

REMARKS OF HOWARD P. MILSTEIN

DEDICATION OF MILSTEIN HEART CENTER

SARAH WETSMAN DAVIDSON TOWER, HADASSAH MEDICAL CENTER

EIN KEREM, ISRAEL

OCTOBER 12, 2018

Shalom!

Minister Litzman; Hadassah National Presidents past and present -- Ellen Hershkin, Marlene Post, Nancy Falchuk and Marcie Natan; CEO Janice Weinman; Directors General past and present – Professors Zeev Rotstein, Shlomo Mor-Yosef, Professor Avi Israeli, and Professor Tamar Peretz; Director of the Milstein Heart Center, Dr. Chaim Lotan; and staff of Hadassah's Israel Office. Thank you for being here today to witness the dedication of the Paul and Irma Milstein Heart Center.

For our family, this isn't just any dedication ceremony. We've been privileged to name many physical spaces. But this is a space that's both physical and spiritual. It's a space located in the ancient Jewish homeland. And a space that, thanks to the magnificent Davidson Tower, exemplifies our modern "start-up nation." Finally, it reflects my mother's enthusiastic support for Hadassah, going back more than 60 years!

The Milstein family commitment to supporting medical research and care dates back to the 1960s, pioneering early interferon research. The Milstein Hospital Building at New York Presbyterian Medical Center is a testament to my father's vision of a world class patient care facility. Its affiliated medical college houses programs, also funded by my parents, which improve medical outcomes. Our gifts have cultivated surgical science and encouraged young scholars to meet the challenges of heart disease.

My wife, Abby, and I, are building on this legacy. We're advancing the treatment of drug resistant infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis and have established the Chemical Core Facility and Program in Translational Medicine & Medicinal Chemistry at Weill Cornell Medical College. We've fostered new treatments for melanoma and other skin diseases through Rockefeller University, the National Institutes of Health, and the American Skin Association, which I chair. Researchers at the Milstein National Cord Blood Center, at the New York Blood Center, have discovered innovative uses of stem cells to treat a long list of diseases and have made breakthroughs in regenerative medicine. Our interests span the human life cycle from reproductive medicine to geriatrics and we've set up a foundation that shares the best of American and Chinese medicine by fostering bi-lateral exchanges. (Of course, we're aware of Israel's own close ties to China).

A laser focus on translational medicine undergirds all our family's support of medical care and research.

Most of that support is focused on U.S.-based institutions. Hadassah is a major exception. That's because of Hadassah's own dedication to patient-centered care and high impact medical research. Hadassah research has yielded world-renowned, riveting breakthroughs, which we admire from afar, in New York, such as immunotherapy for advanced melanoma, gene therapy to replace failing heart cells, regenerative medicine, cutting edge treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes and other chronic illnesses. That makes us, as a family, especially proud to be associated with Hadassah.

Today we're here to dedicate the Paul and Irma Milstein Heart Center. So I want to pause to acknowledge Dr. Chaim Lotan's breakthrough work in identifying the gender disparities in symptoms, research and treatment of women's heart disease. We're honored that, as Director of the Heart Institute, you and the entire Hadassah team brought the Milstein Heart Center to this day.

Here we are, assembled in a world class facility, which builds on the past and is fully prepared for the future: 6 cath labs, 11 CICUs, 18 in-patient rooms and myriad work, consultation and staff rooms. All of this is built on a firm financial footing. The Heart Center will produce enough revenue to service the cardiac needs of a city that has grown by 20% and whose population is aging. Congratulations for having brought this grand achievement to fruition!

The Hebrew Bible contains the word "heart" 827 times – most of them figurative. The Talmud makes literal references to the anatomy of the heart. We read of chambers, great vessels and symptoms of what we now recognize as heart disease. The Rambam – Maimonides – who was himself a medical man, wrote extensively of the heart in "Medical Aphorisms of Moses," "Regimen of Health," and "The Art of Cure." In other words, treatment of the heart goes back a long way for us Jews. And so does holistic medicine. The Rambam proclaimed: "The doctor should not treat the disease, but the patient who is suffering from it." It's there that we find the roots of the patient-centered care we see at Hadassah. What better way to celebrate that heritage than to dedicate a Heart Center in Jerusalem at Hadassah?

My father, Paul (*alav ha-shalom*) and my mother, Irma, saw Hadassah's mission statement as the highest expression of the founding ideals of the State of Israel: to forge "links between patients of all nationalities, races and religion who come to its doors for healing." Here at Hadassah, all patients – Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druse, secular and religious – get dignified care from a top flight team of equally diverse medical professionals. As such, Hadassah is also a bridge to peace. If you need proof of that, look no further than the Syrian children who, in the midst of a horrific humanitarian crisis, have been brought to Hadassah for treatment of congenital heart defects. That resonates with the Milstein family. We, too, are engaged in supporting a multi-faith effort to ameliorate the Syrian crisis.

We couldn't be more proud of what you've done here. On behalf of Abby, Michael, my parents, and the entire Milstein family, thank you for honoring us in this way. May you continue to go from strength to strength. *Shana Tovah and Shabbat Shalom!*