



The Syrian American Medical Society

7TH NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

IN COLLABORATION WITH



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Hilton Orlando
Orlando, FL



Monumental Developments in Medicine

Advancing Healthcare Through
Technology, Research, & Public Policy

February 16-18, 2018 • Gala Dinner February 17
society.sams-usa.net



@sams_usa



SAMS



sams_usa

SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY SEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE CHAIR

M. Fuad Azrak, MD, MPH

CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC CHAIRS

Anas Kawayeh, MD

Paul B. Spiegel, MD, MPH

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Ala'a El-Shaar, MS

Ihab Herraka, MD

Nour Asfari

Ahmad Tarakji, MD

Ahmed Al Hazzouri, MD

Courtney Mallory

Maher Azzouz, MD

Zaid Fadhli, MD

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Hilton Orlando

6001 Destination Pwy, Orlando, FL 32819

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Registration

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Opening Ceremony

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.: Social Reception

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.: Scientific Program

3:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m.: SAMS General Assembly

6:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.: Gala Dinner & SAMS Foundation Fundraising

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.: Scientific Program

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

5:00–9:00

REGISTRATION

Registration available to those arriving until 9 pm

3:00–5:00

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

6:00–7:00

OPENING CEREMONY

7:00–9:00

SOCIAL RECEPTION

This is a social gathering; meet your friends and colleagues. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00–7:30

Conference Registration

8:30–10:00

SESSION 1
CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL
MEDICAL RELIEF

Moderators: Majd Isreb, MD & Paul B. Spiegel, MD, MPH

8:30–9:00

Global Response and Emergency Assessments in the Field,
Dina Khalifa Prior, BA

9:00–9:30

Striving to Provide the Full Spectrum of ENT-Head and Neck
Surgical Care to Syrian Refugees, *Samer Al-Khudari, MD, FACS*

9:30–10:00

Challenges in Medical Humanitarian Work: Snapshot of the
SAMS Foundation's work in 2017, *Amjad Rass, MD*

10:00–10:15

Break

10:15-12:15

SESSION 2
PUBLIC HEALTH IN CRISES

Moderators: Ahmad Tarakji, MD, Maher Azzouz, MD & Lindsey Smith, NP-C

10:15-10:45 Cash-based Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies,
Shannon Doocy, PhD

10:45-11:15 Ethical Challenges Among Humanitarian Organizations:
Insights from the Response to the Syrian Conflict, *Leonard S.
Rubenstein, JD & Mohammad Darwish, MD*

11:15-11:45 Trauma Care in Mosul, *Paul B. Spiegel, MD, MPH*

11:45-12:15 Panel Discussion

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:15-3:30

SESSION 3
US HEALTHCARE REFORM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Moderators: Ihab Herraka, MD & Omar Hamoui, MD

1:15-2:00 Current and Future Changes in Healthcare in the US,
Mickey Smith, FACMPE, FACHE, FHFMA

BREAKTHROUGHS IN MEDICINE

Moderators: Zaid Fadhli, MD & Lara Zakaria, RPh, MS, CNS

2:00-2:30 The Story of Surgical Innovation: A Urologist's Perspective,
Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, FACS

2:30-3:00 Imaging Before Birth: Fetal MRI Updates, *Ihsan Mamoun, MD,
MBA, CIIP*

3:00-3:30 Novel Approach for the Non-Invasive Treatment of Anaphylaxis
Using Nanotechnology, *Mutasem Rawas-Qalaji, B. Pharm, PhD*

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-5:00

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6:30-10:00

GALA DINNER & FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:30–10:00

SESSION 4

MEDICAL RELIEF & PUBLIC HEALTH

Moderators: Tarek Kteleh, MD & Saud Atassi, MD

8:30–9:00 The Impact & Practice of Telemedicine on Medical Care, *Jack Higgins, MD*

9:00–9:30 Persistent Challenges to Providing Sub-Specialty Cardiac Care to Refugees in their Host Countries, *Mohammed Waseem Akhter, MD, FACC*

9:30–10:00 Rational Care vs. “Rationing” Care in the US Healthcare System, *Zaki Lababidi, MD*

10:00–10:15 Break

10:15–12:15

SESSION 5

MEETING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES
IN CONFLICT

Moderators: Maher Azzouz, MD & Lina Murad, MD

10:15–10:45 PTSD vs Human Devastation Syndrome: Approach & Management, *M. K. Hamza, PhD, LP, MSM*

10:45–11:15 Empathy in Medical Practice: Ethical & Cultural Consideration, *Iyad Alkhouri, MD*

11:15–11:45 What Medical Professionals Need to Know in Child Psychiatry, *Ammar S. Traboulsi, MD*

11:45–12:15 Helper, Take Care of Thyself, *Nick Zeimet, MSW, LICSW*

12:15–12:30 Break

12:30–1:30

SESSION 6

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

Moderators: Ahmed Hazzouri, MD & Ammar Sukari, MD

12:30–1:00 Update in Management of Urticaria and Angioedema, *Souheil Habbal, MD, FARC*

1:00–1:30 Overview of Kidney Transplantation, *Mourad M. Alsabbagh, MD, FASN*

1:30 End of Conference

CME STATEMENTS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this program, participants should be able to:

- Describe strategies for creating a global platform for Syrian students and recall opportunities for medical residency programs
- Identify population health needs of Syria and approaches to improve health outcomes
- Recognize uses of data analysis in research, collective intelligence
- Identify benefits of telemedicine and discuss various augmented reality options
- Describe World Bank initiatives for recovery and reconstruction in Syria.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Indiana University School of Medicine and the Syrian American Medical Society. The Indiana University School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

DESIGNATION STATEMENT

Indiana University School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

FACULTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Standards for Commercial Support, educational programs sponsored by Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) must demonstrate balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor. All faculty, authors, editors, and planning committee members participating in an IUSM-sponsored activity are required to disclose any **relevant financial interest or other relationship** with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) and/or provider(s) of commercial services that are discussed in an educational activity.

The planning committee and those in a position to control the content of this activity have disclosed no relevant financial relationships.

The course evaluation will be sent electronically via email. Credit will be awarded within 3 weeks following the activity. Instructions will be emailed with how to obtain proof of your participation in an IUSM CME activity. For questions and concerns, please contact IU School of Medicine, Division of Continuing Medical Education at cme@iu.edu.

SAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ahmad Tarakji, MD, *President*

Basel Termanini, MD, *Vice President*

Maysoun Alhariri, MD, *Secretary*

Mufaddal Hamadeh, MD, *Treasurer*

Majd Isreb, MD

Lara Zakaria, RPh, MS, CNS

Ihab Herraka, MD

SAMS FOUNDATION BOARD

Amjad Rass, MD, *Chair*

Majd Isreb, MD, *Past Foundation Chair*

Ahmad Tarakji, MD, *Society President*

Mufaddal Hamadeh, MD, *Treasurer*

Mohammad K. Hamza, PhD

Mohamad Al-Hosni, MD

Mohammad Saleh, MD

CONFERENCE FACULTY

Mohammed Waseem Akhter, MD, FACC, Assistant Professor of Medicine Staff, Interventional Cardiology and Vascular Medicine University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester, Massachusetts

Iyad Alkhouri, MD, Medical Director, Aetna Better Health

Samer Al-Khudari, MD, FACS, Rush University Medical Center

Mourad M. Alsabbagh, MD, FASN, Transplant Nephrology, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance (DHR), University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

Mohammad Darwish, MD, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Shannon Doocy, PhD, Associate Professor, International Health. Associate Director for Academic Programs, Health Systems Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health

Souheil Habbal, MD, FARC, Southern California SAMS Chapter President

M. Khalid Hamza, PhD, LP, MSM, Clinic Mental Health Director & Chief Neuropsychologist, Forensics & Neurophychology Consulting

Jack Higgins, MD, Global Telehealth Network

Zaki Lababidi, MD, Professor, Clinical Mental Health Director & Chief Neuropsychologist, Forensics, & Neuropsychology Consulting

Ihsan Mamoun, MD, MBA, CIIP, Cleveland Clinic, Pediatric & Neuroimaging

Dina Khalifa Prior, BA, SAMS Emergency Response Specialist

Amjad Rass, MD, SAMS Foundation Chair

Mutasem Rawas-Qalaji, B. Pharm, PhD, Director, NSU's Center for Drug Discovery and Development (CD3), Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences College of Pharmacy, Nova Southeastern University

Leonard S. Rubenstein, JD, Director, Program on Human Rights, Health and Conflict, Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor in Urologic Oncology, Department of Urology, Ohio State University College of Medicine

Mickey Smith, FACMPE, FACHE, FHFMA, Chief Executive Officer, Oak Hill Hospital

Paul B. Spiegel, MD, MPH, Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Director, Center for Humanitarian Health

Ammar S. Traboulsi, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Director of Connecticut Institute of Behavioral Health

Nick Zeimet, MSW, LICSW, SAMS MN Chapter

SPEAKER BIOS

Mohammed Waseem Akhter MD, FACC, is on faculty at the University of Massachusetts and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology. He is board certified in General Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology and Endovascular Interventions. He is a fulltime interventional cardiologist at UMASS and he also pursues a busy practice in vascular medicine and is a key member of the Limb-Salvage program at the medical center.

Iyad Alkhouri, MD, is a practicing Psychiatrist (Therapist) in Chicago, IL. Dr. Alkhouri graduated from University of Damascus in 1990 and has been in practice for 28 years. He completed a residency at University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sci. He currently practices at University of Michigan and is affiliated with Trinity Medical Center Rock Island Campus.

Samer Al-Khudari, MD, FACS, completed medical school at Rush Medical College, his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the Henry Ford Health System, and his fellowship in head and neck oncology and microvascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Head and Neck Institute.

Mourad M. Alsabbagh, MD, FASN, born in Damascus, earned his MD degree from the University of Aleppo in 1999, going on to finish Internal Medicine in Detroit, MI in 2007. He completed a fellowship in Nephrology at University of Florida and Gainesville in 2011.

Mohammad Darwish, MD, a Syrian physician, had worked with Red Crescent and Red Cross in Syria and Lebanon in Emergency Medical Services Department(EMSD) and Disaster Management Department to provide the IDPs and refugees with high quality of pre-hospital emergency medical services and to develop the emergency response program.

Shannon Doocy, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has 15 years of experience conducting research on populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, including both refugees and internally displaced populations. She has worked in collaboration with numerous non-government organizations and UN agencies in humanitarian settings in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean and published extensively on the impacts of natural disasters and conflict and humanitarian response programs.

Souheil Habbal, MD, is a practicing Allergist & Immunologist in City Of Industry, CA. He completed a residency at Henrotin Hospital. Dr. Habbal is board certified in Allergy and Immunology and Internal Medicine.

M. K. Hamza, PhD, LP, MSM, is the chair of the Mental Health Committee (MHC) at SAMS, and a Foundation Board Member. He is a consulting forensic neuropsychologist, and a Tenured Full Professor of Clinic Mental Health at Lamar University. He is an educator, researcher, and cognitive scientist. His publications include over 150 refereed scholarly writings, presentations, and speeches. Topics include medical, psychiatric, professional ethics, and legal.

Jack Higgins, MD, is Founder, President and Chief Medical Officer of the Global Telehealth Network (GTN). Dr. Higgins practiced Family Medicine in Northern California for 20 years prior to moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he served as Chief Medical Officer for a medical device company, managing clinical research studies focused on prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer.

Zaki Lababidi, MD, FACC, FSCAI, the founder of Gilbert Cardiology, has over 15 years of experience in cardiovascular medicine. He is board certified in cardiovascular disease and has specialized in interventional cardiology, a subspecialty of cardiology dedicated to the diagnosis, medical and catheter-based therapy of patients with acute and chronic forms of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Lababidi also specializes in treatment of patients with congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, heart attack, abnormal heart rhythms, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and varicose veins.

Ihsan Mamoun, MD, MBA, CIIP, is a pediatric and neuroradiologist in Cleveland Clinic since 2013. He finished his residency and fellowship training in the Cleveland Clinic. He has Certificate of added qualification (CAQ) from the American Board of Radiology in both pediatric and neuroradiology.

Dina Khalifa Prior, BA, is an Emergency Relief Specialist with 17 years as a humanitarian and development Senior Management Worker. Dina's worked in over 28 countries across the globe, often at the front lines. Starting her humanitarian work in 1999, Dina began to work with demining groups in Kosovo and the Balkans. Dina designed and implemented International Medical Corps global emergency preparedness systems and response activities for over 9 years and, as Field Director, set up and led complex emergencies in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. Dina is currently leading SAMS response in Bangladesh.

Amjad Rass, MD, is the current Chair of SAMS Foundation.

Mutasem Rawas-Qalaji, B. Pharm, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and Director for the Center for Drug Discovery and Development (CD3) at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in Florida, USA. Dr. Qalaji is a Syrian-Canadian pharmacist who earned his Pharmacy degree (1995) from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, and his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics (2006) from the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Leonard S. Rubenstein, JD, is Director of the Program in Human Rights, Health and Conflict at the Center for Human Rights and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a core faculty member at the Berman Institute of Bioethics and the Center for Humanitarian Health at Johns Hopkins University. He has engaged in extensive research and writing on human rights, health and national security. His current work focuses on health services in volatile environments. His writings have appeared in professional journals and in op-eds in major media such as the New York Times and Washington Post. Mr. Rubenstein is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Board of Directors of the Global Health Council and Healing Across the Divides.

Ahmad Shabsigh, MD, FACS, is an urologist in Columbus, Ohio and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He received his medical degree from University of Aleppo Faculty of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Mickey Smith, FACMPE, FACHE, FHFMA, is CEO of Oak Hill Hospital, a 280-bed, acute care teaching hospital located in Spring Hill, FL. Mickey has forty years of experience in health care administration and consulting. Mickey received a Master of Science in Public Health and a MBA in Finance from the University of Missouri and holds a bachelor's degree in health systems engineering from Georgia Tech. He has achieved board certification in three disciplines: healthcare executive, medical practice administrator, and financial manager. He has been named a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the American College of Medical Practice Executives (FACMPE) and the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA).

Paul Spiegel, MD, MPH, a Canadian physician, is internationally recognized for his research on preventing and responding to complex humanitarian emergencies. Before becoming Professor and Director of the Johns Hopkins

Center for Humanitarian Health, Paul was the Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Prior to joining the UN in 2002, Paul worked as a medical epidemiologist in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He also worked as a medical coordinator with Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde in refugee emergencies, as well as a consultant for numerous organizations.

Ahmad Tarakji, MD, is the President of the Syrian American Medical Society. Dr. Tarakji is also a current Board member of the SAMS Foundation. Dr. Tarakji is a cardio-thoracic surgeon in California, and a former clinical assistant professor at Stanford University. At SAMS, he spearheads and participates in numerous initiatives, including providing trauma and critical care courses for Syrian physicians and nurses, overseeing SAMS's advocacy work, chairing the two previous SAMS International Conferences in Turkey, the International Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and the most recent National Conference in Boston. Dr. Tarakji leads SAMS partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs to expand the Whole of Syria (WoS) response plan and efforts to address medical emergencies in Syria. Dr. Tarakji also leads SAMS partnerships with Universities in the U.S. and Europe to establish education, relief, and post-crisis rebuilding programs for Syria.

Ammar Traboulsi, MD, completed his medical school at Shanghai Second Medical University in Shanghai, China. He completed his psychiatry residency followed by child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate in Brooklyn, NY. Currently working in outpatient private practice. Dr Traboulsi is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in General Psychiatry. He also has a subspecialty in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Nick Zeimet, MSW, LICSW, has a master's degree in social work from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN and is currently practicing psychotherapy at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Paul, MN. He joined the SAMS Minnesota Chapter in 2017 and acts as Chair of its Mental Health Sub-Committee. He is lead coordinator of SAMS first Mental Health Report.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR



dspears@flcancer.com

GOLD SPONSOR



RAHMA RELIEF FOUNDATION

adib@rahmarelief.org

SILVER SPONSORS



AZZAD
ASSET MANAGEMENT

Invest in harmony with your values

ehab@azzad.net



GILEAD

tony.orr@gilead.com



wes.moschetto@gmail.com

BRONZE SPONSOR

Astellas Pharmaceuticals

samuel.richmond@astellas.com

LUNCHEON SPONSOR

SKAFCO

A FINANCIAL PLANNING OFFICE

rskaf@rodskaf.com

BOOTH SPONSORS



National Securities

bashar@caringmeds.com

vakhtar@nationalsecurities.com

MEDIA PARTNER

News Deeply
SYRIA DEEPLY



World-Class Medicine. Hometown Care.

The Physicians of Florida Cancer Specialists
& Research Institute proudly support the
Syrian-American Medical Society."

Founded in 1984, Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute (FCS) is the largest independent medical oncology/hematology practice in the United States. With over 200 physicians, 160 nurse practitioners and physician assistants and nearly 100 locations in our network, we are committed to providing world-class cancer care in community-based settings close to home.

Genetic Testing for Hereditary Cancer

Identifying potential underlying genetic variations is important in order to assess a person's future cancer risks, allowing for personalized medical recommendations, further cancer screening, prevention and risk reduction options.

- 
- Breast Cancer
 - Breast/Ovarian Cancer
 - Colorectal/Lynch Cancer
 - CNS/PNS
 - Endocrine Cancer
 - Endometrial/Cervical Cancer
 - Gastric Cancer
 - Leukemia/ Lymphoma
 - Melanoma
 - Pancreatic Cancer
 - Prostate Cancer
 - Renal Cancer

iPathology Laboratory... making genetic testing affordable, easily accessible & available to everyone.



RAHMA RELIEF FOUNDATION

*Thank
you*



**Your donation put a smile
on their faces ..**



RahmaRelief.org



[Rahma.Relief.Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/Rahma.Relief.Foundation)



info@Rahmarelief.org



(248) 990 - 4247

31119 Greenfield Rd. Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Halal investing and financial planning

 **AZZAD**
ASSET MANAGEMENT
Invest with faith

Specialists in retirement plans for individuals and medical practices

Ask us about tax-advantaged planned charitable giving that could help both you and SAMS



Halal screening



10 diversified portfolios



Experienced portfolio managers



Purification calculation



Personal service



Zakah calculation

azzadfund.com

888.86.AZZAD (888.862.9923)



SAMS 18TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHALLENGES OF DELIVERING MEDICAL RELIEF IN A PROTRACTED CONFLICT ZONE

EFFECTS ON THE VULNERABLE POPULATION

& MEDICAL NEUTRALITY

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

JUNE 28 - 30

WWW.SAMS-USA.NET

DETROIT



SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 2018



SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

1012 14th St NW, Suite 1500

Washington, DC 20005

(866) 809-9039 • info@sams-usa.net

sams-usa.net