



**American Friends of
Rabin Medical Center, Inc.**

220 Fifth Ave., Suite 1301
New York, NY 10001

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A KINDER GENTLER KNIFE

Repairing injuries, correcting deformities, removing diseased tissues and organs, performing internal examinations... for all these surgery is often the best, and sometimes the only, answer. But surgery today is kinder and gentler to the body than ever before.

"Advanced laparoscopy often called keyhole surgery or minimal invasive surgery is a highly developed area on both our campuses," says Prof. Zeev Dreznik, head of the Department of Surgery A at RMC's Golda-Hasharon campus. "Because it minimizes the damage to healthy tissue and speeds and eases recovery time, we have made it one of our focuses, and today some 90 percent of breast operations, colon resections and gall bladder removals in the department are done in this way. We also use it intensively for repairing hiatus hernias, and removing spleens and adrenal glands."

To be a good laparoscopic surgeon, however, one needs expert grounding in conventional open surgery, says Prof. Dreznik. And in the busy department he heads, there is no shortage of opportunity.

"The two surgery departments on the Golda campus have 69 beds between them," he says. "With close to 4,000 surgical patients in our 13 operating rooms each year, we never have an empty bed."

The department has a national reputation for its expertise in gastro-intestinal surgery and is an Israeli referral center for colo-rectal and proctological procedures.

"A major emphasis in colo-rectal surgery is saving the sphincter and thus avoiding colostomy, so the patient won't be dependent on a stoma," says Prof. Dreznik. "We're also the most experienced center in the country for pre-operative irradiation in colo-rectal cancers. About half of the 320 such patients we operate each year receive this treatment."

Another area of special expertise is bariatric surgery, also known as 'gastric banding,' to reduce and control weight in dangerously obese patients. "We've operated over 1,000 such patients," says Prof. Dreznik, "and we add to that number at the rate of two or three more each week, with patients sent to us from all over the country."

As well as general surgery, the department has three specialist units (plastic surgery, vascular surgery and proctology) and is planning to develop a further three areas into expert units: oncologic surgery, liver surgery (including the pancreas and bile ducts) and breast surgery.

"In this last area, we're working with the Women's Comprehensive Health Center's Breast Cancer Center," says Prof. Dreznik. "With 460 breast operations last year, we're anxious to help develop a complete service around the surgery itself, and are already consulting patients in the Women's Comprehensive Health Center."



"Professor Zeev Dreznik, Director of the Department of Surgery A at RMC's Golda Ha-Sharon campus."



"An advanced laparoscopy being performed by Dr. Dreznik at the Golda Ha-Sharon campus"

Making Women Visible and Equal

A double dedication was held at RMC's Women's Comprehensive Health Center (WCHC) last January of gifts that heal body and soul.

The festive celebration began with the gift that heals the body: a supra-modern state-of-the-art surgical wing. Nava Barak, president of the Israeli Friends of RMC and chairman of the Board of Friends of the Women's Health Center, was prominent among the women and men who made the surgical wing possible. She had made raising the funds to equip the new operating suites her personal project.

"I've accompanied the Women's Health Center from its very beginnings, and it's very close to my heart," she said. "It's a place where I always feel at home."

Joining Mrs. Barak and many of the major donors at the surgical wing's opening ceremony were RMC's CEO, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, members of the hospital administration, and dozens of prominent guests, among whom were H.E. Byrganym Aitimova, Kazakhstan's ambassador to Israel, who is Dean of Israel's Diplomatic Corps; Raya Jaglom, well-known Israeli philanthropist; and, Israeli actress Yona Elian, who is a member of the Women's Center Friends committee.

After touring the hi-tech operating rooms with its space-age equipment affixed to overhead booms, and then visiting the bright and airy recovery and examination rooms, the guests moved outdoors for the second event- the gift that soothes the soul. Given by Raya Jaglom for the solace or joy of RMC's staff, patients and their visitors, it is a magnificent addition to the Medical Center's please turn to page 2



RMC CEO, Dr. Dan Oppenheim looks on while Nava Barak, President of the Israel Friends of Rabin Medical Center, expresses gratitude to Raya Jaglom for her generous donation of the sculpture (seen in the background) which graces the grounds of the Women's Comprehensive Health Center on the Beilinson campus.

RMC CEO Hosted in Four U.S. Cities

For seven hectic and productive days during the week of March 11th, Rabin Medical Center CEO, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, visited and was hosted at a reception in four U. S. cities. These meetings with groups of RMC volunteers and supporters were sandwiched in between various solicitations, consultations, recruitment interviews, and other activities on behalf of RMC and AFRMC.

At these gatherings Dr. Oppenheim brought participants up to date on the recent changes at RMC, its needs and plans for the future, and encouraged support of the activities of AFRMC in that community. Burt Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC, engaged the group in a discussion, which resulted in the planning of a fund raising activity in that area during the forthcoming Fall/Winter.

In New York City, Dr. Bilha Fish hosted a reception at her Manhattan apartment. Joining Dr. Oppenheim in addressing the 35 people in attendance was Dr. Yehuda Lancry, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations. Dr. Lancry talked of the peace process, attitudes toward Israel in the UN, and of the recent elections in Israel. He also spoke of the personal reasons why he supports RMC. At this event it was announced that a committee had held two meetings in recent weeks, which resulted in a Dinner being planned for October 28th, 2001 at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Oppenheim was welcomed by a woman new to RMC, Valarie Swarbrick, who hosted at her home a group of "Friends" from throughout the greater Philadelphia area and Southern New Jersey. Those present enthusiastically determined to develop a fund raising effort by the end of the year.

In Florida, meetings were held in Ft. Lauderdale and Delray Beach/Boca Raton which involved seventeen people. At both locations there was a determination to conduct an event next winter, where people could participate in a fund raising program for RMC. Elaine and David Ravich hosted the Delray Beach meeting and Drs. Ed Dauer and Joel Frankel hosted Dr. Oppenheim in Ft. Lauderdale.

All of these meetings reflected early steps in replicating, in communities in other parts of the States, the very successful Dinner held in NY in October. Anyone wishing to join in the effort to help RMC in any of the above areas, or in other communities, should contact Burt Lazarow at 212-279-2522.



Speakers at the NY reception held on March 13th were, left to right: Dr. Dan Oppenheim, CEO Rabin Medical Center; Dr. Yehuda Lancry, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; Dr. Bilha Fish, who hosted the event in her Manhattan home; and Burt Lazarow, Executive Director of AFRMC.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The motto of the Rabin Medical Center is 'committed to excellence.' With excellence in health-care inextricably rooted in research, almost all of RMC's physicians and scientists not only treat their patients but also conduct full programs of basic and clinical research, tailored to the country's changing health-care needs. Results of their investigations are regularly published in highly respected professional literature.



Dr. Dan Oppenheim
CEO of RMC.

Academic research is part of the profile of the modern doctor. To attract and keep the best clinicians and scientists, we invest in them, enabling them to maximize their potential, to do and achieve more. We couldn't do this without the help of our American "Friends", because in Israel there is no NIH, hospitals have no earmarked research budgets, and front-line investigations depend on grants and private donations.

These limitations notwithstanding, we have a proud and long-standing tradition of research excellence. This was given a formal framework in the mid-1970s by Prof. Andre DeVries, who was then RMC's CEO and chairman of the Department of Medicine D, and later founded and served as first dean of the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. Prof. DeVries established the Rogoff-Wellcome Research Center in our hospital; some 15 years later, in 1993, it moved to modernized premises, becoming part of the new Felsenstein Research Center. Among the advances made under its roof are identification of the gene responsible for a form of rickets, development of an antidote to the venom of deadly local snakes, and classification of a form of dwarfism known as Laron-type, after the Beilinson researcher who first described it.

As a large university hospital linked with a medical school, RMC is a sought-after setting for clinical trials. One now in progress is testing the effect of new anti-viral drugs in patients with chronic hepatitis B and C, and in liver transplantation. Another is examining different facets of Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, from metabolism and degeneration of brain structures to toxicity and complications of long-term drug therapy. And, a team of RMC clinicians is investigating the cause and course of osteoporosis, in order to develop new diagnostic, therapeutic and evaluation approaches.

On very modest budgets, our busy staff have made and continue to make important contributions that both help our own patients and advance medical diagnosis and care throughout Israel and beyond. Much of these research funds have come from our Friends, people who understand that medical investigation is integrally linked with health-care.

With greater resources, there is no doubt in my mind that we can and will achieve yet more.

General Shaul Mofaz Addresses RMC Forum



Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, General Shaul Mofaz, gave a lecture recently on new programs and opportunities in the armed forces to the hospital's department heads who comprise the "Forum of RMC". This group meets on a regular basis- each time they meet with different guest lecturers who are invited to discuss major and current issues. The sign in Hebrew translates as the "Rabin Medical Center Management Forum".

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Visible and Equal

sculpture garden. Called Elijah's Chair, it is an angular bench-seat carved into a smooth marble oval, itself positioned on a flat oval of marble.

Symbolism about the egg, the hardness of the marble and the softness of its rounded lines abounds but the sculptor, Belu Simion Fainaru, is content to leave each person to their own interpretation. One of Israel's most significant multi-media artists, Fainaru is sought after by major museums and is frequently invited to exhibit his work in and outside Israel.

An early advocate of women's health-care as a separate specialty, RMC's Women's Comprehensive Health Center provides women with preventive, diagnostic, medical and surgical care under a single roof, providing a quality of care that is continually upgraded.

It's taken 40 years and the shrill excesses of early feminism, but the effort has succeeded, with the medical profession worldwide having at last recognized that differences between men and women go far beyond their reproductive systems. And, women's health centers, like that at RMC, are leading the way in making women both visible and equal in national health-care systems.

RMC Issues Impressive Research Report

It takes 351 closely typed pages to summarize the research currently underway in 60 different departments on RMC's Beilinson and Golda-Hasharon campuses.

A large, heavy tome, "Research Report 2000 at the Rabin Medical Center" details the RMC studies in progress in areas ranging (alphabetically) from Anesthesiology to Vascular Surgery, sweeping along the way through disciplines such as Geriatrics, Genetics, Oncology and Neonatology. Studies examine basic disease mechanisms, diagnostics, management of patients, improving procedures and techniques, drug trials and tests.

The results of the research in "Report 2000" are not for light reading, nor are the long lists of publications that conclude the report of each department which convey, in great clarity and detail, the breadth and scope of research in progress at RMC.

Closing Up: A New Technique Speeds Recovery

Sometimes the solution causes almost as much trouble as the problem it sets out to solve.

As anyone who's undergone major chest surgery knows, healing from the surgeon's knife is a slow and uncomfortable business. Much of the reason is that to close up the incision the severed skin and muscle are stretched to meet from the two sides of the chest and end up pulling against the stitches that join them. Surgeons have tried to ease this by parting skin from muscle and joining them separately, but this too, causes pain and delays healing. The result is a long and painful recovery.

No longer. Prof. Daniel J. Hauben, who heads RMC's Department of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and Burn Unit, has developed a new technique that eliminates these problems. Following surgery, but before closing up the chest, he inserts an empty balloon into the chest cavity, and slowly inflates it. The inflating balloon stretches the patient's skin and muscle, so that when the surgeon comes to close the incision he can do so without any further stretching, and with no need to separate skin from muscle. (The balloon is later deflated through an external valve and removed from the body.)

Pressure on the stitches is 40 percent lower this way, which, in practice, means a lot less pain and far more rapid healing. This, in turn, translates into significantly fewer complications of healing (especially in diabetic patients) and a substantial decrease in the need for transfused blood. Soon to be described in a prestigious international journal on plastic surgery, Prof. Haubman's technique will be in use in chest surgery worldwide.

Visit RMC

Join the leaders of AFRMC who are planning to tour RMC and Israel in the next few months. Or visit RMC on your next trip to Israel! Call 212-279-2522

What Is Needed at RMC Priorities for 2001

Each year RMC's department heads submit a request for the items they most desperately and immediately need. The management reviews requests and prioritizes them. Annually, RMC is able to obtain only a few of those items because that is all the budget is able to support. The other most important items are put onto a list to be purchased as donations are received.

The following are among those which are the most critically and immediately needed.

Any individual who could help RMC purchase any of these pieces of equipment, or to learn of other donor opportunities, please contact Burton Lazarow at 212-279-2522:

• Monitoring system for Cardiothoracic ICU	\$300,000*
• Monitoring system for Neurosurgery ICU	\$145,000*
• Monitoring system for Burns Unit ICU	\$145,000*
• C-arm x-ray unit	\$140,000
• Digital fluoroscopy room	\$100,000
• Mobile x-ray unit (3 needed)	\$30,000 each
• Cardiothoracic ICU bed (for use with monitoring system)	\$7,500
• Audiometer	\$6,000
• Monitor for Trauma unit	\$6,000
• Monitors for Neonatal Department(2 needed)	\$6,000 each
• Pulse oxymeters (15 needed)	\$2,500 each
• Blood pressure monitors (15 needed)	\$2,500 each

*Item can be split:

Central monitoring unit	\$25,000
Each monitor	\$20,000

Donors can honor or memorialize loved ones, colleagues, friends, or have their own generosity recognized at Rabin Medical Center by making gifts which meet these immediate needs.



Monitors, such as that shown in this picture taken at RMC, are scarce and desperately needed by the hospital.

NY "Friends" of RMC Hold Reception



Enjoying humantashen in celebration of Purim at the reception for RMC's CEO, at the Manhattan home of Dr. Bilha Fish, left, were: Yuland and Dr. Yehuda Lancry, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; and, right, David Onn, Chairman of the Board and President of Israel Aircraft Industries International, Inc.



Save the Date!

New York Dinner

Sunday,
October 28th, 2001

Metropolitan Club



Attacking Blood Clots

The patient was 40 years old and very sick when he was admitted to RMC's Cardiology Department. He had suffered a major heart attack which left his coronary artery almost completely blocked by a large blood clot. His RMC cardiologists were in agreement that the life-threatening clot had to be removed as soon as possible so blood could circulate freely again, and they had a choice of tools with which to do so.

All these tools, however, were potentially hazardous. Stents and balloon catheterization techniques could cause the clot to fall apart, setting pieces of it dangerously adrift through the patient's body. If a clot-fragment drifted to the wrong place, the patient would suffer a potentially fatal stroke or a second full-blown heart attack.

RMC Cardiology Department head Prof. Alexander Battler and Catheterization Unit head Dr. Ran Kornovski decided to try something different with a new tool called an EX-SIZER. Contrary to the balloon procedure which attempts to dislodge obstructions by widening the vessel, the EX-SIZER removed the clot by creating a powerful suction that sucked it out in a mere 10 minutes, while sparing delicate vessel walls.

Performed under local anesthetic, this was the first time the EX-SIZER has been used in Israel and it was a demonstrable success. The clot was removed whole, a stent was slid in to strengthen the artery and the patient made a full recovery.

"Many different ways of dealing with blood clots in the coronary arteries have been developed in recent years," says Prof. Battler, "but I haven't seen any of them work as well as this. We look forward to using it to help many more patients, safely and effectively."



Cardiology procedures at RMC, which apply the newly developed EX-SIZER tool, greatly reduce life-risking blood clots.

**IMPRESSIVE ADVANCES:
EXCITING PLANS**



Woody Goldberg
President of AFRMC

The pages of this issue of Vital Signs convey that things are happening- both at RMC and here in the United States at AFRMC. In the months to come you will be even more impressed at the many other advances that will be shared with you. New leadership is stepping up, helping us to meet the many challenges that confront our hospital as it strives to provide what is needed for the almost one million people it services every year.

AFRMC is planning fund raising events in New York City, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, and Philadelphia/South Jersey, and there is the possibility of activities in Northern New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and the Washington, DC area. Following the spring meeting of our Board of Directors, it will have a new look.

In Israel, on May 1st RMC will lay the cornerstone for the new Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center and has scheduled November 4th for the dedication of the completion of the hospitalization tower in conjunction with the 65th anniversary of Beilinson hospital.

Testing at RMC, one of only five hospitals and the only one outside the U.S., has been advancing nicely for the ABIOMED, Inc. first "implantable replaceable heart". Human tests will shortly begin. And, all the patients are benefitting from the new facilities and equipment made possible by the contributions of "Friends" from throughout the world. It has brought a spirit of excitement and pride to the staff and patients alike.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make the advances at RMC and at AFRMC possible. The Pesach holiday we have just observed reminded us of the beginning of the new era of the Jewish people as they left Egypt and settled in, what is today, Israel. What has

Washington, D.C./Maryland Group Receive RMC Briefing



Members of the D.C./MD planning committee met with Dr. Moshe Mittleman, (3rd from left), head of Internal Medicine at the Golda-HaSharon Campus. Dr. Mittleman brought the group up to date on happenings at the hospital, and he spoke at length about his research into cancer treatment. Participants, left to right: Cynthia Lazarow, Shirley Sherman, Dr. Mittleman, Jim Sherman, Trudy Standig, Shiela Bernard, Katy Altenberg, Richard Peabody, Halina Peabody, Michael Berson and Burton Lazarow. AFRMC President, Woody Goldberg, was the photographer.

happened in the last few years at RMC and now at AFRMC is also the beginning of a new era. The 65-year journey of RMC has been a difficult one. Working together, through AFRMC, we will continue to help make possible the advances needed at RMC to provide for a dynamic, creative, and resourceful medical center for all the people of Israel.

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IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES

Our tradition teaches us not to question a person's motives for giving tzedakah.

Recently a person offered a reasonable contribution to us if we could provide a plaque to a member of the family he wished to honor. When we had none on hand he went elsewhere. {We will soon have such an "award".} Another offered a gift if we could locate for him a commemorative souvenir issued in Israel. {We made every effort to do so.} Some give their gift to memorialize a loved one, or one's self, through a named dedication, or, because an engraved plate is affixed on their gift or their name appears somewhere in the hospital. {We make all that possible.} Others do so out of a reciprocal obligation to another person, or because they, or another person, were helped by our hospital, or only because of the recognition they receive by giving. {We also try to expedite these opportunities as well.}

On the other hand, there are those who just want to help; who believe in, and recognize the importance of, the work RMC is doing; who support many good causes; who help every Israel related effort; who just have a good heart and can't say "no". Most of them neither ask for nor expect anything in return. {We certainly encourage and solicit these gifts as well.} So, there are many different reasons people have to provide assistance to the work RMC is doing.

And, every gift is welcome, because we are in the business of saving lives; soothing pain; diagnosing and prescribing treatment; repairing, replacing or correcting, missing or malfunctioning, body parts. The people who need these services only care that these facilities, equipment, medications, supplies, physicians, technicians, etc., are there for them when they need them... not how the money was raised to have made it possible- nor the motivation of the giver. We who raise the funds cannot be so arrogant as to refuse to accept support, or to not have in place positive responses to the many motivations people have, simply because we want such help to come only as a result of totally unselfish reasons.

While the end doesn't always justify the means, when **it's about saving lives** and tikun olam, literally repairing the world, we at AFRMC have to have in place, and be open to, as many as possible responses as there are reasons that people give.



Burton Lazarow,
Executive Director AFRMC

AFRMC Welcomes "New" Friends

It is very exciting to report that since the beginning of the year a very significant number of people have made first time contributions to AFRMC. These include over \$35,000 in unrestricted funds and more than \$25,000 in designated funds. These were contributed by 283 individuals residing in the following states:

Arizona	3 people
California	41 people
District of Columbia	4 people
Florida	50 people
Illinois	12 people
Maryland	18 people
Minnesota	1 person
New Jersey	45 people
New York	89 people
Pennsylvania	23 people
Texas	1 person
Virginia	1 person

AFRMC's mailing and solicitation list goes primarily to nine of the above states, including the District of Columbia, from where the majority of the gifts were received.

It is most gratifying that so many new "friends", from the areas of the country reached out to by AFRMC, have joined in supporting the work of RMC. They are helping RMC, Israel's largest health care facility, to continue to seek the resources it needs to provide the highest quality of health care to the almost 1 million Israeli patients it treats each year. Whether a gift is \$18.00, \$36.00, \$100.00, or \$1,000.00, the combined result of all the contributions goes a long way in helping to achieve this goal.

All these contributors are most welcomed as the newest "Friends" of RMC.

Saying it With Trees

A hundred new trees in the Judean foothills honor the memory of Leah Rabin, who sadly died of lung cancer last November. Planted by the staff of RMC's Recanati Center for Medicine & Research, who cared for Mrs. Rabin during her final illness, the Leah Rabin Grove is their way of expressing warmth and respect for their courageous patient.

The grove was dedicated 30 days after Mrs. Rabin's death, at an emotional ceremony attended by her daughter Dalia, her son Yuval and daughter-in-law Tali, as well as by Beilinson campus head Dr. Yaakov Yahav, Recanati chairman Prof. Moshe Garty and as many staffers as could be spared that day. A 101st tree was added to celebrate the birth of Mrs. Rabin's granddaughter Re'ut, born the day of her passing.



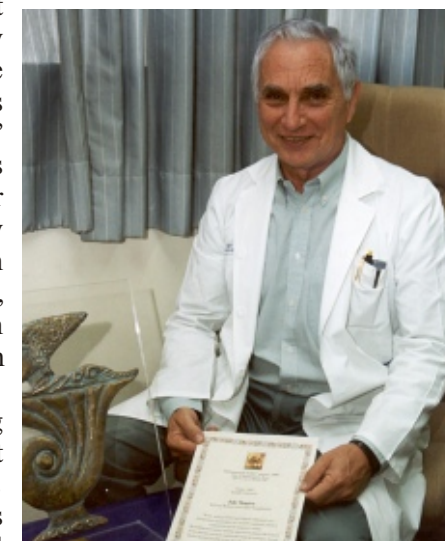
"Planting a tree in memory of Leah Rabin are her children, Yuval and his wife Tali, left, Dalia, right, with Dr. Moshe Garty, chairman of the Recanati Center at RMC, which sponsored the tree planting."

RMC Physician Receives a Double Honor

An Israeli physician, Prof. Zaki Shapira, head of RMC's Department of Organ Transplantation, was among the eminent scientists selected by international committee for the prestigious International "LIFE" Award 2000. He was presented this honor for his work at a ceremony held in Salso-Maggiore in Italy last October, alongside transplantation pioneer Dr. Christiaan Barnard of South Africa.

Prof. Shapira is among the world's foremost transplant surgeons. His department performs more than half of all Israel's transplant surgery, and it is the only center in the country to do multi-organ and live-donor liver transplantation.

The LIFE Award turned out, however, to be only one of two accolades received by Prof. Shapira during his brief trip to Salso-Maggiore. After the ceremony, representatives of the European Union invited him to establish an Organ Transplantation Institute at a new EU Faculty to be created at the International University in Italy.



RMC Physician Receives A Double Honor-
"Professor Zaki Shapira proudly displays his International "Life" Award 2000"

Surfing at the Medical Center

Patients and their visitors can now surf the worldwide web, courtesy of RMC. User-friendly internet stations have been installed on the Beilinson and Golda-Hasharon campuses, accessible around the clock (except Shabbat), free of charge. Known as Netpoint, they are in constant use, with experts and non-experts, young and old, clicking onto medical and news sites, entering chat-rooms and support groups, accessing information services and relaxing with games. More terminals will be added, until every story of the two campuses has its own Netpoint access.



"Visitors and staff make use of one of the new computer information centers at RMC."

Shrinking Risk Factors

While in the West the outcome of pregnancy for diabetic women improved from year to year, until recently doctors in the East sternly warned diabetic women against pregnancy. In Georgia in the former Soviet Union, a law forbidding diabetic women to bear children was on the statute books until 1996.

"There was reason for this bizarre-sounding law," says Prof. Moshe Hod of RMC's Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Head of its High-Risk Unit. "Mortality rates among diabetic women in pregnancy (as well as their offspring) can be as high as 50 percent."

In 1996, Prof. Hod was invited to Tbilisi to teach doctors how to manage pregnancy in diabetics. Two Georgian ob-gyns returned to study with him at RMC, and a year later he helped them open a diabetic pregnancy center in Tbilisi, which has thus far overseen the birth of over 60 healthy babies. Kazakhstan has now approached RMC for similar help.

Prof. Hod is known not only in the former USSR for his expertise in fetomaternal medicine and management of high-risk pregnancy, but all over the world. Last year, he was appointed by the World Health Organization to head at RMC, a WHO Collaborating Center on Quality Management and Development in Perinatal Care.

"That mouthful means, in practice, improving the outcome of high-risk pregnancies for both mother and child," he explains. "Today, there are virtually no contra-indications to becoming pregnant. With expert care, women with diabetes, hypertension, renal or heart disease, even those with transplanted organs, can

give birth to healthy babies, at small risk to themselves. With RMC a center for assisted reproduction, we also manage many women carrying triplets or quads. Among some 2,500 high-risk admissions each year, perinatal mortality rates are as low as 6 to 8 in a thousand live births.

Known worldwide, RMC's Ob-Gyn Department is the only one in Europe and the Middle East designated as a WHO center for perinatal care.

"This gives great impetus to our research, and we're involved in a number of major investigations," says Prof. Hod. "One of the biggest, involving 16 leading perinatal centers in 10 nations, is a study of the effect of a mother's diabetes in pregnancy on the short and long-term health of her child."

Known as the HAPO (Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcome) study, this landmark multi-national investigation will define Gestational Diabetes Mellitus as well as buy into a very recent theory known as "Fetal Origins of Adult Disease" assuming that disease in adults has its origins in the environment within the maternal uterus in which that adult developed as a fetus. It is examining such questions as: Does the fact that the children of diabetic mothers develop in a sugar-rich environment trigger diabetes, hypertension or heart disease in later life, or is this determined by the genes that the fetus inherits?

Research like this, Prof. Hod's personal reputation, the huge success of the high-risk unit and the WHO designation have put RMC among the world's leading centers in fetomaternal medicine.



"Acknowledging the work of Dr. Moshe Hod, left, for his work at RMC and in Tbilisi, Georgia, in helping diabetic women through pregnancies are Professor Boyd E. Metzger, head of the WHO Perinatal Care Project, center, and Dr. Jacob Yahav, Director of the Beilinson Campus and Deputy Director of RMC."