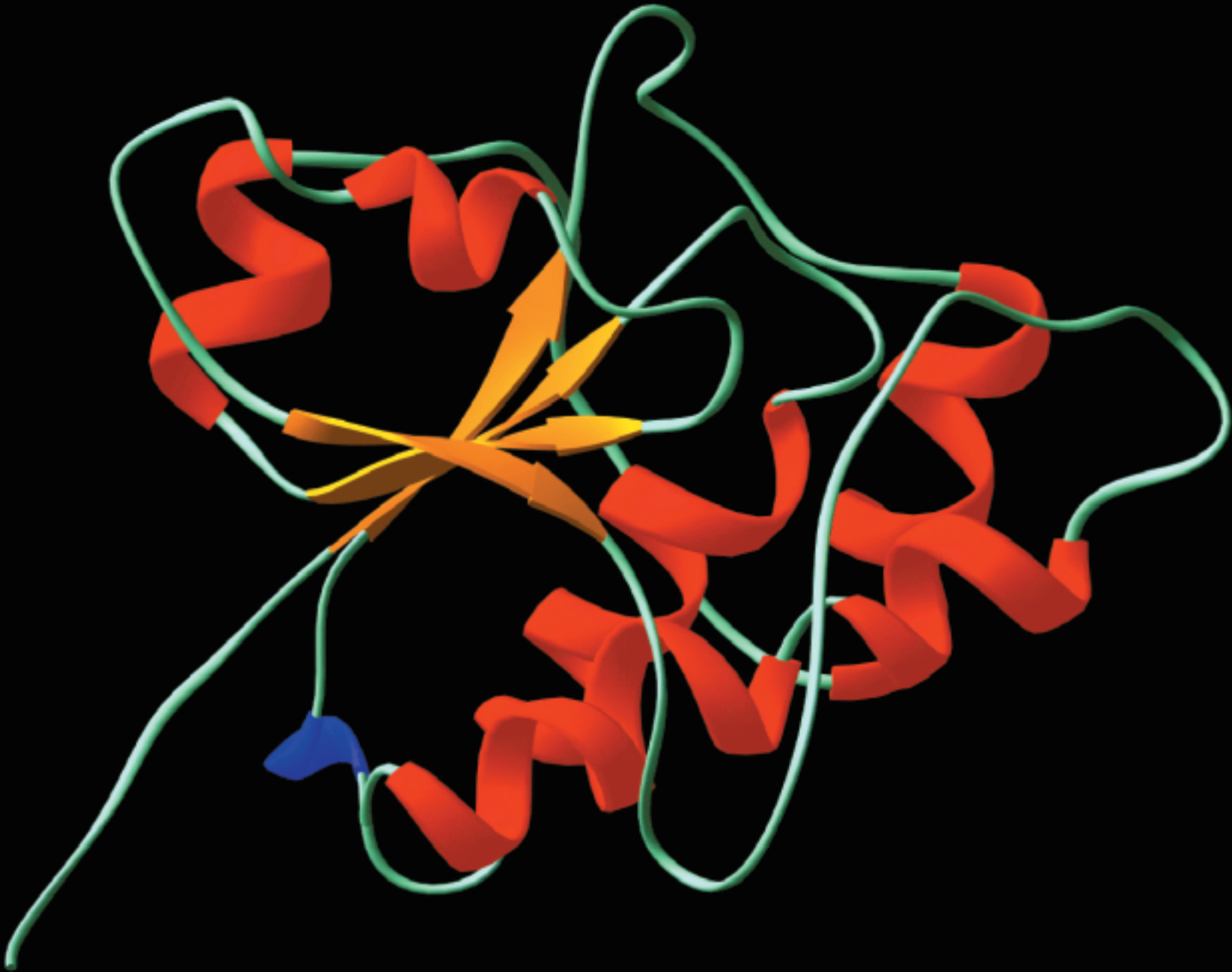


# VITALSIGNS

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

SPRING 2006



THE PROMISE OF GENETICS  
VIAGRA: NOT FOR SEX ONLY  
STEM CELL TECHNOLOGY IS HERE  
AMBASSADOR DENNIS ROSS: SECRETS OF NEGOTIATION  
THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY



RABIN MEDICAL CENTER  
ISRAEL'S PREMIER MEDICAL COMPLEX

# VITALSIGNS

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## AMERICAN FRIENDS OF RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

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AFRMC was formed to educate Americans about the Rabin Medical Center (RMC), located in Petah Tikvah, Israel, and to raise funds on behalf of Rabin Medical Center.

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THE GIFT OF GIVING



Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen

Dear Friends,

I am happy to be surrounded by wonderful people, supporters of Israel and Rabin Medical Center. Our gala dinner honoree, **Phil Frost**, is one of them. Phil Frost, Chairman and CEO of IVAX, has done Israel a great service by merging IVAX with the Israeli-based Teva Pharmaceuticals, thereby creating a magnificent global Israeli company. Phil could have chosen to merge with any number of great international corporations. But he chose Teva, and he chose Israel. That is one of the reasons why we were thrilled when Phil and his wonderful wife Patricia agreed to be our honorees. It is thanks to the foresight and vision of such leaders that grand possibilities arise.

At the same dinner, **Larry King** invited another great supporter of Israel and Rabin Medical Center to the podium. **David Barouk** deserves all of our thanks for donating a floor to the new Davidoff Center. This gift among others contributes to the great progress Rabin Medical Center is making to accomplish its dreams for the future. We had the pleasure of visiting Israel and meeting the hospital's principal architect, **Dr. Dan Oppenheim** who told us how Rabin Medical Center turns dreams into reality. I was pleased to be accompanied by **Harry and Tamar Snyder** who continue to be major contributors to the hospital and great supporters of Israel. As the world seems to provide us continuously with ample opportunity to lose faith, it is particularly heartening to be involved with an organization that continues to provide real inspiration.

With gratitude to our many friends and warmest regards,

Abraham "Barry" E. Cohen  
Chairman  
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

SHARE THE LOVE OF ISRAEL



Joshua Eli Plaut



Dan Oppenheim

Dear Friends,

Our pride in Israel's Rabin Medical Center is nourished by the love we share for the State of Israel - a country that has in its short history set the standard for quality of life throughout the Middle East and across the world. Likewise, Rabin Medical Center – which was there to welcome Israel's first pioneers – has advanced medical science.

Our pride is in how Rabin Medical Center carries out more organ transplants than any other hospital in Israel, more cancer treatments and more heart procedures. Our pride is in having the country's largest, most sophisticated women's health facility. Our pride is in establishing a level one trauma center and saving countless lives imperiled by terrorism. Our pride is in being a part of Rabin Medical Center's world-renowned research activities.

We appreciate your continued support for American Friends of Rabin Medical Center and, most importantly, for contributing to the healthcare of the more than one million patients Rabin Medical Center treats each year. Through the assistance of our American friends, the hospital continues to provide the best medical care available to the citizens of Israel. Thank you for your friendship.

Shalom and best wishes,

Joshua Eli Plaut, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center

Dr. Dan Oppenheim  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rabin Medical Center



NEW YORK GALA DINNER 2005

- Larry King hosts another successful gala
- 540 guests gathered to celebrate Rabin Medical Center
- Ambassador Dennis Ross reflects on Yitzhak Rabin-10 years later
- Paula Zahn of CNN performs on cello
- **Read more on pages 6-9.**

L-R: Opera star Sherrill Milnes leads singing of *God Bless America* with legendary Kitty Carlisle Hart, Broadway luminary Tovah Feldshuh and AFRMC Chair, Barry Cohen.



## GENETICS IS THE FUTURE

As the trend in medicine continues to point toward the importance of human gene discoveries in predicting, preventing, and treating diseases, Rabin Medical Center is now in the midst of constructing a new, state-of-the-art Genetics Institute.

The Genetics Institute is being built thanks to the generosity of the **Recanati** family, who for many years has been friends and very generous supporters of the hospital and is the benefactor of this distinctive, unique facility.

Scheduled to open in November 2006, the new two-story institute will have the most modern up-to-date clinics and laboratories, with state-of-the-art equipment and medical tools for diagnostic genetic testing. Directed by **Prof. Mordechai Shohat**, the institute will provide comprehensive genetic services and include: genetic clinics, genetic counseling, comprehensive cytogenetic services, diagnostic services in molecular genetics, and biochemical survey tests for prenatal diagnosis—all at levels that were previously impossible.



The future Genetics Institute at Rabin Medical Center

In addition, there are plans in the future to begin expansive genetic testing in other medical disciplines. Classification of specific malignant diseases will allow matching of individual treatment plans for patients. Physiological genetic principles will lead to improvement of medication use for many diseases, and the

genetic makeup of cardiac disorders may hopefully relate to treatment and prevention.

Israel is extremely active in the field of genetic testing because due to the consanguinity among the Arab population and the high percentage of Jewish genetic diseases, there is great opportunity to accumulate families for screening, testing and research.

This new medical facility will allow Rabin Medical Center to advance to new frontiers. Prof. Shohat, who has practiced in this field for more than 16 years, foresees vast discoveries in future genetic research.

Genetics holds great promise for the future of medicine and Rabin Medical Center plans to be part of this exciting future. ■

## A DILEMMA OF GENETIC TESTING

The possibility of discovering the genetic predisposition of cancer presents a double-edged sword: of fear and hope. When so many women—192,000 in America—are diagnosed with breast cancer, exploring the hereditary basis of cancer may reveal information that can save a patient's life. Approximately 5 to 10 percent of these women have a hereditary form of the disease. Alterations in the genes called BRCA1 and BRCA2 (short for breast cancer 1 and breast cancer 2) are involved in many such cases.

One Israeli family's genetic history is illustrative. Mrs. L. was married with three healthy daughters. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer at age 41 and had to undergo a breast resection. Thirteen years later at the age of 54 she was found to have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and had to undergo radiation treatment. This onset triggered an investigation into the family's cancer history. It turned out that Mrs. L.'s grandmother had colon cancer at age 49 and lung cancer at age 65; a sister had lung cancer at age 70; a niece had breast cancer at age 60; and her daughter had breast cancer at age 39. Her father had pancreatic cancer at age 62 and a paternal aunt had breast cancer in her 50's. This aunt's daughter had breast cancer at age 60, and her brother died of a brain tumor.

Rabin Medical Center suggested genetic testing. The results were informative. Mrs. L. was found to carry a 185delAG mutation in the BRCA1 gene. This mutation confers a 50-80% risk for

breast cancer, increased risk for contralateral breast cancer, and a 40% risk for ovarian cancer. The consequences of carrying this mutation meant that each of Mrs. L.'s children would have a 50% risk of inheriting the mutation and therefore were at risk for inherited breast and ovarian cancer.

All three of Mrs. L.'s daughters came to Rabin Medical Center for genetic counseling and then decided to undergo genetic testing. Her 24-year-old daughter was found negative for the family mutation and was at normal population risk for breast/ovarian cancer. Her 28-year-old daughter was also found to be healthy and not to carry the family mutation. Mrs. L.'s 31-year-old, otherwise healthy and pregnant at the time of counseling, was found to carry the family mutation and therefore at increased risk. The hospital recommended that she undergo routine surveillance, including self breast examinations every month, clinical exams every six months, and breast imaging once a year.

During counseling, many complex issues arose. At what age is it appropriate to undergo genetic testing? If a daughter is pregnant, would the results of her mother's testing cause the daughter undo stress? What are the true benefits of genetic testing for young women prior to family planning? While there are no definite answers to these questions, in the majority of cases, the benefits of foreknowledge can be truly life saving. Genetic testing can offer many avenues of prevention and early detection. This is the gift of genetics. ■

## GENETICS AND DEDICATION SOLVE PROBLEMS

Once a month, **Lina Basel** leaves her lab at the Schneider Children's Hospital in the Israeli city of Petah Tikvah and travels an hour north to an Israeli Arab village near Hadera.

There, the senior geneticist greets the nurses at the village's health clinic and begins seeing a steady stream of mothers who are coming to Basel for a blood test - one of the most important of their lives.

Following three years of research in the village, an Israeli team, including Basel, has identified a gene that causes mental retardation, as well as a series of blood tests that can determine if adults are carriers of the gene or if a young fetus is likely to possess the gene.

"We got the idea for the study because a few Arab families from the village had come into our clinic with children suffering from mental retardation," Basel told ISRAEL21c. "We did some testing on them and came to the conclusion that the mental retardation was genetic - technically it is called "autosomal recessive nonsyndromic mental retardation" (NSMR).

"We decided to study the phenomenon and asked the families to join the study and recruited others. We ended up with nine families from the village, which between them, had 16 children who were mentally retarded."

Mental retardation is expressed in patients by motor developmental delay, speech inability, communication deficiency and dependency. The research team - led by Dr. Basel and Prof. Motti Shohat, director of the institute's Genetics Institute, initially located the defective gene on chromosome 19, after which they identified the gene itself. The biological function of the new gene called CC2D1A was previously unknown.

Basel, Shohat, and their team were awarded a prize in September by the Israel Genetics Society for their discovery of the gene. The results of the research were presented in October at the Conference for the American Society of Human Genetics in Salt Lake City, USA. The research also received an award from the Israeli Pediatricians Association.

"Discovery of the gene causing mental retardation is very significant in the early diagnosis of the disease and contributes towards understanding the biological process leading to the disease's development. The finding is even more important relative to the extremely high incidence of the disease among the population at risk," said Shohat.

According to the researchers, one in ten carries the abnormal gene in the at-risk population. Basel said that a set of diag-

nostic tests has been developed as a result of the discovery that can determine if parents are carriers, and if fetuses possess the gene.

"If the parents are carriers of the gene, there's a 25% risk every time the woman gets pregnant. We also can perform fetal testing at 10-11 weeks of pregnancy," said Basel.

The mother first undergoes a genetic blood test. In the event that she is found to be a carrier of the genetic mutation, a carrier test is also conducted on the father. Should both spouses be carriers, a genetic test is conducted on the fetus, she explained.

In order to make the testing more available to the families, Basel initiated the mobile clinic a year ago.

"We travel once a month to the village to make tests available in the most convenient manner. We work in conjunction with the women's health clinic and offer the services to every woman before and during their pregnancies," she said.

Basel said the families were immediately receptive to the program, and according to the results and have made important decisions on whether to prevent or terminate pregnancies.

There was one family, Basel reported, that was resistant, but they also were won over. I think the village is very happy with the results and the fact that they can test each pregnancy. We've established a good relationship with them, especially the ones that are coming back with each pregnancy. We've gotten to know them, and they trust us."

Basel explained that there are plans to expand the testing beyond the current village into other Israeli-Arab

residential areas with a high incidence of mental retardation.

Basel, who also works at the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Rabin Medical Center, immigrated to Israel in 1991 and completed her Ph.D. at Tel Aviv University in the lab of Professor Yossi Shilo, where, in 1995, she was part of a team that discovered a defective gene related to cancer called A-T.

In her work at the Institute of Medical Genetics, Basel is part of a team that provides comprehensive genetic services to both campuses of Rabin Medical Center, the Schneider facility and to Geha Hospitals. The Institute is also a referral center for community clinics and other hospitals. But nowhere is her effect felt more powerfully than in the village where she is helping to stem the tide of mental retardation. ■



Ellen Taub at microscope with Dr. Lina Basel looking on.

*This article was reported in ISRAEL21c on December 18, 2005 under the title "A Mobile Mission - Israeli Researchers Help Stem Mental Retardation in Arab Village" by David Brinn.*



## ISRAELI BREAKTHROUGHS IN MEDICINE

### VIAGRA: NOT FOR SEX ONLY

It improved the sex lives of millions of men worldwide, and now Viagra has been found to aid in the treatment of a deadly lung disease, pulmonary arterial hypertension. Strangely enough, this hypertension mainly affects women. The Pulmonary Institute at Rabin Medical Center, Directed by **Prof. Mordechai Kramer**, participated in a trial study of 20 Israelis out of 280 patients worldwide, testing the effects of viagra. The study found that the medication definitely improved the patient's condition.

A few years ago, there was no known treatment for this relatively rare disease. People's lives steadily deteriorated once the disease was active, causing heart failure and death within only three years. The results of this study were published in the prestigious medical journal *The New England Journal of Medicine*. While viagra may not cure pulmonary arterial hypertension, it improves heart functioning, pulmonary artery pressure, and offers an enhanced quality of life.

### YOUR LIFE FITS ON A KEY

Imagine a situation in which someone from Jerusalem visits her mother in New York when suddenly she experiences excruciating stomach pains and is rushed by ambulance to the nearest hospital. After giving them her health insurance card, she also hands them her key ring which contains a disk on key. When this is connected to the hospital computer, it will provide full access to her *LifeOnKey* virtual medical file containing all her medical information allowing for immediate, quick, decisive, and accurate medical care.

*LifeOnKey*, developed by Global Medical Networks International Ltd. (a company registered in Ireland with its R&D unit in Or Yehuda, Israel) contains the patients computerized medical records and is the hottest medical technology on the market today. Though its use worldwide may still be a distant dream, the Maternal Fetal Division at Rabin Medical Center, directed by **Prof. Moshe Hod**, is already spearheading the effort for Rabin Medical Center.

Prof. Hod is currently leading a project whereby Rabin Medical Center, together with 21 European hospitals, will set up an eHealth Network (Electronic Patient Centered Network), based on *LifeOnKey* for patients suffering from diabetes in pregnancy. All the hospitals involved in the project will



Professor Moshe Hod



L-R: Dr. Gidi Sahar with the transplant patient and his mother.

share a secure database that will include the medical records of all these patients. This network will allow these hospitals to share information and cooperate in the prevention, treatment, management and research of diabetes in pregnancy.

This project will undoubtedly strengthen the knowledge and under-

standing of this disease and open new avenues of treatment and solutions for each and every patient. In essence, it is only the beginning, and as Prof. Hod says, "*LifeOnKey* will eventually improve the outcome of medical care locally, nationally and internationally, effecting and improving all areas of medicine."

### TWO AT ONCE

For the first time in Israel, and one of the only few times worldwide, Rabin Medical Center achieved a successful heart and kidney transplant, saving a critically ill young man who had only days to live.

**Dr. Gidi Sahar**, Head of the Heart and Lung Transplant Unit, part of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department and directed by **Prof. Bernardo Vidne**, said that the six-hour operation was extremely difficult and complicated: "We are actually talking about two separate transplants that then needed to be integrated. Until now, few such organ transplants have been carried out in the world. This transplant procedure places Rabin Medical Center alongside foremost transplant facilities worldwide."

This twenty-year-old patient and his family had been praying for a miracle for quite some time. At only six years old, he had to have one of his kidneys removed due to a malignant tumor. And if that wasn't enough suffering for a small child, he also underwent chemotherapy that caused damage to his heart, his remaining kidney and lungs. Six months ago, his situation began to deteriorate rapidly, and he was hospitalized with heart, lung and liver failure. Today, thanks to the transplant, the patient is resting comfortably and is in stable condition.

Additionally, the lungs of the same donor gave life to a 19-year-old boy who had cystic fibrosis and had been waiting one year for a transplant. During this time, he lived connected to an oxygen tank, which had become his constant companion and friend. He now can look forward to a normal and independent life, including taking a breath of fresh air in the beautiful outdoors.

## ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT OPENS AT THE DAVIDOFF CENTER

**R**abin Medical Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Department of Oncology, which ushers in a new era in cancer care and treatment. This ultra-modern 32-bed facility has both the patient and the family's interests in mind. Each room is provided with an additional bed for accompanying family members who wish to be near the side of their loved ones. The floor boasts a visitor's room with a large plasma television, warm lighting throughout the hallways, soothing colors throughout and wall sculptures by the famous artist **Dudu Gerstein**.

Equally impressive is the vigilance with which cancer is fought, based on a multi-disciplinary protocol, utilizing staff from every relevant department. One recent visitor from Canada, who had come to be by his mother's side, said, "there is nothing in Canada that can compare to this oncology department, and I can see that my mother is really getting the best care possible."

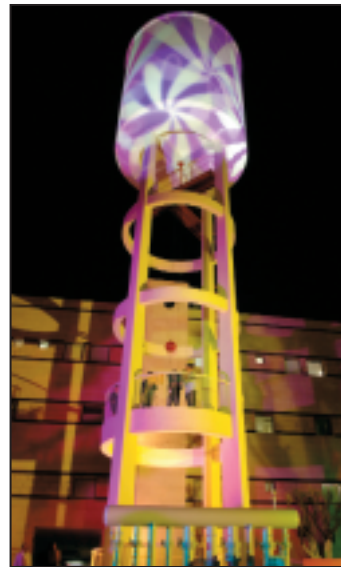
New floors and wings are opening at the Davidoff Center daily. The Physicians' Floor has just opened, soon to be followed by the Department of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation. Cancer patients at Rabin Medical Center will soon benefit from easy access to all their treatments and physicians, with the intent of placing patients' needs above all else. ■



Tzipora Ronen with nurses on the day she was released.

**Tzipora Ronen**, patient and famous artist—whose works have been shown around the world and especially in Mexico, met the **Davidoff** family who have a home in Mexico and made this center possible. Tzipora commented: "after transfer to the new Oncology Department, I can tell you that as an artist, our surroundings make a difference in the way we feel, not to mention the comfort it provides in our moments of suffering. Cancer is a terrible disease, but one must never give up, and this new center helps to give me the strength to fight." She also complimented the warm compassionate, professional staff that has been with her through her long battle.

## KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE WITH JOY



Dedication of the water tower

**A**lthough Rabin Medical Center has become a unique and modern facility, it has never been far from its Zionist roots. The stately water tower, a relic from the last century, symbolized Israel's pioneering spirit. Since its use faded, it would have to be transformed if it were to be preserved.

Enter our board member **Shimon Topor** and his wife, Chava, long time friends and ongoing supporters of the hospital, who commissioned the noted artist **Dani Caravan** to make the tower the center-

piece of a new peaceful and serene environmental sculpture. Without changing the original structure, Dani placed three colorful balls that go up and down, visible to all who are seated in the new amphitheater that surrounds the water tower and from which ongoing concerts would be held.

In a special ceremony attended by the Israeli Minister of Health **Dani Naveh** and many other distinguished guests, the preserved water tower was unveiled. Under the stars, three jazz musicians sat atop the tower and inaugurated this beautiful "modern antique." The concerts and the setting were magical. Patients could be seen standing by their windows enjoying the moment together with the invited guests. ■

### WATER TOWERS IN ISRAELI HISTORY

Water towers have long been a prominent feature of the Zionist landscape in Israel. They grew rapidly in the early 1900's in order to facilitate a steady supply of water to the newly founded Jewish settlements that were rapidly growing across the country. Later on, as they became obsolete, many were destroyed. But there were those that acquired symbolic functions as part of the cultural landscape of Israel today. Some, for example, are commemorative, having been transformed into memorials for Israel's War of Independence.

The water tower on the Rabin Medical Center campus was constructed in 1925 after the immigration of a large group in the area from Tel Neta. The water tower was established as a source of water for agriculture and for the residents of the area. Yet, due to its high location, it was also cleverly used by the "Haganah" organization as a lookout over settlements, some a great distance away. The tower has not been in use since the 1970's and is surely one of few water towers in Israel to be refurbished in a combination of artistry and functionality.



## LOVE OF ISRAEL AND PRIDE IN RABIN MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATED AT 2005 GALA DINNER

### AMBASSADOR DENNIS ROSS REVEALS SECRETS OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS TO LARRY KING, MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Excerpts from King's interview with Ambassador Ross:

**Q:** Larry King asked the following questions:

*What are chances for peace in the Middle East? Did Bush make a mistake in Iraq and can the US succeed there? Is Iran a real threat to the US and Israel? Why didn't Arafat accept the Clinton/Barak peace deal? Are Israelis easy to negotiate with? When did Rabin turn peacemaker?*

**A:** In rapid fire, Ross answered...

- Arafat, he said, couldn't accept a peace treaty—even one that gave him tremendous concessions—because Arafat's entire leadership was based on conflict. But as beloved as he was by the Palestinian people because he kept the Palestinian cause at the center of world affairs, 60% of Palestinians said that there was greater chance for peace now that he is gone.
- Yes, Iran is a real threat to Israel, but at least Israel knows directly who her enemy is. And Iran's aim is to exert an even larger role in controlling the direction of pan-Arab militancy. And now that the US is involved in Iraq, Iran can develop its nuclear ambition with a distracted American government who is focused on Iraq.
- Iraq's chances for creating a peaceful government is based on how well the Sunnis are willing to accept their diminished status and how soon Iraqi's themselves can take over security functions.
- Yitzhak Rabin turned peacemaker when he left the military. He is the most intellectually honest Middle East leader I have ever met. He analyzed situations for every contingency and was far ahead of his time in his understanding the capabilities of Arab leaders.

Over five hundred and forty eminent American friends and patrons of Rabin Medical Center gathered at the Pierre Hotel on October 30, 2005 to show their solidarity with the State of Israel and to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of Rabin Medical Center. Emceed by **Larry King**, master of ceremonies, kept the audience in stitches making jokes about the freezing temperature of the room, the dinner honored **Patricia and Dr. Phillip Frost**, distinguished drug entrepreneur and philanthropist, and honored the memory of Yitzhak Rabin on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his assassination.

The dinner began with a reverential tone as **Barry Cohen**, Chairman of the AFRMC board of directors, asked the audience to remember Rabin with a moment of silence. King told of interviewing Rabin as he accompanied him on the campaign trail and of Clinton who had said to him that Rabin was his favorite Israeli leader. A modern-day expression of this love was the special gift donated by **David Barouk** to Rabin Medical Center. Responding to the plaque given to Barouk by Larry King in recognition of his generosity—a \$2 million donation of a day-care floor in the Davidoff Center—Barouk spoke openly of his love for Israel and how his father had dreamed of helping his beloved state—a dream Barouk now fulfilled.

**Nava Barak**, a first lady of Israel and world-wide Ambassador for Rabin Medical Center, challenged the audience to give generously to Rabin Medical Center, because the hospital serves as a symbol for the optimism displayed by the State of Israel, despite the agonizing decisions—such as pulling out of the Gaza—which the State of Israel has had to make. She praised **Ambassador Ross** for his dedication to peace in the Middle East and highlighted the strong, longstanding ties between Israel and

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David Barouk receives award from Larry King for his generous support of Rabin Medical Center





L-R: Barry and Yvonne Cohen



L-R: Zeev Vurembrand, Dr. Dan Oppenheim



Over five hundred and forty supporters of Rabin Medical Center gathered at the Pierre



L-R: Wendy and Stephen Siegel, Nava Barak



L-R: Dr. Bihla Fish, Larry and Millie Magid, Larry King, Jacki and Joel Florin, Peter Aronow

the United States. She reminded guests that “Rabin Medical Center has always been there for the citizens of the State of Israel in times of war and in times of peace.”

**Dr. Dan Oppenheim**, CEO of Rabin Medical Center, and **Mr. Zeev Vurembrand**, CEO of Clalit—Rabin Medical Center’s parent HMO—then thanked the audience for its continued support of the hospital and for being true partners with Israel. Pointing out that the purpose of the 2005 gala dinner is to help provide Rabin Medical Center with necessary, advanced technologies, Dr. Oppenheim introduced a short video that described Rabin Medical Center’s technological priorities and needs.

**Stephen Siegel**, President of the AFRMC board of directors, next took the podium to provide specific examples of how Rabin Medical Center could benefit from the purchase of specific equipment. And then, demonstrating his own generosity and attempting to inspire others to give, Siegel pledged to fund a closed incubator for newborn nurseries.

**Mr. Arnold Burns**, eminent attorney and dinner chairman, rose to introduce the well-deserved dinner honorees **Patricia and Dr. Phillip Frost**. Burns noted, “it is entirely fitting that we pay tribute to a man who is synonymous with the medical prescription industry.” Recognizing Dr. Frost’s endeavors as chairman and chief executive officer of IVAX Corporation, as well as his long and distinguished medical career, he also paid tribute to the doctor’s wife, Patricia, for her lifelong philanthropic commitment to the arts, culture, and education through her work for the Smithsonian Institute and for institutions of higher education in the greater Miami area.

In response and in gratitude, Dr. and Mrs. Frost thanked the

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L-R: Rob Levin, Alyse Kobin, Georgia Siampalioti, Steven Hirth, Craig Bassett



Seated L-R: Danna Moos, Rebecca Lieberman, Nadine Witkin, Yvette Pomerantz, Katie Thompson Standing L-R: Jean-Claude Moos, Steven Pomerantz, Steven Kargman, Scott Thompson



L-R: Eran Normberg, Eran Conforty, Michael Yanko, Laura Poretzky, Michael Shvo, Lela Goren, Shalom Ibrahimian, Allen Davoudpour, Shmuel Albin

THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY



L-R: Arnold Burns, Larry King, Dr. Phillip and Mrs. Patricia Frost

PROFILE OF DR. PHILLIP & MRS. PATRICIA FROST

American Friends of Rabin Medical Center was pleased to honor Dr. Phillip and Mrs. Patricia Frost at its 2005 New York Gala Dinner. The Frosts set a new standard for charitable giving, by sharing the fruits of their tremendous success with a wide range of medical, educational, artistic, and cultural institutions. Having built IVAX into one of the largest generic and over-the-counter drug manufacturers in the world, Dr. Frost made healthcare a top priority in philanthropy as well as in business “We’re here to support a great medical institution,” he said from the podium at the gala dinner.

Rabin Medical Center is grateful for his attention, especially in light of the broad range of interests he shares with Mrs. Frost. As IVAX proceeds from strength to strength, the Frosts recently made the single largest donation to a music school – The School of Music at the University of Miami – in United States history. Dr. Frost, named the 2001 National Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, also serves as chairman of the board of trustees of the University of Miami, and as vice chairman of the American Stock Exchange.

For her part, Mrs. Patricia Frost, a teacher, serves on the boards of both the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Florida International University. Together, the Frosts established the Patricia and Phillip Frost Fellowship, which is presented by the Smithsonian American Art Museum to support significant research in American art and visual culture.

Having recently merged IVAX with Teva Pharmaceutical Industries – Israel’s foremost drug company – Dr. Frost achieved a tremendous career milestone. Rabin Medical Center is proud to have the Frosts’ support, and was delighted to honor their roll call of professional and philanthropic achievement.

audience for the honor bestowed on them, but reminded everyone that the “real star is Rabin Medical Center, which is the backbone of medical care in Israel.”

A true star of Rabin Medical Center, **Professor Bernardo Vidne**, Rabin Medical Center’s world-renowned heart surgeon, was present this evening on the eve of his retirement and given AFRMC’s first award for excellence for his groundbreaking research and treatment of cardiothoracic patients.

Of course, what would a gala be without entertainment, which was provided by the **Jazz Museum in Harlem All-Star Band**. Joining it was King’s colleague and CNN anchorwoman **Paula Zahn** who pleased the audience with her jazz renditions on the cello.

It was then time for keynote speaker, Ambassador Dennis Ross’s talk on peace prospects in the Middle East. Honorary Chair, Israel Ambassador to the United States, **Daniel Ayalon** introduced Ross as a personal friend and a major negotiator for peace who, over his illustrious career, had the opportunity to work with all the major players in Middle East politics.

**Ambassador Ross** praised Yitzhak Rabin as being the embodiment of the Israeli experience. “He spent his life as a warrior,” Ross commented, “but ended his career as a champion of peace.” Rabin, according to Ross, had a profound sense of responsibility to the Israeli people. That is why he planned for two strategies: one that would lead Israel to negotiate a peace treaty with the Palestinians and the other to unilaterally plan for separating Israel from any Palestinian influence.

Ambassador Ross went on to deliver a wide-ranging commentary on the state of the Middle East peace process, posing questions as Rabin might have on those long Sabbath afternoons when Ross was a guest in Rabin’s home. Will the Syrian regime survive? Will Iraq be successful? Is Iran a real threat? Ross focused on the small window of opportunity that existed after Arafat’s death, which the Palestinian Authority missed; that then left room for the more militant Hamas to gain wider influence. Ross even predicted that Hamas could win big in the Gaza elections, as they, of course, did if the United States failed to exert its influence on curtailing Palestinian Authority corruption.

Ross followed with even more perceptive comments as a result of Larry King’s penetrating post-speech interview. Excerpts of this question and answer session can be found in “Dennis Ross Reveals Secrets of Middle East Negotiations to Larry King.” See page 4 for excerpts. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006 7th Annual NY Gala Dinner

AFRMC wishes to thank these friends — *Signature Bank, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Tortolani, and Varian Medical Systems* — for their advertisements that arrived after the 2005 Gala Dinner journal went to press.





L-R: Professor Bernardo Vidne and Larry King



Arlene Strelitz and Yoram Petrushka



Paula Zahn playing the cello with the Jazz Museum's Harlem All Stars Band



L-R: Anne and Ambassador Daniel Ayalon, Larry King, Lori and Joshua Plaut, Dennis Ross



L-R: Shimon Topor, David Barouk, Chava Topor



Dr. Robert and Leah Bregman



Stephen and Roslyn Flatow



Pinchas Cohen and NY Councilwoman Melinda Katz

COCKTAIL PARTY HONORS SPECIAL DONORS



L-R: Zeev Vurembrand, Sharon and David Barouk, Dr. Dan Oppenheim, Barry Cohen



L-R: Lillian Rosenthal, Yvonne Cohen, Seymour Rosenthal



L-R: Raquel Ramati, Dr. Bihla Fish, Naomi Houminer

On Saturday night, October 29, 2005, Yvonne and Barry Cohen hosted a special cocktail party at their home in which good friends and donors of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center gathered to honor Phil and Patricia Frost and express their appreciation to David Barouk for his generous gift of a day care floor in oncology at the Davidoff Center. Larry King, Kupat Holim CEO Zeev Vurembrand and his wife Naomi, Nava Barak, and Dr. Dan Oppenheim greeted the assembled. This was an evening to celebrate the achievements of the American Friends of Rabin Medical Center whose mission is to support Israel's premier hospital.



## SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER GOES INTO HIGH GEAR

### STEM CELL TECHNOLOGY IS HERE



L-R: Bob and Linda Sandelman with Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum and Phyllis Handelsman

**B**OCA RATON— Over the weekend of December 2, 2005, more than 500 people had an opportunity to learn of revolutionary practices at Rabin Medical Center. American Friends of Rabin Medical Center is developing a South Florida Chapter to support the health and research facility's growing needs. **Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum**, Deputy Director of Rabin Medical Center, and head of the Technology Department, was the special guest of the South Florida Chapter. He spoke of major accomplishments taking place at Rabin Medical Center. At Temple Emeth of Delray Beach and at the Boca Marina Yacht Club, the doctor revealed the presence of a high tech star, the \$1 million dollar "Zeus" robot that performs surgery with the assistance of highly skilled physicians. According to Rosenbaum, the Zeus Robot enables physicians located in distant locations to participate in the surgery. Rosenbaum also talked about cutting-edge advancements in stem cell research and therapy for cardiac and Parkinson's patients. "Many of these specialized techniques could become common medical practice in five years," noted Rosenbaum.

South Florida Chapter members **Linda and Bob Sandelman** of Boca Raton were thrilled with the presentation because they appreciate the great strides Rabin Medical Center is making in health and research. "These are gifts to the world," Linda Sandelman commented. ■

**U**nderstanding cell growth, differentiation and morphogenesis may enable us to use natural processes in order to cure medical diseases. Stem cells are primal undifferentiated cells, which retain the ability to differentiate into other cell types. This ability allows them to act as a repair system for the body, replenishing other cells, as long as the organism is alive. Medical researchers believe that stem cell research has the potential to change the face of human disease by being used to repair specific tissue or to grow organs. Additional frontiers of stem cell research are in the treatment of baldness, missing teeth, and blindness.

*Excerpt from the presentation by Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum*

### MEDICAL EXPERTS SPEAK OUT

**A**FRMC hosted Holocaust historian **Prof. Daniel Goldhagen** of Harvard who spoke to an audience of one hundred twenty five people on Sunday, January 15th in Boca Raton, at B'nai Torah Congregation. His topic was *The Iranian Threat and Preventing a New Holocaust: Global Terrorism – What Every American Must Know*. **Dr. Mauricio Lynn** of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital introduced the event with a presentation comparing Jackson's new trauma center to the emergency preparedness apparatus in place at Rabin Medical Center, an exemplar of a level one trauma center in Israel, and an inspiration to the Jackson hospital's new trauma center.

**J**anuary 26th, new South Florida friends of Rabin Medical Center, **Steve & Barbara Whitehill**, hosted a group of supporters and physicians at their Boca Raton home to hear two visiting Rabin Medical Center physicians. **Dr. Nicholas Onaca** and **Prof. Eytan Mor** spoke to the assembled on pancreatic islet research and clinical trials.

**D**uring the last weekend of March 2006, the South Florida Chapter will host **Dr. Eyal Porat**, who is leaving his position in Houston with the Texas Health Science Center to join the staff of Rabin Medical Center. Porat will speak at Temple Emeth in Delray Beach on April 1, 2006 at 10:00 am about the state of medical technology in Israel. Porat's specialization is minimally invasive cardiothoracic and robotic surgery. ■

### AND THEY'RE OFF...

This year's Miami Tropical Half-Marathon in January brought runners and observers to motivate and encourage the Trobman Family in their effort to combat cancer. Funds raised through their sponsors help to support the Charles E. Trobman Oncology Management Center housed at the New Davidoff Cancer Center at the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikvah, Israel. The Research Center was named in memory of Phyllis and Malcolm's son, Chuck, who died at the age of 25 from a rare form of cancer. Chuck was also the beloved brother of Les, an attorney in Austin, Texas. Through the generosity of approximately 100 donors supporting this run in Chuck's memory, the efforts through this project and others in the future, will impact the way cancer is treated for us and for generations to follow.



L-R: Phyllis and Malcolm Trobman, Les Trobman, Desi Trobman, Brian Schneider, Mayer Trobman

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE BOARD?

### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Aline Davidoff** is the proud daughter of Leon and Ruth Davidoff of Mexico City. She is a student and a mother, living in New York City. The Davidoff family is renowned for their worldwide Jewish philanthropic endeavors and generosity. The Davidoffs' are among the most cherished supporters of the Rabin Medical Center, especially the new Davidoff Cancer Care Center, the first such facility in the whole Middle East.



**Jacalyn Barlia Florin** is a theater producer. Among her credits are the "Drama Desk", a nominated Off-Broadway production; "NEWSical the Musical" and the "Next Edition". In her varied career, Jacalyn has worked in all aspects of communication including: media services, advertising, television and music. She has a tremendous commitment to the Jewish and theater communities and serves on boards of directors in both arenas.



**Phyllis B. Trobman** is an active member within the Jewish community. She recently retired after a long career as Director of Special Education and is presently acting as an educational consultant for local school districts in South Jersey. Phyllis and her husband Malcolm, are founders of The Charles E. Trobman Oncology Data Management Center at the Davidoff Cancer Center, which was established in memory of their son.

### NEW YORK'S CAFÉ PHILO ISRAEL

The New Circle has successfully launched Cafe Philo Israel, a monthly gathering for intellectuals, decision makers, executives and professionals who want to explore political, social, and cultural developments in Israel. "I find these discussions both insightful and thought-provoking," said Joshua Plaut, Executive Director of American Friends of Rabin Medical Center and co-moderator. "As surprising as it seems, we are the only discussion group in New York City that specifically targets Israeli issues," he added. "We are thrilled to have Emmanuel Tchividjian, Senior Vice President of Ruder Finn, serve as co-moderator."

**Topics of discussion are:** Pros and Cons of the Gaza Disengagement; Old Pope, New Pope: How Can Israel and the Vatican Improve Relations?; A Final Settlement of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: What should it be like?; Do American Jews Have Any Responsibilities Toward Israel?; Is the Mass Media Biased Toward Israel?; and Ariel Sharon – The Man and His Legacy; The Changing of the Guard, What to Expect from the Israeli Elections?

Café Philo Israel is free of charge and open to the public, taking place at Les Sans Culottes restaurant located at 1085 2nd Avenue and 57th Street (212-838-6660) on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30 pm. If you wish to participate, please RSVP by email to [mconen@afrmc.org](mailto:mconen@afrmc.org) or phone 212.279.2522.

## SUPPORT RABIN MEDICAL CENTER

*Rabin Medical Center's leadership in cancer care and treatment, cardiology, organ transplantation and women's health is made possible by donors, like you, who support the thousands of dedicated health professionals who provide the highest standards of medical care while preserving a patient's dignity.*

**GENERAL SUPPORT** - You can provide funding that is flexible, supporting the most pressing needs to the most exciting new initiatives.

**PROGRAM SUPPORT** - You can direct your gift to an area of treatment, research or specialization that reflects the donor's interest. Contribute over \$20,000 can have a wall plaque placed at Rabin Medical Center in their name or in those whom they choose to honor.

**CAPITAL GIFTS** - You can provide funding for construction, renovation or purchase of medical equipment that enables patients to receive the most advanced and comprehensive care. Diverse opportunities are available for naming of buildings, wings, rooms, laboratories or equipment.

- **MATERNITY AND NEONATAL CARE WING**  
Cost - \$1,500,000
- **CANCER RESEARCH WING**  
Cost - \$6,100,000
- **CENTER FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE AND TRAUMA**  
Cost - \$12,600,000

**GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS** - You can give a meaningful gift for any occasion: a holiday, a birthday, an anniversary, or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. A personalized card is then sent to the designee and the donor receives an acknowledgment letter.

**BEQUESTS** - You can create a lasting legacy by naming American Friends of Rabin Medical Center in your will. Bequests are made primarily through gifts of cash, securities, real estate, and tangible personal property.

**BE A VOLUNTEER** - Be a part of organizing American Friends of Rabin Medical Center special events, volunteer on to its public relations committee or help us find potential supporters, foundations and corporations that would be interested in becoming sponsors.

URGENT NEEDS	COST
Volumetric Infusion Pump(s)	\$1,400
Automatic External Defibrillator(s)	\$2,000
Special Orthopedic Bed(s)	\$5,000
Level One Hotline System	\$6,000
Closed Incubator for Newborn Nursery	\$15,000
Computerized Tomography System (CT)	\$120,000

Please contact Joshua Plaut at 212.279.2522 to discuss your support.

## HIS MEMORY LIVES ON

**R**afael and Carmit Biel wanted nothing more than to have a child. But this goal eluded them until Prof. Benny Fisch, Director of the IVF Unit at Rabin Medical Center, started them on a course of In-Vitro Fertilization. But just as signs of fertilization were on the horizon, Rafael passed away from a recently diagnosed cancer.

Only days after dealing with the tragic loss of her husband, Carmit Biel had to make the difficult decision of whether or not to continue with the In-Vitro Fertilization treatment that she had been undergoing with her late husband Rafael over the past three years. Her physician, Prof. Benny Fisch, was in close contact with Carmit and was aware of her conflict. He tried to be as supportive as possible yet knew that only Carmit could make this decision. In the end, she decided to continue. And as fate would have it, on what would have been her sixth wedding anniversary, she got the news that she



Carmit Biel with her twins

was pregnant with twins. But her joy was mixed with sorrow. Carmit said, "I could have been the happiest woman in the world if my husband had been by my side. But I know this is what Rafael would have wanted. From the moment we were married, we had dreamed about having kids. I couldn't give him this gift during his lifetime, but his memory lives on in these two beautiful children."

During the pregnancy, she often went to her husband's grave, filled with feelings of hope. There have been moments of grief and sadness, but the twins now fill her life with joy and tremendous happiness. Carmit said, "the twins look like their father. And when they are old enough I plan to tell them everything."

She is forever grateful to Prof. Fisch and his staff for their overwhelming support and for this gift of life. She now encourages other women not to give up hope. Her strength and courage are surely an inspiration for others. ■

## FATHER'S GIFT OF VISION TO HIS SON

**A** tragic car accident allowed 27 year-old Tal Almos to finally see clearly again. When 27-year-old Tal Almos lost his father to cancer two years ago, there was no question about whether to donate his father's healthy organs, knowing that he himself was in need of a transplant. Sadly, Tal was well aware that one person's tragedy answers another person's prayers, and such was truly his case. When a man close to his own age was tragically killed recently in a car accident, Tal received the long awaited call to have his cornea transplants. He had waited for six years for this moment, and finally it had come.

His story is one of strength and courage. It began when at age 17, he began to have problems with sight in his right eye. He was diagnosed with a rare eye disease, which affects the cornea, causing the eye to have difficulty focusing. Tal, close to

beginning his army service, was unwilling to even consider giving up his dream of enlisting in the army Golani brigade. And since his left eye was then unaffected, he learned to shoot with his left hand. Yet, he became an outstanding soldier and an officer during his service. As fate would have it, his situation only deteriorated upon completing military service, and the disease began to also affect his left eye. He would now need a cornea transplant in both eyes. As he waited, he furthered his education, completing his B.A. in Computer Science. Today he works in the high tech industry.

Thanks to the cornea transplant, he can now see the world clearly again. And though the loss of his father is still very painful, he finds comfort in knowing that his father's eyes have also opened the lights to someone else's darkness. ■

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### MALL FEVER

**S**hopping has become an Israeli passion, and shopping malls have spread all over the country. It is no surprise, then, that opposite Rabin Medical Center, and connected by a walking bridge, is one of Petah Tikva's busiest malls, the Avnat Mall. Here you can find the latest trends in fashion and a food court with a mixture of Israeli fare and American junk food. Every Tuesday, special stands are erected where people can sell handmade crafts, and on Fridays, you can buy all kinds of special foods. Yet,

what makes this mall unique is that it offers special services to the 4,500 workers of Rabin Medical Center. All their shopping needs are conveniently located right next to work, and visitors to the hospital can find pleasure there after being with friends and family. Even patients can benefit from nice gifts brought to them from the mall as well as food brought for a nosh. It is not that uncommon for patients to stroll through the mall in their hospital pajamas. ■



**Q:** I AM 44 YEARS OLD, AND THOUGH I DON'T SHOW ANY SIGNS YET OF OSTEOPOROSIS, MY MOTHER SUFFERS FROM THIS. I WAS WONDERING IF THERE IS ANYTHING I SHOULD DO TOWARD PREVENTION?

**A:** Though most studies show that post-menopausal women are at the highest risk for osteoporosis, there are definitely some steps you can take to lessen the risk of getting osteoporosis in the future.

1. Eat a nutritious diet rich in dairy products and green vegetables, which are important sources of calcium.
2. Exercise regularly, at least 30 minutes daily. Your routine should include some combination of walking, hiking, and jogging, in addition to resistance training to improve steadiness balance.
3. Don't smoke! Smoking promotes the progressive loss of calcium.
4. A bone density test (the gold standard method for detecting loss of bone tissue) is recommended for women who meet one or more of the following high-risk criteria: age over 65 years; age 50 or more with a family history of osteoporosis; presence of a disease that can increase the chances of acquiring osteoporosis, such as diseases that affect food absorption and digestion; poor health habits (smoking!); and a small skeleton (very thin).

Dr. Varda Eshed, Director, Endocrinology Metabolic Service, Rabin Medical Center

**Q:** I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO EAT CITRUS FRUITS.

**A:** Citrus fruits have long been valued as part of a healthful and nutritious diet, and their flavor and juiciness have given rise to many legends and for good reason. The nutritional fiber in citrus fruits helps to control bowel movements and gives you a feeling of satiety. In addition, it is important for lowering the level of cholesterol in the bloodstream, and lowering the blood level of glucose. Eating citrus fruit fiber has also been associated with a lower risk of gastrointestinal cancer. Another reason for consuming citrus fruits is their vitamin C content. Vitamin C is an anti-oxidization agent, protecting you against the free radicals that are created by polluted air, smoking, radiation, and ultraviolet rays. Free oxygen radicals damage healthy cells and raise the risk of infections, and they accelerate aging and cancer progression. It is a good idea to drink citrus fruit while eating meat, legumes and other foods containing iron, because the vitamin C in the fruit assists in the absorption of iron, and also calcium. And of course don't just drink the juice--eat the entire fruit. That way you'll also gain the advantage of the fruit's dietary fiber and all its vitamins.

Chagit Hirsch Lustigman, Clinical Dietician, Nutrition and Diet, Rabin Medical Center

## BEHIND THE STETHOSCOPE: PROFESSOR BERNARDO ALEX VIDNE



**P**rofessor Bernardo Vidne, Chairman and Director of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Rabin Medical Center and top cardiac surgeon in Israel today, did not follow the mold of those students who were destined to become physicians. Growing up in Cordoba, Argentina in a Zionist family;

he was a regular kid, somewhat on the wild side. As a teen, he spent most of his spare time involved in the Zionist youth movement where he met Naomi who would later become his wife and best friend.

A momentous turn took place when, after graduating from high school, he began to work with a truck driver. One day, the driver told Prof. Vidne how much he regretted that he had never studied and done anything with his life. It was then that Prof. Vidne decided to go to university, and later on to medical school. In his fifth year of studies, he chose to specialize in pediatric cardiac surgery because, as he explained: "in my heart, I believe this is the ultimate achievement in medicine." After graduating, he and his wife immigrated to Israel, and they settled in the

Negev where he began his medical career as a general surgeon.

In 1991, he became the Director of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Rabin Medical Center and transformed the department into Israel's leading center of cardiac surgery. A world-class heart surgeon, Prof Vidne has given hope to severely ill heart patients who had little or no chance for survival. He admits that before each and every one of the complicated surgeries he performs, he fears losing the patient. As he stated, "every sense of my body is at its peak." And even though he knows he does the very best for each patient, he takes every loss of life as a personal failure. Prof. Vidne is a true leader, innovator and educator. A full professor of Surgery at the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, he was the youngest faculty member to receive this title.

Prof. Vidne's only regret is that his career left him so little time to spend with his family, missing, as a result, so many moments of his four children's lives. But in return, he gained great satisfaction from his career. In his spare time, no matter how exhausted he is at night, he always finds time to listen to the classical music that he loves and to spend Friday night dinners in the company of his family, his wife, children and grandchildren who bring him such great joy. Perhaps, one of them will follow in the footsteps of the man who is responsible for bringing so many hearts back to life. ■



**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
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## OLMERT AND GIULIANI VISIT RABIN MEDICAL CENTER OF ISRAEL



L-R: Dr. Dan Oppenheim and Ehud Olmert

### PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT

Only one day after he became Israel's Minister of Finance in October 2005, **Ehud Olmert**, the now interim Prime Minister, visited Rabin Medical Center. The CEO of Clalit Health Services, **Mr. Zeev Vurembrand** and the CEO of Rabin Medical Center, **Dr. Dan Oppenheim**, hosted him. During his visit, he toured the campus and was impressed by the major changes that had taken place over the years and by the extraordinary level of medical care offered. He fully understood the hospital's role as a leader in healthcare in Israel. He was especially impressed by the new Davidoff Center, the first comprehensive medical center in Israel specializing in the treatment and research of cancer. Olmert said, "this visit was truly enlightening. The Rabin Medical Center of today is nothing like I remember. Before my eyes, I see a modern medical facility advancing the medical needs of Israel's ever growing population." Rabin Medical Center, the flagship hospital of Clalit Health Services, was honored by Olmert's visit. And despite all the hardships the country faces, the hospital continues its quest to offer excellent medical services to all the citizens of Israel.



L-R: Rudolph Giuliani and Nava Barak

### MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI

In Israel for only two days in October 2005, the former Mayor of New York, **Rudolph Giuliani**, found time to visit Rabin Medical Center's Davidoff Center, the largest and most prestigious center for the treatment and research of cancer in the Middle East, and fulfilled the promise he made at the 2004 NY gala dinner to visit Israel. Giuliani, who successfully overcame prostate cancer, wanted to give hope and encouragement to patients in their continuous fight against this terrible disease. Speaking before the staff, Giuliani expressed how impressed he was, affirming that this center is one of the most exceptional, outstanding, treatment centers he has ever visited. During his visit, Giuliani also met with two young mothers, **Mira Tako** and **Shiri Givoli**, (each with small children) who are cancer patients benefiting from the services of the new Davidoff Center. Giuliani was quite emotional during this meeting and expressed his desire to visit again in the near future.