



# SAMS

## Letter from the President

My dear colleagues, friends, and fellow members of SAMS,

Whenever we reflect on the journey of our organization, we have to remember that SAMS was never built by plans or structures alone. SAMS was built, and continues to be sustained, by its members and community.

By physicians who traveled when travel was dangerous. By volunteers who gave precious time away from their families when their life was already full. By families who accepted absence, long nights, and uncertainty, because they believed in something greater than themselves.

What united us was never position, specialty, or geography. What united us was our love for Syria. And the belief that service to our humanity represents the highest calling of our profession.

Today, Syria stands at a fragile moment between hardship and recovery. Hospitals and institutions must be rebuilt. Systems must be restored. Medical services must be delivered. A new generation of physicians must be trained and educated.

History has placed before us both a profound task and a tremendous responsibility. Not solely to respond to crises, but to help build institutions that will serve Syrians long after all of us are gone. This transition is not easy.

SAMS has evolved through many defining chapters such as humanitarian relief during the revolution, to emergency response during COVID-19 and the devastating earthquake, and to answering urgent healthcare needs following liberation. Today, we are moving toward a long-term vision of sustainable nation-building. A transformation on this scale requires patience, dialogue, and at times, difficult decisions.

But let me say this clearly:

SAMS moves forward not because of leadership alone, but because of the strength, wisdom, and dedication of its members.



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Every question raised, every concern expressed, and every idea shared reflects commitment and engagement. And that commitment remains our greatest asset. We may at times differ in our approach, yet we remain united in purpose and the overall mission

It is this unity, this shared mission and enduring love for Syria, that allowed SAMS to endure war, displacement, pandemics, and uncertainty.

And it is this same unity that will allow us to build the future. A future in which:

- Syrian patients receive compassionate, dignified, and state-of-the-art care;
- Syrian physicians train at world-class institutions within their own country;
- And Syrian healthcare stands strong, independent, and sustainable.

This work does not belong to one Board, one President, or even one generation. It is the collective legacy of SAMS.

I ask each of you not only to remain engaged, but to remain hopeful. Because together, we are hoping to prove something extraordinary. That compassion and dedication can help rebuild nations. That professionalism can restore trust. And that a united medical community can help heal a country.

SAMS began as a mission of service.

Today, it is evolving into an institution of lasting and indelible impact. Together, with humility, unity, and faith, we will continue this journey.

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your sacrifice. And thank you for being the heart of SAMS.

Aref Rifai, MD  
President