

Prof. Kamal Hassan: “Becoming Director of the Nephrology and Hypertension Department is the Realization of a Dream for Me”

Forty years after arriving at [Galilee Medical Center](#) and twenty years after founding and heading the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit, Prof. Kamal Hassan was awarded the tender as Director of the Nephrology and Hypertension Department. Professor **Batya Kristal** retired from the nephrology & hypertension director position after serving many years of dedicated service in the department and other areas, and leading the department to new heights and the highest levels of patient-centered care.

Prof. Kamal, from Julius, married and the father of six, revealed that “the position I hold today represents coming full circle; the realization of a dream and an extremely serious responsibility.”

Prof. Kamal arrived to the medical center as a summer volunteer while still a student at Tel Aviv University and is one of the most senior members of the hospital's staff today. After completing his medical studies in 1979, he did his internship at the hospital at the medical faculty's request.

During his military service as a doctor, Prof. Kamal continued to participate in the hospital's rotation schedule. In 1984, he began his residency in internal medicine and in 1991 embarked on an additional residency in nephrology and hypertension. In 2000, he was appointed as head of the Dialysis and Nephrology Hospitalization Unit, a position he filled with dedication until his appointment as Director of the Nephrology and Hypertension Department in January 2019.

In response to a question about his vision and goals for the future of the Department, Prof. Kamal replied, “I aspire to prepare the next generation of young doctors so that they can raise the banner and ensure that the department continues to innovate and advance its professional standards in the spheres of clinical work, teaching, research and technology. My vision includes the expanding the Hemodialysis Unit and significantly increasing the number of patients treated in the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit as well as proceeding with the development and promotion of clinical research and the research lab by recruiting high caliber researchers and raising the necessary funds.”

The Nephrology Department excels in teaching medical students and was recently recognized as such by the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine Bar Ilan University in a ceremony where Prof. Kamal emphasized that he views teaching as an essential mission. Prof. Kamal has been active in the academic community for over thirty years serving on the faculty of the Technion Medical School where he received the excellent teacher award in student surveys.

Since the opening of Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, he has also been an active member of that faculty and coordinated the Basics of Clinical Medicine course in the framework of the three year program which includes students who have studied abroad. Prof. Kamal explains that “it is important to me that they return home because of the shortage of good doctors throughout Israel. The

students who are accepted to the course have studied in a variety of countries and in a number of languages and here they are transformed into a homogenous and united group within a few months. This is one of the largest and most important courses in the program and it is my privilege to facilitate it out of a sense of responsibility to the profession and love. These students will soon be in the forefront of the effort to advance the future of medicine in Israel.

In recent years, Prof. Kamal also "nurtured" a new generation of doctors in his own family — two of whom graduated from the Technion Medical School and two who graduated from Tel Aviv University Medical School. Prof. Kamal adds that he is "extremely proud of them for their modesty, their humanity and their dedication to contributing a large portion of their time to teaching young medical students. For me, being a good person is the most important achievement of all."

Prof. Kamal summed up his thoughts by saying that "Galilee Medical Center continues to be the center of my life and I have been an inseparable part of it since the time that it consisted of a collection of pre-fab huts until it became the modern and leading institution that it is today."