

The 3 hats of Prof. Ofer Merin, Shaare Zedek director-general

• By ALAN ROSENBAUM

Prof. Ofer Merin, recently appointed director-general of Shaare Zedek Medical Center, provided an overview of his multiple roles as head of the Jerusalem hospital, chief of trauma services there, and head of the IDF's mobile field hospital at the *Jerusalem Post* Conference in New York.

Merin described Shaare Zedek's rapid expansion, saying that "not many hospitals have a doubling in size in the number of patients treated within a decade." The hospital is incorporating new technologies as well as new buildings, including an MRI machine for premature babies, and increased use of robotics.

Switching hats, Merin described the work of the renowned IDF field hospital that he has headed for the past 15 years, which has treated and saved lives in numerous mass-casualty events around the world. Israel's mobile field hospital, he explained, has received the highest rating from the World Health Organization for the standards that it maintains. But what separates it from others, he says, "is our values, our ability to treat people with the proper dignity."

Merin then spoke of the work of the hospital's trauma unit, which frequently has to deal with harrowing cases of terror victims and their rehabilitation. Recalling a terrorist attack in which a husband was shot together with his pregnant wife, he described the dedicated work that was done by the doctors to save the lives of the cou-



PROF. OFER MERIN, director-general of Shaare Zedek Medical Center: Not many hospitals have a doubling in size in the number of patients treated within a decade.' (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

ple. Unfortunately, the fetus could not be saved. "We could not save the child," he explained, "but we have to concentrate on life, in whatever we can do."

Citing the Talmudic dictum "Whosoever saves

one life, saves the whole world," Merin said Shaare Zedek is steadfast in its effort to maintain and save lives.

The article was written in cooperation with Shaare Zedek Medical Center.

Rambam Health Care: Creating the future of medicine for the world

Director of Haifa hospital takes audience on a journey through cutting edge medicine, innovation

• By ALAN ROSENBAUM

At the Jerusalem Post Conference, Prof. Rafael (Rafi) Beyar, immediate past director of Rambam Health Care Campus, reported on the new developments at the sprawling hospital campus in Haifa, taking the audience on a journey through cutting edge medicine and innovation at the hospital's Ruth Rapaport Children's Hospital, the Josef Fishman Oncology Center, and the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital.

Rambam Health Care Campus, with over 5,000 employees, is not only the biggest employer in northern Israel, but is the top Level 1 trauma center for the North. Its location between two strong academic institutions – the Technion and the University of Haifa – has placed it in a unique position of innovation and invention.

Beyar described several of the technological developments and inventions in use at the hospital, including the first

human embryonic stem cell, robotic and minimally invasive surgery, acute stroke therapy, focus ultrasound for tremors and Parkinson's disease, and oncology solutions. The centerpiece of Rambam's development is the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower where, he said proudly, "medicine meets technology and humanity."

One of the most advanced sections of the hospital is the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. Conceived after the Second Lebanon War in 2006, when 60 rockets fell within a one-kilometer radius of the hospital, it can be converted from an underground, three-level, 1,500-vehicle parking into a 2,000-bed hospital within 72 hours.

Rambam Health Care Center is creating the future of medicine, not only for the North, but for the entire world, he said.

The story was written in cooperation with Rambam Health Care Center.

Key to fighting antisemitism? Empowering Jewish communities

'Antisemites are not such because of what we are, but because they are bigots and they attach their bigotry to the Jewish people,' says Caroline Glick

• By ROSSELLA TERCATIN

In the past 12 months, American Jewish communities have witnessed the two worst attacks against Jewish sites on US soil in history: 11 worshipers murdered and six injured in a shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh in October, and one killed and two injured at Chabad of Poway in April.

Moderating a panel on "Can antisemitism be stopped or are Pittsburgh and Poway the new normal?" at the Jerusalem Post Conference in New York on Sunday, *Jerusalem Report* editor Steve Linde delved into the social, legal and enforcement aspects of the fight against racism and bigotry targeting Jews.

"The Jewish communities are perceived as a soft target: our mission is to change this perspective," said Doron Horowitz, senior national security adviser of the Secure Community Network (SCN), an organization established in 2004 as the first national nonprofit devoted to homeland security initiatives on behalf of the American Jewish community.

Horowitz said the SCN's focus is not to understand why or where antisemitism comes from, but rather how to train communities to respond to the threat.

"The first crucial step though is to acknowledge the reality: Jews are targeted," he warned.

As former NYC police commissioner Raymond W. Kelly noted, synagogues in Europe are much better protected than in America.

Kelly shared the experience of his fact-finding mission in several European countries to understand both the scope and characteristics of the antisemitic threats there, and the measures implemented to respond. He noted most Jewish sites had adopted a "double door" system, where visitors cannot enter the institution until they had been cleared and the door behind them had locked.

"This did not happen in Poway and Pittsburgh," he said. He added that money would need to be spent, with the federal government providing some, but also with synagogues understanding that security guards or volunteers need to be deployed for this purpose.

The fight against antisemitism starts with understanding that antisemites are not such because of what Jews do, former senior contributing editor of *The Jerusalem*



'JERUSALEM REPORT' editor Steve Linde (left) moderates a panel discussion on antisemitism featuring (from second left) Brooke Goldstein, Doron Horowitz, Raymond W. Kelly and Caroline B. Glick on Sunday at the Jerusalem Post Conference. (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

Post Caroline Glick further pointed out.

"Their hatred defines them," she said. "They are beyond our control. They are not antisemitic because of what we are, but because they are bigots and they attach their bigotry to the Jewish people."

Glick explained that a problem currently facing American Jewry is that American Jewish institutions sometimes facilitate antisemitism by not calling it out, as in cases of BDS, which is not always considered a manifestation of antisemitism by mainstream Jewish organizations.

Glick highlighted that the main target of BDS in the United States is American Jews themselves, and especially students on college campuses, contrary to what might be true for Europe.

"BDS movements try to marginalize Jews, to make them pay a personal and academic price for voicing their support to the Jewish state," Glick said. "Their target is not Israel, it is them. The primary issue at stake is to protect Jewish students and American Jews in general in their right to be whatever they want."

She added that American Jewish organizations are not fighting properly for this goal.

Brooke Goldstein, founder and executive director of the Lawfare Project, a global network of legal professionals aimed at

defending the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and pro-Israel community, reinforced Glick's statements.

"There needs to be a complete shift in our language: let us begin to call BDS illegal commercial practice and racism," she noted, emphasizing how there is no difference between choosing to not entertain business relations with someone because of their national origin, and owning a restaurant with a sign stating. "No Chinese allowed."

In recalling how the Lawfare Project has brought to court hundreds of cases of discrimination all over the world thanks to their network of over 350 attorneys, Goldstein stressed how "no matter how antisemitic one is, they will act out of their own best interest." Therefore, she suggested, they might not care about letters or op-eds against them, but they will care about lawsuits, criminal charges or damages to pay.

"The beauty of liberal democracy is that civilians can take advantage of the judicial system and set civil rights precedents," she emphasized, adding that it was time for Jews to set civil rights precedents protecting them.

"We have to encourage Zionist pride," she said. "Zionism is the original civil-rights movement. It is a progressive value. We have to empower the Jewish community."



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR Judah Samet: 'I was four minutes late.' (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

'Had I arrived on time to shul I wouldn't be here today'

Survivor of Bergen-Belsen and Pittsburgh's Tree of Life shooting, Judah Samet says 'someone is guiding me'

• By ILANIT CHERNICK

Judah Samet is a double survivor.

Over 70 years ago he lived through the horrors of the Holocaust, surviving Bergen-Belsen. Last October his life was spared once again, when a gunman entered his place of prayer – the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh – and massacred 11 people who were in the middle of a Shabbat service.

"I was four minutes late," Samet recalled while speaking at the *Jerusalem Post* Conference in New York. "My housekeeper kept me, and I told her that I had to go. Had I gone [on time], I wouldn't be here today."

He said that had he arrived on time and "gotten out of my car and walked to the synagogue, I would have been right in his [shooter Robert Gregory Bowers] line of fire."

Samet said there were three cars between him and the shooter. "The shooter saw me, he could see me. But he was so focused on the detective and figured that the danger comes from the detective, not from me."

Samet said he believed that "someone is guiding me – I'm here," alluding to the fact that it was miraculous that he is still alive following both deadly incidents.

During his time in Bergen-Belsen, Samet recalled how he was beaten, and had to have "brain surgery in the camp – and I survived that [too]."

"It wasn't easy seeing those pictures up there," he said pointing at the screen of victims from the Pittsburgh massacre. "Of the 11 people who were killed, seven belonged to the Tree of Life [Congregation]" where he prayed. "They were all my close friends. We would all be there early. We knew each other well, we were very close."

Asked about his visit to the White House to attend the State of the Union address on his 81st birthday as US President Donald Trump's guest, Samet said that he was initially told to take off his kippah as people don't wear hats in Congress. "I put it in my pocket but I left it [sticking] out."

However, when he saw that another Jewish man was wearing a hat in Congress, he took it out.

"I was sitting in front of Ivanka [Trump] and she said, 'Judah, I see you put your kippah back on,' and I told her 'I didn't want to take it off.'"

Speaking about his conversation with Trump, Samet said that he told the US president the same last words that Moses told Joshua: "Be strong and be courageous."

Education Council launches New Campus initiative

• By ALAN ROSENBAUM

Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, head of Israel's Council for Higher Education's planning and budget committee, launched "The New Campus," which encourages digital learning, a more diverse student body, openness and entrepreneurship, and greater internationalization on the Israeli college campus.

Speaking at the *Jerusalem Post* Annual Conference in New York, Zilbershats said that Israel has an impressive higher education system that includes more than 300,000 students studying in 62 academic institutions around

the country. The New Campus initiative is designed to utilize state-of-the-art courses online that can enhance the overall learning experience. Zilbershats noted that Israel has joined the international edX platform that was established by Harvard and MIT to allow local academic institutions to offer courses via this platform.

She explained that the New Campus initiative will also change the age and demographic profiles of college students. "We should be open and available to all segments of society – Arabs, ultra-Orthodox, Ethiopians, people in mid-career who need to update their knowledge, people who

decide to change careers, as well people who want to study after retirement."

Zilbershats says that the New Campus initiative will bring a spirit of entrepreneurship to campuses, helping transform academic institutions into places that encourage groundbreaking innovation and enable students to share their creative ideas with professors and professionals. Students will work together with lecturers, researchers and mentors to create meaningful, practical projects.

In addition, the Council for Higher Education wants to double the number of foreign students studying in

Israeli institutions. "Israeli students need to study with students from abroad in order to create national academic and business contacts with people and companies," she said.

The New Campus initiative, says Zilbershats, will enable the campus system in Israel to engage in excellence.

The story was written in cooperation with Israel's Council for Higher Education.

PROF. YAFFA ZILBERSHATS addresses the Jerusalem Post Conference on Sunday in New York.

(Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

