

# VITAL SIGNS

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

March 2005

## A Gala Evening to Honor Outstanding Achievements in Medical Research and Technologies

Alfred Mann, Rudolph Giuliani, and Larry King Carry the Banner for Rabin Medical Center



Hanukkah candle lighting at the New York Gala Dinner. From left: Larry King, Rudolph Giuliani, Nava Barak, and Dr. Dan Oppenheim.

Four hundred-seventy-five people of goodwill joined together on December 7, 2004 at American Friends of Rabin Medical Center's 5th Annual Gala Dinner to fete medical research at Rabin Medical Center. Who better than Mayor Giuliani and Larry King to speak from the heart about how medical research saves lives? And, who better than the honoree Alfred E. Mann to talk about the benefits of advancing medical research and technologies?

"Two Guys from Brooklyn finally made it," intoned Larry King—back again volunteering as this year's Master of Ceremonies—as he welcomed the dinner's keynote speaker, former Mayor Giuliani. "A Jewish host and an Italian speaker—what a combination," King remarked, as he praised people of all religions for attending the dinner and for giving generously to support RMC. "My wife is a Mormon; Alfred Mann's wife is Catholic," King explained, "but they both care deeply about health, medical research, and patient care." *continued on page 4*

## President of Israel Presides Over Inauguration of the Davidoff Center

Israel's First Comprehensive Cancer Center for Treatment, Prevention and Research

President of Israel Moshe Katsav and other dignitaries were on hand to participate in a highly emotional evening with more than 1,100 guests who attended the inauguration of the Davidoff Center at Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva, Israel. The celebration for the opening of this new state-of-the-art facility on December 20, 2004 was accompanied by all the fanfare befitting a milestone event: dinner reception and dessert buffet, live music, and a dazzling fireworks display. This was the day eagerly awaited by the State of Israel, RMC, and the Davidoffs—Leon and Ruth and Jacques and Monique. As the President of Friends of Rabin Medical Center Nava Barak said in her introduction, "Patients from all over who come to RMC for the best and leading medical care will now benefit from a comprehensive cancer center that is comparable to the finest in the world."

So many people anticipated the *continued on page 9*



The Davidoff Center shines brightly over the State of Israel.



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From Left: Leon Davidoff, Dr. Oppenheim, Prime-Minister Sharon, Nava Barak, Zeev Vurembrand, and Jacques Davidoff.

## CEO Dr. Dan Oppenheim Reflects on the Significance of the Davidoff Center Opening

*With the inauguration of the Davidoff Center, Dr. Dan Oppenheim made the following remarks:*

My Dear Friends Ruth and Leon, Monique and Jacques and all the Davidoff Family:

There are moments that we experience that are worth a lifetime, and for me this celebration is one of them. It is a moment filled with elation, when a doctor who is also CEO of a fine medical institution comes to realize tremendous satisfaction because he knows that he can now provide the best medical service available to the people of Israel.

As a child, I accompanied my grandfather on house calls to visit patients. He was a physician who practiced medicine in a small town, serving many new immigrants who lived in deprived neighborhoods. Though this recollection is distant, it symbolizes faithful and total dedication to the ailing, a memory and a calling that have been foci of my life.

As a doctor, I must think first and foremost of the individual needs of our patients. I must do my best to diagnose the disease at its earliest stage, to treat and to cure, or at least to make every effort to extend the patient's life in a dignified and compassionate manner.

As CEO, I must consider the patient's care in the context of the institutional system that includes planning and constructing the hospital in a way that provides patients and staff with the finest conditions. I must consider challenges that await, such as new technologies and

advanced treatment procedures. The world of medicine is progressing so rapidly and what we know today is nothing compared to the innovations of tomorrow.

We have come a long way since the first meeting, eight years ago, when we asked ourselves how RMC could provide the best medical treatment to its cancer patients over the next century. Along this road, we met people of true compassion, without whom this amazing project would not have come to be. In order to reach great goals, we can dream, but must also act, as did Leon and Ruth and Jacques and Monique Davidoff. Only on very rare occasions do we meet a family as charitable as the Davidoffs whose only desire was to donate a unique, remarkable cancer facility to the people of Israel. Nothing has been spared in creating the finest comprehensive center for the treatment and research of cancer.

The establishment of the Davidoff Foundation, designated to enriching human resources at the center, completes the circle. Created by the Davidoff family, this foundation acknowledges the importance of continuing to enhance the quality of professional medical care.

Tonight, I stand before you, not so much as a doctor or as CEO of this hospital, but as a citizen of Israel. In the name of these citizens and in the name of so many patients who will benefit from this facility, I say thank you.

Thank you for your vision, for your overwhelming generosity, and above all else, for your hope for the future. ■





From Left: Dr. Milton Saute (Head of Thoracic Surgery), Dr. Gidi Sahar (Head of Transplantation Unit), Raya Cohen, Former Chief Rabbi Israel Lau, Yossi Cohen (Raya's husband), Prof. Mordechai Kramer (Director of Pulmonary Medicine)

## RARE BLESSINGS FOR CHIEF RABBI'S NIECE 100th Lung Transplant Performed at Rabin Medical Center

Raya Cohen, the 100th lung transplant recipient at Rabin Medical Center, was recognized at a very moving ceremony. Raya is an oncologist nurse and niece of the former chief Rabbi, Israel Lau. Rabbi Lau is a longtime friend of Rabin Medical Center and has been particularly involved in transplants over the years, encouraging the religious community to become transplant donors. His dedicated work has saved many lives, and RMC is grateful to have given him the gift of life in return.

For the past 13 years, Raya suffered from Fibrosis Lung Disease, which causes a serious deterioration of the lungs. During the seven months prior to her transplant, her situation had become critical and she needed two tanks of oxygen daily just to breathe. Raya was given top priority on the national donor waiting list and prayed for a donor. Fate was truly on her side, because at her weakest point, with little time to spare, a matching donor became available.

It was midnight when she got the call, but before rushing to the hospital, Raya went to the Western Wall in Jerusalem to pray. Raya fully believed

in her physicians, but it was her faith that would carry her through. Due to Raya's serious condition, it was an extremely complicated and difficult operation. Raya, who had felt life slipping away from her, realizes the true meaning of life as a result of her successful lung transplant.

Prof. Mordechai Kramer, Director of the Institute of Pulmonary Medicine at RMC, said of the hospital transplantation program: "The 100th lung transplant was especially emotional for me and all the staff involved. Since 1997, RMC has been the leading Israeli hospital in lung transplants, and we use the most advanced techniques and equipment available today in order to save as many lives as possible. We perform intricate and complex lung transplants that were once considered impossible, and we have lengthened and improved the lives of patients whose situation was once considered hopeless."

During the ceremony, Raya's words of gratitude and thanks to her physicians and the staff involved in her transplant touched many hearts. Raya's faith and strength of character serve as an inspiration to all. ■

## Pride in Associating with Rabin Medical Center



Barry Cohen  
Chair, AFRMC

My work with Rabin Medical Center has given me great pleasure, and I am proud that RMC now has many friends in America. This institution is a fine example of the medical and scientific leadership Israel can provide to the world and compares to the best hospitals in every respect and dimension.

I was privileged to meet the Davidoffs, a family of gentle and modest demeanor, of great courage and foresight and tremendous generosity. A great statesman once said: "a group of leaders in the time span they have can be equivalent to lighting a rocket into the sky, but after they have done so, it goes in its own direction." Like a rocket, this generous move of the Davidoffs will carry on for a long time and provide great comfort to millions.

I am proud to have been witness to this great triumph! ■

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# A NEW ERA OF OPTIMISM AND HOPE UNVEILED

## THE 5TH ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA DINNER - DECEMBER 7, 2004



*Larry King*



*Daniel Ayalon, Nava Barak, Rudolph Giuliani, Alfred Mann, Dr. Dan Oppenheim*



*Barry Cohen*



*Nava Barak*



*Rudolph Giuliani*



*Larry King with Alfred Mann*



*Bruce Mosler*



*Ambassador Daniel Ayalon*



*Alfred Mann*



*Claude Mann with Barry Cohen*



*Counsel General Aryeh Mekel*

### 5th Annual Gala Dinner *continued from page 1*

Nava Barak, President of Israel Friends Rabin Medical Center, brought greetings from Israel and praised Giuliani for his acts of bravery, including visiting Israel in the aftermath of one of its more horrific suicide bombings. Israel's Counsel General in New York Aryeh Mekel, who introduced Barak, praised her not only for the volunteer work she does on behalf of Israeli youth, but for the gracious manner in which she serves as ambassador-at-large for Rabin

Medical Center.

Bruce E. Mosler, President and CEO of Cushman and Wakefield, Inc., worldwide commercial real estate giant and the dinner's chairman, reminded everyone how important RMC is to the region and why Giuliani's presence reinforces RMC's goal of using medical research to save lives. And Ambassador Ayalon, in giving his greetings, highlighted Rabin Medical Center's significance to the Israeli Armed Forces in noting that RMC

has taken care of a staggering 6,500 injured soldiers over the last four years.

Alfred E. Mann—the dinner honoree—and his wife Claude were the perfect honorees for an evening dedicated to advancing research at RMC. Mann, an inventor and entrepreneur in his own right, who is Chairman and Co-CEO of Advanced Bionics and Mannkind Corporations, is credited with inventing and developing life saving medical technologies used the world over. He told the





audience that he would not leave sunny California for wintry New York if not for RMC's Chairman Barry Cohen who has galvanized people all over the world to support RMC. "I would go to the ends of the earth for Barry," Mann admitted. Mann was so impressed by RMC's successes that he offered to visit RMC personally in June 2005.



Barry Cohen reciprocated and praised Mann not only for his medical innovations but also for his philanthropy to medical causes and to Israel. But it was the surprise birthday cake that was presented to Claude that touched the Manns and the audience. He joked that Claude could have chosen to celebrate in so many other ways, but being with RMC friends showed how deeply the Manns cared about RMC and its support of research. Speaking of those who have labored to make AFRMC successful, Barry enthusiastically thanked Burt Lazarow, the outgoing Executive Director of AFRMC, for his tireless efforts to put American Friends on the map and to increase American Friends presence throughout the United States. The new Executive Director Dr. Joshua E. Plaut was then introduced and joined King, Giuliani, Barak, and Oppenheim in lighting Hanukkah candles. "These candles," Plaut said, "reflect the miracles that RMC performs daily." That is why he pledges to promote RMC and to advance AFRMC to a higher level.



You could feel the warmth shared by Israel and the U.S. when Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC, introduced members of the staff of Rabin Medical Center who had come specifically for this occasion. He told guests that he never takes their support for granted because RMC thrives on giving hope to







so many in Israel. He also acknowledged the presence of distinguished staff from the Montefiore Medical Center--RMC's twin sister hospital, which is located in the Bronx.

The mood was now in place for introducing the keynote speaker. Arnold Burns, Giuliani's former boss and long-time friend, introduced the former mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. "Giuliani has done so much for the city of New York and for this country," Burns exclaimed.

To extended applause, Giuliani, humbled by the adoration, recounted the anguish of being stricken by cancer. "But it is knowledge of disease that empowers," Giuliani exclaimed. "That is why now, when I found out about my disease, I was no longer frightened. And that is why now that we know the face of our enemy, we can be more optimistic than ever." Giuliani admitted that his optimism took courage, the same kind of bravery that Rabin showed when trying to bring peace to the region and the same kind of determination Rabin Medical Center has to push the limits of medical knowledge and research.

The evening concluded with Larry King interviewing Mayor Giuliani on his views toward American efforts to eradicate terror. On this subject, Giuliani had plenty to say. But when it came to asking about Giuliani's plans for running for political office, Giuliani was mum. I guess we'll just have to come back to next year's dinner to find out! ■





# AN HONOR-FILLED COCKTAIL PARTY IS PRELUDE TO NY GALA DINNER

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004

It wasn't just your ordinary cocktail party that took place on December 6 at the home of Barry and Yvonne Cohen, because at this gathering, guests were honored for their outstanding work to bolster the cause of medical research. Two giants in the field of medical technologies—Alfred E. Mann, the following evening's Gala honoree, and Dr. Roy Vagelos, retired Chairman of the Board and CEO of Merck & Co., were in one room together serving as witness to the advancements of medical technologies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals. Vagelos's presence was testimony to the extraordinary success of Mann and his wife Claude who were guests of honor in a night filled with recognition for friends of Rabin Medical Center.

Burton Lazarow, who retired this year as Executive Director of AFRMC, was also recognized for having elevated AFRMC into a vital, internationally renowned organization with a reputation for outstanding achievement. Yvette Pomerantz, too, was feted for her role in chairing the Public Relations Committee and Raquel Rosenfeld for her service as head of the New Circle Leadership of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center. All told, the evening promoted important research being conducted by the Rabin Medical Center. ■





# PRE- AND POST-CELEBRATORY ACTIVITIES MARK THE DAVIDOFF CENTER INAUGURATION IN PETAH TIKVA, ISRAEL



From left: Prof. Benny Fisch (Award Recipient), Prof. Gabriel Dinari (Associate Director, RMC), and Dr. Dan Oppenheim (CEO, RMC)

## The Day Before ... The Festivities Appropriately Begin by Paying Tribute to Chairman of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

The inauguration of the Davidoff Center would not be complete without paying tribute to Barry Cohen and his family for their contribution to American Friends of Rabin Medical Center. So when Barry and Yvonne Cohen, along with their daughters Yvette and Denise and their beautiful grandchildren, visited Israel to participate in the Davidoff Center Inauguration, the stage was set to honor them on December 19, by establishing a research scholarship in their name. This scholarship was awarded to Prof. Benny Fisch, director of RMC's In Vitro Fertilization Unit, for his research on egg preservation and maturation in cancer patients that offers new hope for women whose cancer treatment has made them infertile. Rabin Medical Center is truly honored that the Cohen family has chosen to help RMC become a truly great medical institution.

## One Day Later – a Worldwide Cancer Conference

The day after the Davidoff inauguration, an international scientific symposium on Oncology and Hemato-oncology was held at the Felsenstein Medical Research Center on the Beilinson campus of Rabin Medical Center. Participating in the event, were physicians and scientists from all over the globe who are renowned in the field of oncology. Four hundred people attended the event. Foreign lecturers included Prof. Zvi Fuks and Prof. Robert Wittes of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, Prof. John Goldman of Imperial College in the UK, Prof. Ian Tannock of Princess Margaret Hospital in Canada, Prof. Lawrence of the University of Michigan, and the Israeli Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry Prof. Aaron Ciechanover. Prof. Sulkes, Director of the Institute of Oncology, Rabin Medical Center, provided a brief chronicle of achievements made in fighting cancer and spoke of the promise of the Davidoff Center. This symposium will help to forge clinical and scientific ties between the Davidoff Center and other leading cancer centers worldwide. ■



The extended Davidoff Family cutting the ribbon to open the Cancer Center



Viewing the Linear accelerator at the Davidoff Center (From left: Prof. Zvi Fuks, Yoram Petrushka, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, Jacques & Leon Davidoff)



From left: Leon Davidoff, Dr Yacov Yahav (Director Beilinson Campus), Prof. Aaron Ciechanover (Nobel Prize Laureate), Yoram Petrushka (Chairman of the Friends of the Davidoff Center)



## Davidoff Center Inauguration

*Continued from page 1*



Jacques Davidoff with Mr. Moshe Katsav, President of Israel at opening ceremonies

opening of this center—named after the Davidoff family—for the promise that it holds for both research and treatment. This moment of celebration was unique enough for thirty-five members of the Davidoff family to gather from all corners of the world to witness their dream come to fruition and for the hospital to applaud the generosity of Leon and Ruth and Jacques and Monique Davidoff.

Distinguished guests, such as President of Israel Mr. Moshe Katsav, Minister of Health Danny Naveh, CEO of Clalit Health Services Zeev Vurembrand, and a delegation of American friends led by Barry and Yvonne Cohen, were present to lend their support to this new chapter in Israel's fight against cancer. "The world is engaged in the development of weapons," stated President Katsav, "and I hope that one day soon, the world—together with Israel—will work on developments toward saving lives. RMC and its new cancer center will unquestionably make a dramatic difference in Israel."

1,100 attendees at the celebration concluded the festivities by lighting sparklers and listening to a rendition of a beautiful Naomi Shemer song.

**The Davidoff Center represents a major milestone for cancer patients in Israel. Rabin Medical Center is proud to be considered a leading partner in the global fight against cancer. ■**



1,100 rays of light at the Davidoff Center opening

## Leon Davidoff's Speech: Why His Family Became Involved in RMC

President, Distinguished Guests:

It is very hard for me to speak in front of such a large audience, especially after so many notable people have spoken.

So, I would like to begin with a personal story. One day, when my mother was 92, she complained about her memory. "I forget everything!"

"Don't worry," I told her, "I also forget many things." As I was leaving, she called me back and said, "Leon, it is alright to forget many things, but you should never forget you are a Jew." I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN!

My brother Jacques and I grew up in a non-religious home. We did not attend services, but we celebrated holidays, and we were taught very special values. Solidarity with the Jewish people was basic. Caring for those less fortunate than us was normal in our family.

We passionately believed in a state for the Jewish people. When it was created, its welfare became of vital importance to us. For my brother Jacques and me, the Davidoff Center has been the most ambitious, meaningful, and personal of all our projects.

I myself have had cancer and so have other members of my family. However, this hospital is not meant to be a sentimental way of saying thank you for our survival. It is not easy to find effective and tangible ways of helping. Money is a good beginning, but we felt it was not enough. We wanted to help the greatest number of people for many years. And this center is meant to do just that.

A medical center, such as this, needs excellent professional advice, careful expert planning, and the best scientific know-how. WE WANTED EXCELLENCE, AND I THINK WE SUCCEEDED.

It came about with the knowledge and foresight of Dan Oppenheim, his team, and the support of Clalit. Today we open the doors to a cancer center that will be equal to the best in the world.

We have given more than just bricks. Jacques and I have created a special foundation that will continue to serve long after we are gone. Its dividends will fund the latest, most advanced methods of detection and cures for this devastating disease.

We intend to welcome all those in need to this house of hope, in the city of hope ... Petah Tikva ... where they can expect to receive the best medical care that science can offer.

I am happy to welcome family and friends. I especially would like to thank my dear wife Ruti for her support and dedication in helping to realize this dream.

Thank you all for being with us this evening. ■



Leon Davidoff



## The Rabin Medical Center Shines Light of Healing: Impressions of a First Visit



*Yvette Pomerantz  
Chair, Public Relations  
AFRMC*

It seems that Rabin Medical Center is not made of stone and cement after all. It is made of beams of light and air, reflections of water and motion, art, music and a laser sharp line on healing.

In my role at AFRMC, I and most of the public relations committee, have never actually stepped foot on the grounds of RMC. Based on pictures, faxes, emails and voices on the telephone, we have been inspired enough to forge ahead. It was, therefore, somewhat surprising to be so impressed with the reality of the place that I thought I already knew so well.

Our short visit to Israel was primarily to take part in the opening of the Davidoff Center. The day before, in the midst of unimaginable planning, a ceremony was arranged for my parents, Yvonne and Barry Cohen, for their involvement in RMC, and a research scholarship established. All our family felt deeply honored.

It was a privilege to witness the Davidoff family and members of Israel's leadership gather to inaugurate Israel's first comprehensive cancer center, an event that managed to be at once both major and personal. The light-filled evening was followed by an equally impressive day of scientific meetings, which included Prof. Aaron Ciechanover who had won the Nobel prize just the week before.

During the inauguration ceremony, I sat next to Burt Lazarow. It was a great moment to share after all this time. I am most grateful to Burt for all his help in launching our group and guiding us all so well. We'll very much miss his daily involvement. On behalf of us all, I want to wish Burt and Cynthia much happiness in whatever comes next.

I'd like to thank Zippy and Dan Oppenheim for so graciously welcoming us to RMC. It was wonderful to spend time with Judit Solel, Efrat Milner, Vered Kvitel, Shelli Wislitzki, some of the voices on the telephone, who helped to

pull off a world-class event. They are an inspiring team and I am looking forward to seeing what they and we at AFRMC will accomplish together in time to come. Here in New York, I am looking forward to working with Joshua Plaut, Deborah Jakubovic and Gal Feinstein who has been of so much help all along.

Of course, RMC is built with stone and cement on a campus growing by the minute, which poses endless challenges. But we at AFRMC are quite right to be inspired. The time and support we lend is helping to build a place in which imagination, talent and dedication holds real promise, not only for people in Israel, but for people in general. ■

### ARTIST ELI ELAN'S "CONFRONTATION ONE" TO ADORN GOUR SHASHA HOSPITALIZATION TOWER



From left: Ambassador of Guatemala Moises Russ and his wife, Raya Yaglom, Dr. Dan Oppenheim and Nava Barak participate in enhancing the aesthetics of the hospital for the enjoyment and contemplation of all.

### WHAT DIGNITARIES HAVE TO SAY ON OPENING OF DAVIDOFF CENTER

"In the 21st century, we must keep up with the latest medical technologies and treatments. We must promise every citizen of Israel, rich and poor, the best medical treatment available. This is our moral obligation, and to succeed we must get as much support as possible. This center will be a worldwide cancer center and we will be proud of the excellent medical treatment that it will offer at Rabin Medical Center."

**The Honorable Danny Naveh, Israel Minister of Health**

"There are many people who weave dreams but only the most courageous and extraordinary among them make those dreams come alive. Your love for the citizens of Israel, made a dream come true and you created a cancer center which will welcome them in the most dignified and compassionate manner and treat them as best as humanely and medically possible."

**Mr. Zeev Vurembrand, CEO Clalit Health Services, Israel's Largest HMO**



# Welcoming our Troops: Israel Defense Forces and Rabin Medical Center Create a New Partnership



From left: Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO of RMC; Brigadier General Dr. Hazi Levy; Amos Yaron, Director General, Defense Ministry.

Rabin Medical Center (RMC) is proud to announce that it has been appointed primary healthcare provider for Israel Defense Forces' soldiers, following a novel agreement with Israel's Ministry of Defense.

Until now, soldiers in the central part of Israel were routinely treated at government hospitals. After months of negotiations, soldiers may now receive treatment at Rabin Medical Center. A new unit has been established to coordinate this relationship, with RMC expecting to treat thousands of soldiers each year, in times of war and in times of peace.

In addition to the trauma and emergency care received until now by sol-

diers who were wounded during army activity or terrorist attacks, RMC will also provide IDF soldiers with routine care, including orthopedics, dermatology, ophthalmology and allergy treatment. In addition, soldiers will benefit from the many centers of excellence at Rabin Medical Center, including Transplantation, Cardiothoracic Surgery, advanced Cardiology, and Israel's National Liver Institute.

Rabin Medical Center CEO Dr. Dan Oppenheim said of the new partnership with the Israeli Defense Forces, "We will work hard for the sake of our country, its brave soldiers, and their families to fulfill a duty to which we have been entrusted." ■



Joshua Plaut, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
AFRMC

Dear Friends,

Rabin Medical Center is more than just a physical space in Israel, as I found out when attending the inauguration of the Davidoff Center on December 20, 2004.

The ceremony, which was attended by many dignitaries including Prime Minister Sharon, President Katsav, Minister of Health Danny Naveh, 35 members of the Davidoff family, and recent Nobel Prize winner Cicenavoer, highlighted for me the special esteem in which RMC is held. When RMC develops a new procedure or project such as establishing Israel's first comprehensive cancer center--the whole world takes notice. At that moment, I felt part of a larger miracle, and that is Rabin Medical Center's desire to constantly improve upon its successes, never resting on its laurels. I am proud to be associated with an institution whose staff desires nothing more than to cure each and every sick and hurt person, not only in Israel, but throughout the region.

That is why when I returned to the United States from participating in the Davidoff inauguration, I doubled my resolve to turn AFRMC into an even stronger arm of the extended Rabin Medical Center family, with the goal of making Rabin Medical Center a household name.

I cannot, of course, succeed on my own. That is why I call on current and past supporters of AFRMC to rally around the hospital and carry the name with you wherever you go, telling friends and relatives about this wonderful institution that is worthy of our continued support. I, alongside my new staff, is here to assist you in informing others of our effort, and I encourage you to become directly involved in our fund-raising efforts. Together, we will make it possible for Rabin Medical Center, not only to retain its vaulted status as a medical giant in Israel, but also to expand her horizons, scope and accomplishments

I am proud to be the Executive Director of this honorable and successful institution and pledge my efforts to work diligently on her behalf. May we go from strength to strength in our support for the Rabin Medical Center. ■

## Florida Forum: Israeli Ambassador to USA on Peace Prospects for Mid-East



Daniel Ayalon  
Israeli Ambassador

AFRMC's Florida Chapter is sponsoring a community forum led by Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon in Boca Raton at B'nai Torah Congregation, on Thursday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. Returning to

the USA after accompanying Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice to the historic summit at Sharm el-Sheikh, Ayalon's talk addresses the significance of the ceasefire arranged between Ariel Sharon, Mahmoud Abbas, Hosni Mubarak, and King Abdullah and offers a personal perspective on future prospects for peace. Dr. Daniel Oppenheim, CEO of Rabin Medical Center, traveled to Florida to offer his support and to inform how Rabin Medical Center serves as a bridge to peace. ■



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## HEALING TOWARD PEACE

### Rabin Medical Center Builds Bridges of Hope with Palestinians



Dr. Meir Lahav, Head of Internal Medicine and the Research Authority at Rabin Medical Center and Palestinian guests.

Ending Palestinian violence may seem a distant dream, but Rabin Medical Center is working to build bridges today so that there may be peace with our neighbors, tomorrow.

Recently, a group of 15 Palestinian hospital administrators and physicians from the disputed territories visited RMC and participated in a professional seminar. The purpose of this visit was to assist in the development of a more viable, competent Palestinian health system and a more transparent administration for Palestinian hospitals.

It is well known that RMC has enjoyed a reputation for being a top-notch hospital serving the entire region. It is therefore no surprise that Palestinian health authorities would seek the expertise of RMC to train medical personnel to better serve their people. Rabin Medical Center is proud to be at the forefront of this first major cooperative relationship that will hopefully bring tremendous improvements to Palestinian health care and quality of life.

During their visit, Palestinian hospital administrators were given a landscape view of RMC operations by CEO Dr. Dan Oppenheim and met with other Israeli medical leaders. They toured several departments, including the Interventional Catheterization Unit of the Cardiology Department, a department of internal medicine, and the Women's Health Center. As a result of their experiences, these medical professionals took with them viable tools to assist in upgrading the standard of Palestinian health care. They were genuinely impressed by the excellent level of medical care at RMC, its professional staff, and its modern, advanced medical facilities.

Rabin Medical Center prides itself on international cooperation with medical facilities worldwide. We were pleased to have the opportunity to share our expertise with Arab neighbors. Our doors are always open. ■