

NEW IN ISRAEL



Artist's rendition of the new Ashdod Emergency Medical Center that is scheduled to begin delivering health care services in December 2007.

NEW MEDICAL CENTER IN ASHDOD

Ashdod, Israel's fifth-largest city, is home to the country's second-largest port facility, Israel Defense Forces installations and many major industries. Yet unlike most central and northern Israeli cities, Ashdod lacks a medical facility, the nearest being at least a 40-minute drive away. In particular, an ER facility is needed to serve victims of terror attacks.

"Ashdod will soon be within range of Qassams or Katyushas from Gaza, and it is extremely important that Ashdod possess an emergency room that can handle a mass casualty event," noted professor Saul Shasha, director of Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya.

Fortunately, the Israeli nonprofit Refuah v'Yeshuah has procured the support of Israeli medical professionals, Knesset members and rabbinic and business leaders to create the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center, a 160,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility. The project's Board of Directors and Trustees is led by Rabbi

Yisroel Meir Lau, former chief rabbi of Israel and currently chief rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffa; Western Galilee's Shasha; Isaac Herzog, minister of Tourism; Shimon Peres, vice-prime minister; Ron Kobrovsky, president of Coca-Cola, Israel; Natan Sharansky, former Knesset member and minister; professor Ze'ev Rotstein, director, Sheba-Tel HaShomer Hospital; professor Jonathan Halevi, director general, Shaare Zedek Medical Center; and professor Joshua Shemer, director general, Maccabi Health Services.

The \$32 million facility is scheduled to begin service in late December, 2007. In addition to its Emergency & Trauma Center, the facility will include a Women's Health Center, Pediatric Emergency Clinic, Gastroenterology Institute, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Institute for Preventative Medicine, Eye Clinic, Imaging Center, Dialysis Center and Physiotherapy Services.

For more information, visit www.ashdodmc.com.



The distinguished group of Israeli businessmen, politicians and medical professionals, led by Rabbi Yisroel Meir Lau (center), who are members of the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center's Board of Trustees, met in a formal session for the first time in Tel Aviv to discuss the building and operational plans for the facility.