

Assaf Barnea

Managing Partner, Sanara Capital & Sanara Ventures.
Chairman, Israel Export Institute - Life Science Board.



Mr. Assaf Barnea is a seasoned entrepreneur and venture professional, with extensive, multidisciplinary experience in building innovation platforms and leading commercialization processes in healthcare.

He leads Sanara Ventures, an Israeli based healthcare innovation fund, backed by Phillips and Teva, since its inception in 2015. Mr. Barnea is also the Managing Partner of Sanara capital, a follow-on fund to Sanara ventures that invests in Digital Health, Medical Devices & Bio-Convergence companies, and a recognized keynote speaker, sharing his views and vision in various healthcare and digital health conferences across the globe.

In addition to leading Sanara, Mr. Barnea chairs the Life Science Advisory Board at The Israel Export Institute, on behalf of the Israeli government, promoting and advancing the export of Israeli technologies in the medical, biotech, pharma and digital fields in global markets. A valued consultant, Mr. Barnea was an advisor to the World Bank's IFC venture capital team and a co-founder of the IFC's Tech Emerge initiative; a unique acceleration platform that connects healthcare startups from around the world with leading corporations and hospitals in emerging economies. On December 2018, Tech Emerge Health has won the world bank group president's award for innovation.

Formerly, Mr. Barnea was one of the founders of CardioSense, a MedTech startup company that developed a probe for early shock detection in various medical settings.

Before lending his multidisciplinary acumen to Sanara Ventures, Assaf served for 6 years as CEO of Kinrot Ventures, spearheading its acquisition by Hutchison Whampoa, a HK based conglomerate, in 2012. Prior to this, he headed business development at Mekorot, Israel's national water company, where he oversaw the establishment of WaTech, the Entrepreneurship & Partnership Center for Water Technologies. For his accomplishments in both Mekorot and Kinrot, he received the Cleantech Group's Innovation Hero Award in April 2013, which recognizes individuals whose commitment, drive and passion have made a tangible difference for innovation in general and specifically for many start-up companies. Previously, Mr. Barnea served for four years as director of business development at Comverse, where he also co-chaired the Mobile Marketing Association.

A unique highlight in Assaf's story is his former stint as a college basketball player at New Jersey's Seton Hall University, where he won the Big East championship against Georgetown in 1991. He went on to play professional basketball for 14 years in Israel's top national league and in various European cups, while completing multiple academic degrees. A certified lawyer, Mr. Barnea holds both law and business degrees from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzelia, as well as a BA (Cum Laude) in political science and psychology from Tel-Aviv University.