our studies was featured as the cover story of the prestigious medical journal *Nature*. My message to any young woman who dreams of being a surgeon, or pilot or director, is to love and believe in yourself. As soon as you believe in yourself, others will believe in you as well. Little by little, you will create the village in which you can grow. And in the future, we will be judged only by our professionalism - not religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. And then, even the sky won't be the limit.

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Today a woman can study what she wants, and do what she loves.



3rd Annual Swim From the Heart – May 25, 2018







he chilly Mediterranean waters of Haifa Bay didn't deter longtime friend and supporter of Rambam, Dr. Levy Gerzberg, along with Israelis Guy Cohen and Ori Sela who have taken part in Rambam's previous swims, and with a delegation of swimmers and their families, who came from the United States to participate in the 3rd Annual **Swim From the Heart** swimathon. **Swim From the Heart** is a joint project of **Rambam, Haifa municipality, Shvoong and AFORAM**, which is timed to open the Rambam Summit festivities.



This year, the splashy fundraising event, which was established by Dr. Gerzberg to benefit research at Rambam on Sudden Cardiac Death Syndrome, attracted over 500 swimmers to support this life-saving cause. Coming in first place in one of the heats was the daughter of one of Rambam's dedicated nurses. The excited swimmers were treated to massages from students at the Reidman College of Complementary and Integrative Medicine.

Impressions from the Unforgettable 2018 Rambam Summit



he Rambam Summit this year highlighted two very special anniversaries - 80 years for Rambam and 70 years for the State of Israel. Using the lens of history, the Summit showcased Rambam's remarkable transition from a small provincial hospital to an internationally renowned center for healthcare and research.

Leading up to the Summit, on May 25th hundreds of swimmers from Israel and abroad took part in the annual Swim from the Heart fundraiser to benefit research on sudden cardiac death syndrome. At Rambam, an Appreciation Ceremony was held to honor the Leir Charitable Foundations and the numerous ways it has supported Rambam Health Care Campus throughout the years.

This year's annual Rambam-Haifa Health of Tomorrow Conference, titled "Back to the Future," was opened by Knesset Member and Deputy Minister of Health, Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, and Or Shahaf, CEO of Haifa Economic Corporation. Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, recipient of a 2018 Rambam Award, delivered the keynote lecture on the state of the art in healthcare, and was followed by a series of "TED-talk" style lectures by Rambam clinicians on the medical trends of the past and future, and a panel discussion on Health Care 2025 and Beyond.

In a program highlighting the Start-Up Hospital in the Start-Up Nation, Summit guests were welcomed for a VIP tour of MindUP, the digital







medicine technology incubator where Rambam is a strategic clinical partner. Back at Rambam's Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, guests visited the new, state-of-the-art Radiation Therapy Institute, and heard lectures with demonstrations of medical devices created using a 3-D printer.

Also during the Summit, history was made for Rambam Health Care Campus with the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. Mr. Sandor Frankel, representing the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, was joined by Prof. Rafi Beyar and Prof. Ron Robin, President of the University of Haifa, among many other distinguished guests, at this festive event.

The 80th Anniversary Gala Evening offered guests from Israel and abroad an unforgettable program, including a breathtaking sound and light show projected onto the walls of Rambam's original structure. Highlighting the evening was the ceremony bestowing the 2018 Rambam Awards. Prof. Rafi Beyar received a special surprise, when he was bestowed with a Rambam Award as well!

The Rambam Summit is a unique opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, witness the latest developments in medical science, and express your support for Israel. We hope you'll consider joining us at the 2019 Rambam Summit!



The 2018 – Rambam Award Recipients

Honoring Exceptional Lives with Extraordinary Impact



Mr. Adam O. Emmerich

Mr. Emmerich is a lifelong New Yorker, partner in a highly successful law practice, and is renowned as a world leader in mergers and acquisitions. After graduating with honors from University of Chicago Law School, he completed a clerkship at the US Court of Appeals, and was invited to join the prestigious Wachtell Lipton law firm, where within five years he was named as a partner. Mr. Emmerich's professional success is matched by his commitment to a thriving Jewish community. He serves on the boards and committees of multiple organizations supporting Jewish and Israeli education and culture. As the President of American Friends of Rambam (AFORAM), Mr. Emmerich has had an inestimable impact on the lives of the people of Northern Israel through his efforts to promote Rambam Health Care Campus throughout the United States.



Professor Joseph Itzkovitz-Eldor

Professor Itzkovitz-Eldor is an internationally recognized expert in in vitro fertilization, and a pioneer in the field of human embryonic stem cell research. In 1983 he established the first in vitro fertilization clinic at Rambam, one of the first in Israel, and developed a protocol that has improved in vitro fertilization outcomes for countless women. Professor Itzkovitz-Eldor was a member of the groundbreaking team that first derived human embryonic stem cells, and in 1998 he established one of the world's first embryonic stem cell labs at the Technion. His expert testimony to a White House committee and the National Institutes of Health contributed to a milestone decision on stem cell research policy. In 2000, Professor Itzkovitz-Eldor was the first to successfully differentiate heart cells from human embryonic stem cells. He is now collaborating with biomedical innovators, applying his expertise to develop new medical applications. Professor Itzkovitz-Eldor's contributions to the embryonic stem cell field have opened an entire new area of research and are shaping the future of medicine in Israel and worldwide.



Dr. Elizabeth Nabel

A cardiovascular specialist, researcher and public health advocate, Dr. Nabel has made seminal contributions to patient health, medical science and national and global health care policy. After holding key leadership positions at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the US National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, she returned to Harvard University's affiliated hospital, Brigham Health, to serve as its first woman president. Dr. Nabel has made notable achievements as a healthcare innovator, with numerous patents and publications on the molecular genetics of cardiovascular diseases, and as a humanitarian and champion of women's health policy and gender-based science. A member of many of the world's most prestigious professional associations and recipient of numerous honors. Dr. Nabel is a valued scientific collaborator, whose worldwide research network includes Rambam Health Care Campus.



Professor Rafael (Rafi) Beyar

Uncompromising excellence in medical education, healthcare, and research innovation have been the lifelong professional goals of Professor Beyar. Drawing insights from his work as an interventional cardiologist, Professor Beyar established himself as an international leader in the field through the development of a new type of cardiac stent and a robotic cardiac catheterization system, which changed the standard of care for millions of patients. After serving as Dean of the Technion's Faculty of Medicine, he became Director and CEO of Rambam, building the hospital to international prominence and forging academic-clinical connections that would eventually position Rambam as a global research epicenter. Professor Beyar's unwavering vision, drive, and commitment to excellent healthcare and state of the art research led to the development of Rambam's new West Campus, one of the most ambitious hospital expansion projects in Israeli history. Creating bridges between Rambam's clinical expertise and Israel's biomedical industries, Professor Beyar has paved the way for the next generation of healthcare innovation.



From Haifa to Guatemala *Rambam Physician Cares for Volcano Victims*



Dr. Eyal Fuchs in Guatemala

A fter a deadly volcanic eruption in southern Guatemala claimed over 100 lives, injured many more, and devastated the region, the country's president issued an urgent call for help. The Israeli government swiftly responded by organizing and dispatching an official delegation to support the rescue efforts.

Since many of the disaster victims suffered from burns and inhalation of smoke and volcanic ash, the humanitarian delegation included burn specialists and pulmonologists, including Dr. Eyal Fuchs of Rambam's Pulmonary Institute.

Dr. Fuchs reported that, after receiving a briefing from the representatives of the Ministry of Health, the delegation first attended to the most serious victims, hospitalized in the Guatemalan capital. They then traveled to the disaster site to treat those in local hospitals. "The teams here know their work; we were here to support and guide them."

Rambam is internationally renowned for its expertise in emergency trauma care. When earthquakes, floods and other disasters strike in locations around the world, Rambam physicians are the first to volunteer for this humanitarian service.



Rambam Honors its Visitors and Hosts from Around the World



MedNavigator and European Clinic Visit, Russia March, 2018



B. Braun Executive Visit, USA March, 2018



David Einbinder Visit. USA March, 2018



Tbilisi State Medical University Delegation Visit, Republic of Georgia

March, 2018



American College of Surgeons **Delegation Visit**, USA

April, 2018



Sammy Ofer Stadium Management Visit, Israel



Sister Ruth Lautt **Delegation Visit**, USA

April, 2018



Rawan Al-Faqir, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Visit, Jordan April, 2018



Delegation of Physicians from China Visit, China April, 2018



Delegation from Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston Visit. USA

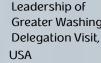


Delegation of Brazilian Doctors Visit, Brazil

Shneider Family Visit,



April, 2018

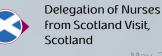


USA

Greater Washington



Bet Aviv Congregation of Columbia, MD Visit,



May, 2018



Mashav International Trauma Course, Brazil, China, Austria, Germany, Cyprus, Israel, USA



Dov Moran Visit.



Galilee College African Healthcare **Delegation Visit**, Nigeria, UK, Uganda, Kenya



Delegation from China Visit, China



Visit by Mayor of lasi, Romania, Mr. Mihai Chirica, Romania



Student Delegation from Stony Brook Visit, USA



Canadian Jewish Agency Student Visit, Canada



Mashav Cadet Course, Israel



Visit by Mrs. and Mr. Jarosch, Germany



Maccabi Fun Run, UK







Snapshots March 2018 - May 2018



L-R: CJP's "wonder-woman" Marjorie Patkin presents Dr. Esty Golan with a token of appreciation, with Prof. Marcia Javitt

The **CJP Women's Philanthropy Group of Boston**, MA visited Rambam and was welcomed by **Dr. Esty Golan**. Women's Health Through the Life Cycle was the topic of a panel discussion moderated by **Prof. Marcia Javitt**, where **Prof. Myriam Ben Arush**, **Dr. Hagit Baris-Feldman**, **Dr. Amnon Amit** and **Dr. Georgeta Fried** discussed their important work caring for women and children with the latest developments in technology, treatments and research in innovative solutions for the near future.

March 2018



The Gutwirth family with Prof. Rafi Beyar and Rambam staff

Gutwirth family members from around the world were honored for their generous, ongoing support of Rambam at an unveiling ceremony held during their recent, annual visit to Israel. Prof. Rafi Beyar and Dr. Esty Golan hosted the family, who heard insights on cutting-edge research from Prof. Lior Gepstein, Prof. Naim Shehadeh and the Technion's Prof. Shai Shen-Orr. The visit concluded with a tour of the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital and the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. The Gutwirth Fund was established in honor of the late Aaron Gutwirth.

March 2018



Morris and Lilian Esquenazi

Lilian and Morris Esquenazi and their family were welcome guests to Rambam during their springtime visit from Mexico to Israel. The Esquenazi family was honored at an unveiling ceremony at Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, revealing two plaques in the rooms the family donated in the Pediatrics A Department, in honor of Lilian and Morris' parents. The guests met with Inbar Shahaf and Shirley Erulkar from Rambam's International Relations Department, and toured the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital.



R-L: Rick Hirschhaut, Zahava Cedar, Women's Luncheon Chair, Sari Arshadnia, Ilana Golan, Michal Mekel, MD and Becky Bausman

Over 100 guests from the greater Silicon Valley attended The Women Who Inspire Luncheon at the magnificent Filoli Gardens. The program included a dynamic panel discussion on "Inspired Women Lead: Stepping Up, Using our Voices and Sharing our Stories," moderated by communications strategist **Becky Bausman**, and featuring hi-tech entrepreneur **Ilana Golan** and Rambam's **Dr. Michal Mekel**. Proceeds from the event benefited the Mrs. Edith and Prof Dov Katz High-Risk Obstetrics unit at Rambam.

April 2018



L-R: Prof. Ron Epelbaum, Dr. Esty Golan, Irena Altonin, Orna Keren, Inbar Shahaf and Shirley Erulkar

When **Sergey Altonin**, an ICU nurse at Rambam, unexpectedly passed away, his mother, **Irena Altonin** decided to make a donation in his memory to the institution he loved and dedicated his life to serve. This moving gift was honored in a special plaque-unveiling ceremony outside a patient room in the Chemotherapy Department of the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, where Irena received a certificate of appreciation from Dr. **Esty Golan** and **Prof. Ron Epelbaum**, along with a booklet containing all of Sergey's publications and certificates.

May 2018



L-R: Solvejg and William Brown, Deborah Hemstreet, Dr Leon Levi and Friends

36 years ago, **Solvejg Brown** came to Rambam from Norway to volunteer as a nurse during the 1982 Lebanon War, and ended up staying and serving the hospital for 10 years. During the 2018 Rambam Summit, a special ceremony honored Solvejg and her husband **William Brown** for their enduring friendship and support since that time. Rambam's **Deborah Hemstreet**, a close friend of the couple, spoke movingly of her gratitude to the Browns for their work on Rambam's behalf, in Israel and in Norway.

May 2018



L-R: Prof. Myriam Ben Arush, Prof. Amir Kugelman, Prof. Allon Friedman, Prof. Karl Skorecki, Rick Hirschhaut

Two generations of healthcare professionals were honored at a festive ceremony held during the 2018 Rambam Summit. **Prof. Allon Friedman**, a nephrologist, received a certificate of appreciation from **Prof. Karl Skorecki**, Director of Medical and Research Development, and **Prof. Amir Kugelman**, Director of the Department of Neonatology and Neonatal ICU, for his donation of a physician's fellowship in memory of his father, **Prof. Zvi Friedman**, who served as Director of Neonatology and the Neonatal ICU at Rambam from 1988–1989.

May 2018



The winning team members: L-R: Zachary Gold, Manny Nagel and Caroline Waxman

Students from New Jersey's Frisch School were declared winners of a **Rambam Innovation Award** in a contest to design a system that would support Rambam's work in emergency preparedness. The contest, a joint project of the **Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE)** and AFORAM, was extended to Jewish high schools in the New York tri-state area. The winning design was for an "Illuminate and Evacuate" system to facilitate mass evacuation of large buildings using sensors that detect obstructed exits and LED lighting to illuminate the most efficient exit paths.



Snapshots June 2018



L-R Carry Lee and Alex Deutsch

Longtime and esteemed friends, **Alex Deutsch** and **Carry** Lee, visited Rambam during their annual visit to Israel from their home in Argentina. They were hosted at a plaqueunveiling ceremony honoring their latest gift to benefit the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center. The couple also toured Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, where they saw the latest developments in pediatric care for Rambam's young patients.

June 2018



CIJA Delegation with Prof. Karl Skorecki and Abigail Zohar in the courtyard of the historic stone building

A special delegation of medical students from Canada, organized by the **Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)** and led by Associate Director of Missions, **Rebecca Ash**, was greeted at Rambam by **Prof. Karl Skorecki**, Director of Medical and Research Development. After receiving an overview of innovations, technologies, research and outreach programs originating at Rambam, the group visited the new West Campus facilities and the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital.

June 2018



The Kingdom Builders Australia/US Delegation with Prof. Rafi Beyar,Eitan Drori, Inbar Shahaf and Abigail Zohar

A delegation from the **Kingdom Builders of Australia/US**, led by **John Dingemanse**, visited Rambam at the initiative of Eitan Drori, mentor of the Australian Friends of Rambam. Rambam's Director and CEO, **Prof. Rafi Beyar**, presented an overview of the hospital. At the Joan and Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, the visitors heard about care given to patients from beyond Israel's borders. A tour of the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital emphasized the importance of secure health care under fire.



Prof. Mogher Khamaisi, Mr. Ali Ata, Mr. Eyad Tabahi and the Palestinian Student Scholarship Fund

Following a visit to Rambam several months ago, on June 26, members of the Board of the **Palestinian Student Scholarship Fund** in Chicago, IL, held a festive dinner honoring **Prof. Mogher Khamaisi**, Director of Rambam's Internal Medicine D Department and Diabetes Stem Cell Lab, for his outstanding achievements in the medical field. **Mr. Eyad Tabahi**, PSSF Board Member, and **Mr. Ali Ata**, PSSF President, addressed the guests at the event, which took place at Chicago's Alhambra Palace.

June 2018

June 2018



Yariv Ben David with the Arizona students at the Emergency Medicine Department

Students from Arizona participating in the TAM-C Intel Security program visited Rambam for a study day on security management of a Level One Hospital in peace and wartime. With their host, Yariv Ben David, Deputy Director of Rambam's Security Department and Director of Pharmacy Logistics and Planning, the group toured the Security Dispatch, learned about the Mass Casualty Scenario Security Concept at the Emergency Medicine Department, and visited the new Command Center of the Sammy Ofer Fortified Emergency Underground Hospital.

June 2018



Dr. Tim Evans with Dr. Miki Halberthal visiting the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital

Dr. Tim Evans, Senior Director of Health, Nutrition and Population for the World Bank, who has been at the forefront of advancing global health for over 20 years, was hosted by **Prof. Karl Skorecki** and **Dr. Miki Halberthal** for a program that highlighted digital medicine innovations, including meetings with **Dan Schwartzman**, CEO of MindUP Digital Medicine Incubator, **Or Shahaf**, CEO of Haifa Economic Corp., a presentation by **Prof. Yehuda Chowers** on digital healthcare, and a demonstration by **Yossi Tzur**, CEO of SYSTechnologies of the latest clean room system technologies at Rambam.

June 2018



L-R: Miriam Glueck, Inbar Shahaf, Omer Cedar, Rachel Cedar, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Liora Utitz and Hagit Avneri

Omer and Rachel Cedar were greeted by **Prof. Amos Etzioni** and **Prof. Marcia Javitt** before embarking on an extensive Rambam tour, starting with a personalized walk-through with **Prof. Rafi Beyar** during an Emergency Drill of the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital. **Prof. Myriam Ben Arush** welcomed the Cedars to Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, where they had a heartwarming meeting with **Prof. Kugelman** in the Neonatal ICU for an update on the two isolation rooms founded by the Cedar Family.



Arthur and Trudy Weiss with the plaque honoring the D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation

During their recent visit to Rambam, **Trudy and Arthur Weiss**, longtime friends of Rambam, were greeted by **Prof. Rafi Beyar** and given a detailed update on the new developments on campus. After a guided tour of the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital and the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital, the Weiss's stopped to see the plaque of appreciation for the D. Dan and Betty Kahn Foundation, honoring the donation and founding of the new Pediatric Pulmonary Unit in the foundation's name.

June 2018



Rambam International Relations

Snapshots June – August 2018



Joelle Abitbul with one of the families during their visit to Paris

On June, **Joelle Abitbol**, Director of the French Friends of Rambam, held an event in Paris to raise funds that will enable severely ill children hospitalized at Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, and their families, to visit France for a few days of fun and relief.

June 2018



L-R: Merav Weissman, Dr. Esty Golan, Noam Gdalihu, Inbar Shahaf

Israelis have long enjoyed the coffee at the **Aroma Cafe** chain. Recently, Aroma's management decided to make a third donation to Rambam, this time to support the Left Ventricular Assistance Device program, benefiting severe heart disease patients not eligible for heart transplants. In recognition of their gift, **Dr. Esty Golan** and **Inbar Shahaf** presented a certificate of appreciation to **Noam Gdalihu**, head of Aroma's Community Responsibility program.

June 2018



L-R: Sandra Joel, Mayor Enid Weisman, Commissioner Billy Joel, former N. Miami Mayor John Stembridge

Aventura Mayor **Enid Weisman** and leaders and members of South Florida's Jewish community attended a luncheon at Turnberry Island Resort's Corsair Restaurant organized by **Sue Baron**, AFORAM's Southeast Region Director. At the luncheon, **Prof. Lior Gepstein**, Director of Rambam's Cardiology Department and Stem Cell Therapy Lab, spoke about new advances in stem cell therapies, and their promise for treating heart diseases and other illnesses affecting the elder population.

July 2018



Australian Friends keeping in shape in the "Circle of Health"

The **Australian Friends of Rambam** (AUSFORAM) in Melbourne, directed by **Vered Harel**, has created "Circle of Health," an educational and fundraising program focused on awareness, prevention and management of diabetes, cancer, and other conditions. In addition to a weekly Sunday Walk and Talk program, Zumba and Yoga activities, the Circle held a **Community Health day** on August 12 that emphasized a variety of traditional Day and alternative approaches to optimal health.

August 2018



L-R: Richard S. Hirschhaut, Prof. Ora Israel, Dr. Hedvig Hricak, Sandor Frankel, Ruth Frankel, Prof. Rafi Beyar

At AFORAM's 2018 Awards Gala in New York City, a warm and appreciative audience watched as Rambam Director and CEO, **Prof. Rafi Beyar**, AFORAM President, **Adam Emmerich** and AFORAM National Executive Director, **Richard S. Hirschhaut** bestowed the Global Health Leadership Award upon the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, and Trustee Sandor Frankel, in honor of the Trust's recent landmark gift enabling the establishment of the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. Also honored was **Dr. Hedvig**



L - R (bottom): Asher Golan, Dr. Esty Golan, Ruth Frankel, Sandor Frankel, Adam Emmerich. L-R (top): Shahram Yaghoubzadeh, Chairman, Fred Ohebshalom, Vice President, Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York, Ed Blank, Kenneth Abramowitz

Hricak, Chair of the Radiology Department at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, who received the Inaugural Scientific Achievement Award for her innovative achievements in diagnostic medicine and for her contributions as a member of Rambam's International Scientific Advisory Board. Guests at the dinner enjoyed a special musical program that featured Israeli singer/songwriter David Broza, and bid on an exciting selection of offerings at a silent auction.

April 2018



L-R: Prof. Rafi Beyar, Orly Ben Dahan, Prof. Yehuda Ullmann, Israel Zvi Marcus, Dr. Yitshak Ramon

A generous gift from the **Eugen Jenoe Foundation**, enabling the refurbishing of Rambam's Burns Unit, was the most recent expression of the foundation's longtime support of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department. At an Opening Ceremony for the renovated Burns Unit, **Israel Zvi Marcus**, the foundation's representative in Israel, and **Varda Swager**, the former head nurse of the Plastic Surgery Department and niece of the donors, received a certificate of appreciation from **Prof. Rafi Beyar** and **Prof. Yehuda Ullmann**, Director of the Plastic Surgery Department. The Burns Unit, headed by **Dr. Yitshak Ramon**, treats the most serious burn patients from throughout northern Israel.

May 2018



Donor Spotlight Rambam Honors Aaron and Irma Spencer



Irma Spencer, Prof. Hanna Admi and Aaron Spencer



Irma and Aaron Spencer at the 2011 Cheryl Spencer Nursing Scholarships ceremony

A fter the tragic passing of Cheryl Spencer, a young nursing student, her parents, Aaron and Irma, were moved to memorialize and carry on their daughter's life-mission. A rabbi at the *shiva* in Boston introduced the Spencers to two visiting nurses from Rambam. That chance meeting led to the establishment of one of the most important and impactful scholarship programs in the field of nursing in Israel.

Over the past 40 years, 461 Cheryl Spencer Nursing Scholarships have been awarded to distinguished Rambam nurses to support their graduate studies, elevating the nursing profession to the highest academic standards. The Spencers further commemorated their daughter with the establishment of the beautifully appointed Cheryl Spencer Auditorium, Rambam's largest assembly hall, where the Cheryl Spencer Scholarship Awards ceremony is held each year, as well as numerous conferences, staff meetings, special events, and the Spencer Center for Nursing and Medical Training. Most recently, another generous gift from the Spencers enabled the establishment of the Cheryl Spencer Pediatric Emergency Department at the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital.

Irma and Aaron Spencer are greatly appreciated as valued members of the Board of Directors of American Friends of Rambam. Their extraordinary efforts to perpetuate their daughter Cheryl's love of nursing by uplifting the lives of countless beneficiaries are worthy of our deepest admiration.



SPECIAL EVENTS



Leir Charitable Foundations representatives receiving the Maimonides Friendship Circle Certificate

Appreciating the Leir Charitable Foundations' Longtime Friendship and Support

Rambam recently honored the late Henry J. and Erna Leir and the Leir Charitable Foundations they established at a special appreciation ceremony held during the 2018 Rambam Summit. Prof. Rafi Beyar, Rambam's Director and CEO, presented Ms. Margot Gibis, President of the Leir Charitable Foundations, with a Maimonides Friendship Circle Certificate, and spoke of the extraordinary, decades-long partnership between the Leir Charitable Foundations and Rambam, which has benefitted countless patients over the years. While foundation board members, global Friends of Rambam leaders and Rambam staff looked on, a plague was unveiled at the Radiotherapy Department at Joseph Fishman Oncology Center and the Pediatric Emergency Examination Area in the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, established through gifts from the Leir Charitable Foundations. The Leir Foundations guests also toured the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital with Prof. Rafi Beyar and Dr. Esty Golan.



L-R Sammy Niego, Adnan Diab, Prof. Benny Brener, Malka Niego and Prof. Rafi Beyar

Rambam's Hematology Ambulatory Unit Gets an Upgrade

The recent inauguration of the newly refurbished Hematology Ambulatory Unit is good news for over 2000 patients from northern Israel who are served by the unit each year. "The refurbished unit enables us to provide care in the most humane, professional and advanced manner, while ensuring safety, quality of care, and patient welfare," explains Dr. Netanel Horowitz, Director of the Hematology Ambulatory Unit. Thanks in part to a gift from Rambam's dear friends and supporters, the Niego family of Haifa, as well as other donors, patients will now receive their treatments in more spacious, comfortable facilities, and will benefit from advanced services and treatment options, including a special reflexology treatment room, as well as new, state-of-the-art equipment and therapies. Furthermore, new monitors and a tracking system enable patients and those accompanying them to follow the status and progress of their treatments. Rambam's Hematology Ambulatory Unit is the largest of its kind in Northern Israel, and a leader in the field with extensive experience in treating a wide range of diseases, through advanced treatment techniques, by a team of multidisciplinary experts.

Laying the Cornerstone for the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower



n May 29th, Mr. Sandor Frankel, Trustee of the Leona and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, and his wife Ruth, were guests of honor at a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. The planned 20-story tower, made possible through a magnanimous gift from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, is a collaboration between Rambam, the University of Haifa and the Technion, where academic studies, cutting edge medical research, and biomedical startups will flourish. Other distinguished guests included Haifa Mayor Mr. Yona Yahav, University of Haifa President,

Prof. Ron Robin, the Rambam Summit Delegation and representatives from University of Haifa. Along with the cornerstone, a parchment was buried in the building's foundations, signed by Mr. Frankel, Prof. Ron Robin, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Rambam's Director and CEO, Prof. Gustavo Mesch, Rector of the University of Haifa, Prof. Karl Skorecki, Director of Medical & Research Development at Rambam, Dr. Esther Golan, Managing Director of International Relations and Chief of Strategic Development at Rambam, and Mr. Baruch Marzan, Vice President and Director General at University of Haifa.

American Friends of Rambam Medical Center

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

Australian Friends Of Rambam

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

British Friends of Rambam Medical Centre

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

Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre

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

French Friends of Rambam Medical Center

joelleabitbol16@gmail.com www.amisfrancaisrambam.asso-web.com Tel: 07 82 53 71 10

Friends of Rambam in India

ralphy44@gmail.com Tel: 91 9819864340

Israeli Friends of Rambam Medical Center

www.rambam.org.il g_rothschild@rambam.health.gov.il Tel: 972 (04) 852-0670

Spanish Friends of Rambam Medical Center

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

Israel Main Office & All Other Countries

www.rambam.org.il ContactUs@rambam.health.gov.il Tel: +972 (4) 777-2919



Creating the Future of Medicine

Support us now and join the success of Rambam HCC to ensure our ongoing ability to meet the needs of the people of Northern Israel.



PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Joseph Fishman Oncology Center
- Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital
- Helmsley Health Discovery Tower

RENOVATION & EXPANSION

- Hematology & Bone Marrow Transplantation
 Institute
- Ambulatory Surgical Suites

MAINTENANCE AND ONGOING SUPPORT

- Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency
 Hospital
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+972 4 777 3788 E_GOLAN@RAMBAM.HEALTH.GOV.IL