



SAMS

SAMS 24th International Conference Scientific Program at a Glance

*“Transforming Health, Restoring Hope:
Collaborative Paths to Quality and Sustainable
Care in Syria”*

June 27, 2026 - June 29, 2026
Aleppo, Syria

CME Accredited by SAMS Center for CME:

*The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) designates this live activity for
a maximum of 16.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*

Disclaimer: *The scientific program is subject to change.
Session titles, speakers, schedules, and workshop offerings
may be modified as planning continues.*

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

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OPENING CEREMONY

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9:00 AM

Welcome Remarks

Abdulrahman Zanabli, MD

Scientific Program Overview

Anas Kawayeh, MD & Nabil Alzaeim, MD

Address from SAMS Leadership

Aref Rifai, MD

Special Guest Addresses

Institutional Remarks

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PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION 1: From Partnership to Practice

11:00 AM **From Partnership to Practice: Pioneering Advanced Healthcare Programs Through SAMS-Local Collaboration**
Moderator: M. Fuad Azrak, MD, MPH
Panelists: M. Yser Orabi, MD, Waddah Maskoun, MD, Mahmoud Malhis, MD & Hasan Darwish, MD

12:00 PM **Lunch Break**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1:

1:00 PM **Shaping the Future of the Health System in Syria: Towards Resilience, Equity and Sustainability**
Dr Awad Mataria, Acting WHO Representative in Syria

Q&A and Panel Discussion

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2:

1:45 PM **A Roadmap for Healthcare Sector Reform in Syria: The Role of Local Data, Evidence-Based and Preventive Medicine**
Munir Abu-Helalah, MD, Director, Public Health Institute, University of Jordan

Q&A and Panel Discussion

SESSION 2: Health Systems Strengthening

2:30 PM **Roadmap to Excellence: A Strategic Plan for the Development of University Medical Education in Syria**
Moderator: Abdulghani Sankari, MD, PhD
Panelist: Wasim Zakaria, MD & Mohammad Khatib, MD

3:15 PM **Building a National Smoking Cessation Strategy in Syria: From Vision to Implementation**
Moderator: Sawsan Rashdan, MD
Panelists: Ihsan Kaadan, MD, Jamil Debel, MD, MPH, Muhammad Alsalem, MD, Yousef Abou Allaban, MD, Anas AlOmar, MD

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PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION 3: Systems, Ethics, & Sustainability

- 9:00 AM** **Hospital System Reform: Designing Effective Referral Networks in Syria's Health System**
Ihsan Kaadan, MD, MS
- 9:30 AM** **Rebuilding Palliative Care in Syria: A Scalable Network Model for Quality, Access, and Dignity**
Muhannad Darkazanli, MD

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4:

- 10:00 AM** **Antimicrobial Resistance in Health Systems: Practical Strategies for Sustainable Care Delivery**
Annie Sparrow, MBBS, MRCP, FRACP, MPH
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**

SESSION 4: Quality, Safety, & Excellence

- 11:00 AM** **From Emergency Response to System Quality: Building a TQM-Based Framework in Syrian Healthcare**
Bachir Tajaldin, MD, EMBA
- 11:20 AM** **Joining the Fight Against Sepsis in Our Hospitals**
Jaber Monla-Hassan, MD, FCCP
- 11:40 AM** **From Systems to Culture: Embedding Quality and Safety in Surgical Practice**
Eyad Issa, MD, PhD, MCEM, FRCS
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch Break**

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PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION 5: Shared Responsibility in Healthcare Delivery

9:00 AM **Balancing Access and Sustainability: The Role of Cost Sharing in Healthcare Programs**
Moderator: Amjad Rass, MD
Panelists: Mohammad Khattab, MD & Mohammad Abdulhakim Alzoobi, MD

SESSION 6: Innovation & The Future of Healthcare

10:00 AM **From Rejection to Power: AI in Medical Practice**
Etezaz Abul Izam, PhD Candidate

10:30 AM **Building Forward: How Digital Care Delivery Can Extend Syria's Clinical Reach Beyond Its Physical Infrastructure**
Mohammed Rami Bailony, MD, MS

11:00 AM **From Idea to Impact: Navigating the Medical Device Innovation Pipeline**
Khaled Boubes, MD, MBA

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

RADIOLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **Cardiac CT: Recent Advances and Clinical Applications,**
Mohammad Sammy Weis, MD
- 1:30 PM** **Quality Improvement in Radiology: Enhancing Safety and Outcomes**
Ihsan Mamoun, MD, MBA
- 2:00 PM** **Radiology Training in Syria: History, Current Landscape, and Future Vision (Syrian Board of Medical Specialties)**
Wael Mahmood, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Interventional Radiology in Resource-Limited Settings: Practice and Challenges**
Mohammad Arabi, MD
- 3:00 PM** **Seeing More, Sooner: The Power of First Trimester Fetal Anatomy**
Baraa Allaf, MD, FACOG
- 3:30 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

ONCOLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **The Evolving Role of Cellular Therapy in Cancer and Beyond**
Haifaa Abdulhaq, MD
- 1:20 PM** **Colon Cancer Updates: Advances in Screening and Immunotherapy**
Moutaz Ghrewati, MD
- 1:40 PM** **Health Informatics & AI in Large-Scale Health Systems: Balancing Innovation and Realistic Expectations**
Ahmed Absi, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Updates in Lung Cancer Management: Insights from SAMS Cancer Centers**
Jamil Debel, MD, MPH
- 2:20 PM** **From Aleppo to the World: Real-World Hem/Onc Cases Through a Syrian Clinical Lens**
Zain Douba, MD
- 2:40 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Morning)

ANESTHESIA

- 9:00 AM** **Advanced Airway Management: Principles and Practice**
Ammar Zakaria, MD
- 9:30 AM** **Perioperative Anesthesia Management for Non-Cardiac Surgery**
Albaraa Hamid, MD
- 10:00 AM** **Postoperative Pulmonary Complications: Prevention and Management**
Raea Dahhan Kassab Bachi, PhD
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 AM** **Chronic Low Back Pain: Differential Diagnosis and Updated Treatment Approaches**
Azzam Alkhudari, MD
- 11:30 AM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

OPHTHALMOLOGY

- 9:00 AM** **Reconstructive Ocular Surface Surgery**
Ahmed Rahal, MD
- 9:20 AM** **Surgical Management of Advanced Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy**
Ammar Safar, MD
- 9:40 AM** **The Importance of Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programs**
Waddah Jalabi, MD MSc FRCSEd
- 10:20 AM** **Pneumatic Retinopexy**
Shahem Kawji, MD
- 10:30 AM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**
- 11:00 AM** **Medical Training in Syria: A Deep Dive into Surgical Retina Training**
Ahmed Alsayed Ali, MD
- 11:20 AM** **Glaucoma Management: Simple Approach in a Complicated Field**
Muhammad Iyad Azrak, MD
- 11:40 AM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

CARDIOLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **Advances in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF) Management**
Mohamed Faher Almahmoud, MD MS
- 1:45 PM** **Pacemakers and Bradyarrhythmias: Diagnosis and Management**
Waddah Maskoun, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Evaluation and management of SVT in 2026**
Mahmoud Houmsse, MD
- 4:15 PM** **Surgical Management of Atrial Fibrillation**
Tamim Antaki, MD, FHRS, FACS
- Q&A and Panel Discussion**

GASTROENTEROLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **MASLD Unveiled: From Pathophysiology to Modern Diagnosis and Targeted Therapy**
Suliman Abdalraheem, MD
- 1:30 PM** **Hepatitis B and C: Updates in Screening and Treatment**
Muhamad Kamil Obideen, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Updates in Diagnosis and Management**
Mazen Issa, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Colorectal Cancer Screening in Syria: A Prospective Approach**
Omar Al-Subee, MD
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Decoding the Gut-Brain Axis**
Muhammad Alsayid, MD
- 4:00 PM** **Choledocholithiasis in Low-Resource Settings: State-of-the-Art Diagnosis and Management**
Anas Almoghrabi, MD
- 4:30 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

ENDOCRINOLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **Diabetes in Syria: Experience from the Aleppo Diabetes Center**
Nizar Albache, MD
Fadi Shakour, MD
- 2:00 PM** **GLP-1 Receptor Agonists: Expanding Therapeutic Applications**
Opada Alzohaili, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Primary Hyperparathyroidism: Diagnosis and Management**
Wael Taha, MD
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Thyroid Nodules: Current Updates in Workup and Management**
Hassan Shawa, MD
- 4:00 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

SURGERY

- 9:00 AM** **Oncovascular Surgery Centralisation Across Syria**
Maher Hamish, MD, MSc, FEBTS, FEBVS, FRCS
- 9:30 AM** **Role of MIS Surgery in the Syrian System: Reducing Hospital Stay and Costs**
Maan Taba, MD, MS, FRCS (Ortho & Trauma) Eng.
- 10:00 AM** **Advances in Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy**
Mohannad Nasani, PhD
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 AM** **Pelvic Floor Disorders: A Tailored Approach to Rectal Prolapse & ODS**
Moataz Hamsho, MD
- 11:30 AM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 PM** **How to Manage Developmental Dysplasia of Hip (DDH) in Children**
Yasser Sabouni, MD
- 1:30 PM** **Modern Management of Vertebral Compression Fractures: The Role of Kyphoplasty**
Abdulrahman Barakat, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery**
Eyad Khabbaz, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Roundtable Discussion**
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: An Up-to-Date Review
Moderators: Dr. Wael Habib, Dr. Amer Zanabali
Panelists: Dr. Hassan Kanj & Dr. Salah Khoja
- Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

PATHOLOGY

- 8:30 AM** **Update on Tumors of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses**
Wasim Fawzi Raslan, MD, PhD
- 9:20 AM** **Salivary Gland Tumors: A Practical Diagnostic Slide Session**
Salafa Albaghli, MD
- 10:10 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 AM** **Thyroid Tumors and More**
Mohamad Ghanem Sunbuli, MD
- 11:20 AM** **Quality Systems and Practical Informatics in Resource-Limited Settings: Improving Pathology Workflows from Specimen Receipt to Final Report**
Anas Saad, MD, MBA
- 12:10 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 PM** **Trouble in the Tree: Decoding Benign, Borderline, and Malignant Biliary and Pancreatic Lesions**
Wareef Kabbani, MD, FCAP, CPE
- 1:50 PM** **Modern Neuropathology: Integrating Morphology, Molecular Pathology, and Methylation Profiling**
Abdulkader Alshughri, MD
- 2:40 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:00 PM** **Mistakes Made, Lessons Learned**
Mohammad Adib Hureih, MD, DipRCPath

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

DENTAL

- 9:00 AM** **Biomimetic Dentistry: Fantasy vs Reality**
Louy Al Dehni, DDS, MSD
- 9:40 AM** **Early Management Is the Golden Key: Surgical Cases**
Bakr Haddad DDS, OMFS
- 10:20 AM** **Skill Challenge: From Deformity to Harmony: Le Fort III Transformation in Crouzon Syndrome**
Anas Damlakhi, DDS, OMFS
- 11:00 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 11:20 AM** **From Diagnosis Setup to Clear Aligners: Necessity and Needs**
Jamal Dabbas, DDS, PhD
- 12:00 PM** **Rotary and Reciprocating Motions During Root Canal Preparations**
Mahmoud Nasani, DDS, MS, PhD
- 12:40 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 1:40 PM** **The Impact of Advanced Arthrocentesis on Quality of Life in TMD Patients**
Ehab Baydak, DDS, MSc, SB.OMFS
- 2:20 PM** **TMJ Disorders in Everyday Dentistry: What Every General Dentist Should Know**
Salem Akkad, DDS, MS
- 3:00 PM** **The PRIME System: 5 Stages to Multiply Your Clinics Revenue**
Ahnaf Aljajeh, DDS, MS
- 3:40 PM** **Beyond Teeth: How Dental Practitioners Can Identify Airway and Sleep Issues in Children**
Nawaf Masri, DDS, MSD
Ziadeddin Al Baghdadi, DDS, PD, MS, PhD, MPH, PhD, Paed Dent Cert.,
FRCD(C). ABPD
- 4:20 PM** **Epidemiology Meets Advocacy: Understanding Pediatric Dental Trauma and Delayed Care in Post-Conflict Syria**
Ziadeddin Al Baghdadi, DDS, PD, MS, PhD, MPH, PhD, Paed Dent Cert.,
FRCD(C). ABPD
- 5:00 PM** **Full-Mouth Rehabilitation of Complex Cases: Clinical Protocols for Predictable, Functional, and Esthetic Outcomes**
Douaa Hasan Shehab, DDS, MSc

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Morning)

NEUROLOGY

- 9:00 AM** **Stroke Program at Aleppo University: Challenges and Successes**
Tuka Bahro, MD
- 9:15 AM** **Case Presentation: IV TNK in Acute Ischemic Stroke in the Presence of DOAC Use**
Ibrahim Hzbar, MD
- 9:30 AM** **Emerging Antithrombotic Therapies in Stroke Prevention**
Ahmad Sheikh El-Kahwateya MD, CES
- 9:45 AM** **Transforming Online Surveys into Stroke Education in Resource-Limited Settings**
Taleb Alsalloum, MD Candidate
- 10:00 AM** **Case Presentation: HIV-Associated Neurological Disorder**
Sima Masri, MD
- 10:15 AM** **Advances in the Management of Status Epilepticus**
Husam Kayyali, MD
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 AM** **CAR_T Cell Therapy: A New Hope for MS Patients**
Ahmad Sheikh AlKahwatiah, MD, CES
- 11:30 AM** **Motor and Non-Motor Symptom Profiles in Parkinson's Disease: Evidence from Syria**
Ibrahem Hanafi, MD, MSc

MENTAL HEALTH

- 9:00 AM** **RITA-T and Early Autism Screening: Tools for Early Detection**
Roula Choueiri, MD
- 9:20 AM** **Economic Empowerment: Transitioning from Sheltered Workshops to the Open Labor Market**
Mr. Nizar Saraijy
- 9:40 AM** **Sensory Integration in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Therapeutic Approach**
Fayez Fathi Arabi
- 10:00 AM** **Teaching and Training Strategies for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Sarah Bouzo, MD
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

SOFT SKILLS & GENERAL MEDICINE

- 1:00 PM** **Public Speaking Skills for the Doctor**
Ahmad Oussama Rifai, MD
- 1:30 PM** **Success Mindset and Mastery of Communication Skills**
Ossama Al Masalmeh, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Servant Leadership: How to Practice Being the Best Self Consistently**
Mousab Almusaddy, MD, FCCP, CHPC
- 2:30 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Practice-Changing Updates in Internal Medicine: A Case-Based Approach to Inpatient Care**
Nabil Alzaeim, MBBCh , MSc
- 3:50 PM** **Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections: Practical Diagnosis and Management (What to Order, When to Remove, and How to Manage)**
Ahmad AlKaji, MD, MSc
- 4:10 PM** **HTN Management in Patients with Diabetes and Cardiac & Kidney Protection**
Opada Alzohaili, MD, FACE, MBA
- 4:30 PM** **It's Never 'Just Aging': High-Stakes Primary Care in Older Adults**
Mohammad Fattal, MD, ABFM, ABOMD
- 4:50 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

PULMONARY / ICU / SLEEP

- 1:00 PM** **Non-Invasive Ventilation in Critical Illness: Patient Selection, Failure Recognition, and Outcomes**
M. Abdulgany Hamadeh, MD
- 1:30 PM** **ARDS Management in the Modern ICU: From Lung-Protective Ventilation to Adjunctive Therapies**
Eyad Almasri, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Severe Asthma Exacerbation in the ICU: Advanced Ventilatory Strategies and Rescue Therapies**
Abdullah Alcharif, MD
- 2:30 PM** **Updates in Pulmonary for Practitioners**
Mohamad Naem Shahrour, MD
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Management of Pulmonary Embolism Based on the 2026 Guidelines**
Fateh Kashkash, MD
- 4:00 PM** **Updates in Lung Cancer**
Mohammad Zalat, MD
- 4:30 PM** **Role of Robotic Navigation Bronchoscopy in the Management of Pulmonary Nodules**
Asaad Jandali, MD

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Afternoon)

NEPHROLOGY

- 1:00 PM** **Nephrology in Syria: During the Revolution, Now, and Future Needs**
Mohamed Abdul Karim Sekkarie, MD, MPH
- 1:20 PM** **Pediatric Peritoneal Dialysis in Aleppo: Challenges and Opportunities**
Mahmoud Helal, MD
- 1:40 PM** **Nephrology Fellowship Education in Syria: A Critical Appraisal and Vision for the Future**
Ahmad Oussama Rifai, MD
- 2:00 PM** **Daret Ezza Dialysis Clinic: Service Delivery in Resource-Limited Settings**
Iyad Rahaal, MD
- 2:20 PM** **Nephrology Services at Omar bin Abdul Aziz Hospital**
Khalid Haj-Nasan, MD
- 2:40 PM** **Earthquake Response: Rapid Deployment and Dialysis Support**
Muawya Al-Ahmad, MD
- 3:00 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 PM** **Advancing Transplantation in Syria: Current Initiatives and Future Directions**
Sami Bitar, MD
- 3:50 PM** **New Hemodialysis Facility Assessment to Operations: Sustainable Best Demonstrated Quality Standards Practices**
Eng. Chris Atwater
- 4:10 PM** **Q&A and Panel Discussion**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

PATHOLOGY

- 8:30 AM** **Pathology of Lung Carcinoma**
Saed Khayyata, MD
- 9:20 AM** **Pathology of Non-Cancerous Lung Lesions**
Saed Khayyata, MD
- 10:10 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 AM** **An Atypical Teratoid/Rhabdoid Tumor (AT/RT) of the Sphenopalatine Fossa : A Rare Case Report in an Adult Male**
Zuhair Shuhaibi, MD
- 11:00 AM** **Melanocytic Neoplasms**
Abida Kadi, MD
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 PM** **A Practical Approach to Lymphoma Diagnosis**
Nour Abd-Almohsen, MD
- 1:50 PM** **Follicular Lymphoma in the Era of Modern Classification: Variants, Gray Zones, and Clinical Impact**
Fayez Daaboul, MD, MPH

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

DENTAL

- 9:00 AM** **Ridge Augmentation & Guided Bone Regeneration**
Ahmad Hawasli, DDS, MSc
- 9:40 AM** **Relationship Between Periodontal Diseases and Sexual Health**
Mohammad Khattab, DDS, MS, PhD
- 10:20 AM** **From Periodontitis to Peri-implantitis: The Threat of Cross-Infection and Elevated Risk of Implant Failure**
Mohammad Ali Yousef, DDS, MSc, PhD, MedEd
- 11:00 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 11:20 AM** **Maxillofacial Prosthodontist Role in the Management of Trauma and Cancer Patients**
Mounir Kharchaf, DDS, MDS, FACP
- 12:00 PM** **Orthodontics as a Supporting Tool for the Dentist in Daily Practice: Clinical Cases**
Mahmoud Albarazi, CES in orthodontics
- 12:40 PM** **Pathways to U.S. Dental Licensure for International Dentists: A Comprehensive Guide**
Husam Karzoun, DMD
- 1:20 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 2:20 PM** **Management of Gingival Papilla Loss Using Conservative Methods**
Jad Kadour, DDS, MS, PhD
- 3:00 PM** ***Dental Care in Eastern Aleppo During Conflict: Evidence from the Dental Care Programme (2012–2016)***
Mohamed Hamze, DDS, CES, DU, MSc. Periodontics
- 3:40 PM** **Maxillary Adult Expansion and the Airway**
Abd Al Hadi Kawaiah, DDS, DMD, MS Orthodontists
- 4:20 PM** **Closing Ceremony**

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PARALLEL SESSIONS (Full Day)

PEDIATRICS

- 9:00 AM** **Why the New Syria Needs your Research Mind**
Abd Arrahman Alomar, MD
- 9:25 AM** **The Molecular Scars of Conflict: Epigenetic Transmission of Collective Trauma Across Generations**
Samer AlJenidi, MD
- 9:50 AM** **Challenges in the Pediatric Department at Aleppo University Hospital: From the Perspective of Residents**
Ahmed Reslan, MD
- 10:15 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 AM** **Management of Neonatal Sepsis with Poor Resources**
Mohammed Morshed Tamim, MD
- 11:10 AM** **Severe Midgut Malrotation**
Mohamed Morjan, MD
- 11:35 AM** **Safe Neonatal Transport**
Bassel Mouti, PhD
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 PM** **Pediatric Asthma Guidelines**
Youmna Mousattat, MD
- 1:25 PM** **Evaluation and Management of Proteinuria and Nephrosis in Children**
Mahmoud Kallas, MD
- 1:50 PM** **Peri-Operative Fluid Management**
Vivian Faks, MD, MSc
- 2:15 PM** **Improving the Quality of Epilepsy Care at University of Aleppo**
Hebatullah Awad, MD
- 2:40 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 3:10 PM** **Advances in Autism Diagnosis: Modern Methods and Technologies**
Shaden Kassar, BCBA-PhD
Hind Alloush, MS, BCBA
- 3:35 PM** **Building a Model Autism Training Center in Syria: A One-Year Experience**
Mohammad Wisam Sakbani, MD
- 4:00 PM** **Sensory Integration Disorders**
Bariah Dardari Duwaji, MD, ABP, ABIHM
- 4:25 PM** **Healing Little Hearts Amidst War: Building a Congenital Heart Program in Syria**
Khaled Al-Ahdab, MD

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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PLENARY SESSIONS

Awad Mataria, PhD

Dr Awad Mataria is Director of Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Dr Mataria has more than 15 years experience in health system strengthening, health economics and health financing. For the last 10 years, he has been supporting countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to reform their health financing systems to move towards universal health coverage.

Dr Mataria has a PhD in Health Economics and a Masters degree in Health System Analysis, following his undergraduate degree in Pharmacy. His areas of expertise are: universal health coverage; health systems financing and organization; social health insurance; using economics in health care priority setting; measuring the benefits of health care using stated preferences techniques; economic evaluation of health care interventions; and national health accounts.

Dr Mataria has had several publications in high-impact journals, including Journal of Health Economics, Health Economics and The Lancet, and has presented at many international and regional conferences.

Munir Abu-Helalah, MD, MD, MPH, PhD ABCM FPM

Dr. Munir Abu-Helalah is an Associate Professor and Consultant in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine with extensive regional and international experience in epidemiology, disease prevention, health systems strengthening, medical research, and evidence-based healthcare policy. He currently affiliated with the School of Medicine, University of Jordan and Jordan University Hospital.

He obtained his PhD and fellowship in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine from the University of London and holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Dundee, UK. Dr. Abu-Helalah is internationally recognized for his work in cancer prevention, infectious diseases epidemiology, vaccination policies, smoking cessation, and healthcare quality improvement. In 2014, he was awarded the First Place Prize of HRH Prince Saud Bin Nayef Award for the Best Cancer Researcher in the Arab World for researchers under the age of 40.

He has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has led multiple multinational research projects and grants in collaboration with governments, universities, healthcare organizations, and pharmaceutical companies. His research interests include communicable and non-communicable diseases epidemiology, control and prevention, vaccines, clinical indicators, health economics, medical screening and healthcare reform. He also serves on several national, regional and international committees in these fields.

Wasim Zakaria, MD, MSc

Dr. Wasim Zakaria is an Internal Medicine and Rheumatology specialist with extensive experience in clinical medicine, medical education, and healthcare leadership in Syria. He currently serves as the Chair of the Scientific Council of Internal Medicine at the Syrian Board of Medical Specialties (SBOMS) and as the Head of Scientific Affairs at the Syrian Medical Association. He is also a PhD candidate at Idlib University and holds a Diploma in Medical Education in addition to being a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCPEd).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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PLENARY SESSIONS

M. Ihsan Kaadan, MD, MS

Dr. Ihsan Kaadan is a vascular medicine physician and assistant professor of medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. After graduating from Aleppo University, he completed his medical training at Boston University and Harvard Medical School and earned a master's degree in International Health Policy and Management.

Dr. Kaadan brings extensive experience in health system strengthening, healthcare reform, and digital health innovation across the United States and the Middle East.

Muhannad Darkazanli, MD

Dr. Darkazanli is a physician with clinical experience in hematology, oncology, and palliative care. His work focuses on sustainable cancer care, symptom management, quality improvement, and strengthening healthcare systems in resource-limited settings. He is particularly interested in rebuilding healthcare capacity in Syria through practical, patient-centered care models that improve access, dignity, and continuity of care. Dr. Darkazanli is committed to interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing integrated approaches that enhance outcomes for patients and families facing serious illness.

Annie Sparrow, MBBS, MRCP, FRACP, MPH

Dr. Sparrow is a pediatric intensivist, public health physician, and Associate Professor of Population Health Science and Policy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. For more than a decade, she has worked alongside Syrian healthcare professionals to address the healthcare challenges created by contemporary warfare and pioneered the concept of the weaponization of healthcare.

Her work focuses on the drivers of global biological instability, including health-system collapse, conflict, antimicrobial resistance, and the weaponization of healthcare and public health in contemporary conflicts. She has written extensively on how these forces contribute to infectious disease outbreaks, undermine healthcare delivery, accelerate the spread of antimicrobial resistance, and threaten global health security. Related areas of focus include the emergence of new ethical challenges in warfare and the reverse engineering of the rules of war to exploit advances in medicine and surgery, creating new vulnerabilities for healthcare workers, patients, and health systems.

Much of her work has been conducted in partnership with frontline humanitarian organisations and services including Syria Civil Defence, the HNAP and SAMS, leveraging research, advocacy, and policy engagement to support their efforts and amplify the experiences and expertise of clinicians serving in conflict-affected settings..

She is honored to join colleagues in Aleppo and to learn from and contribute to the work of Syrian healthcare professionals rebuilding health services after more than a decade of war.

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Bachir Tajaldin, MD, EMBA

Dr. Bachir Tajaldin is a physician and health systems leader specializing in healthcare governance, quality management, and health system transformation in conflict-affected and resource-limited settings. He currently serves as Director of Centers of Excellence (COE) and Director of Health System Strengthening & Sustainability at the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), where he leads strategic initiatives focused on institutional transformation, sustainable healthcare models, and system-based quality improvement across multiple healthcare facilities and programs in Syria.

Over the course of the Syrian conflict, Dr. Tajaldin has led and managed large-scale health programs and complex public health responses in northwest Syria, including disease surveillance, epidemic preparedness and response, humanitarian health coordination, and healthcare system support in highly fragile settings. He was among the founding leaders of the EWARN surveillance system and played key leadership roles in major public health responses, including polio eradication campaigns, COVID-19 response efforts, and cholera preparedness and response.

His current work focuses on advancing Total Quality Management (TQM) frameworks, strengthening institutional governance, integrating sustainable healthcare financing approaches, and supporting the transition from emergency response models toward resilient, accountable, and high-quality healthcare systems in Syria.

Jaber Monla-Hassan, MD, FCCP

I am a Syrian American pulmonologist and critical care physician, a graduate of Aleppo Faculty of Medicine, with postgraduate training at Henry Ford Hospital. I currently practice in Pennsylvania, where I serve as ICU Medical Director at Jefferson Einstein Montgomery Hospital and have been a Sound Physicians Program Director for eight years.

My professional focus centers on innovation, teamwork, and quality improvement. Under my leadership, my program achieved the highest sepsis bundle compliance among many top hospitals in my area. Several initiatives I introduced were later adopted as standard practices in multiple hospitals.

I am a long standing Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) member and served on its first Foundation Board following the Syrian revolution. Over the years, I have contributed to multiple committees and played a role in restructuring and repositioning SAMS to meet evolving challenges. During the revolution, I organized and led more than 20 training missions to Syria, introducing innovative approaches such as FAST ultrasound and intraosseous access, and participated in launching Syria's first critical care fellowship in Idleb.

Following the fall of the regime, I reengaged with SAMS leadership to help redefine its mission and revitalize ICU and infection prevention committees. In February 2025, I organized one of the first ICU train the trainer missions to Aleppo and Latakia, working closely with local healthcare providers and leaders.

Most recently, I initiated the development of an advanced echocardiography and point of care ultrasound (POCUS) training program at Aleppo University Hospital as part of a broader vision to advance critical care education nationwide.

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Mohamed Eyad Issa, MD, PhD, MCEM, FRCS

I am a Consultant HPB Surgeon and Associate Medical Director for Quality and Safety with expertise in complex liver, pancreatic and biliary cancer surgery, onco-vascular resections, ERCP and minimally invasive HPB surgery.

My career combines high-complexity surgical practice with strategic healthcare leadership. I trained in the UK and completed an AHPBA-accredited HPB and abdominal transplant fellowship at Toronto General Hospital, developing advanced experience in complex HPB oncology, multidisciplinary cancer pathways and technically demanding surgical care. In my leadership role, I work across clinical governance, patient safety, harm reduction, deteriorating patient systems, surgical safety and organisational learning. I support teams to move from incident response to system improvement, creating safer pathways, stronger governance and more reliable care delivery.

I am an IHI Global Fellow, Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester, PhD-trained academic and medical educator, with a strong interest in safety culture, teamwork, implementation science and clinical leadership.

My value lies in combining complex HPB surgical expertise with the ability to lead improvement at organisational level. I am particularly interested in collaborations focused on advanced HPB cancer care, minimally invasive surgery, surgical innovation, quality improvement and safer healthcare systems.

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PLENARY SESSIONS

Etezaz Abul Izam, MSc, PhD Candidate

Etezaz Abul Izam is a medical software engineer and AI & XR specialist with a background in Artificial Intelligence and Biomedical Engineering, and ongoing PhD research in Healthcare Management. She is the Founder and CEO of MedTechLE, a healthtech company focused on Digital Health, Robotic Surgical Simulation, and VR-based medical training.

Her work focuses on laparoscopic and robotics surgical simulation, AI-driven healthcare systems, and clinical decision support to enhance medical training and patient care. She received the Bronze Award at the Arab Innovation and Creativity Award (2025).

Mohammed Rami Bailony, MD, MS

Dr. Bailony is UCSF and Stanford Internal Medicine Physician; Obesity Specialist, and Healthcare technologist. Dr. Bailony's focus is on the application of user centric design to change healthcare interactions and workflows, redefine the patient experience, and improve employee and physician workflow and satisfaction

He currently runs a venture backed company, Enara Health. The company is developing a platform and network to scale obesity treatment with the mission of helping the world tackle the largest epidemic in history.

Khaled Boubes, MD, MBA

Dr. Khaled Boubes is an interventional nephrologist, academic physician, and medical innovator. He serves as Director of Interventional Nephrology and Associate Professor of Medicine, where he also directs an inpatient dialysis unit at a major academic medical center.

A clinician-turned-inventor, Dr. Boubes holds multiple granted U.S. patents in vascular access and dialysis technology, with additional applications pending. His work spans the full innovation pipeline, from identifying unmet bedside needs to engineering solutions, navigating IP strategy, and pursuing commercialization.

Holding both an MD and an MBA, Dr. Boubes brings a dual lens to healthcare innovation: deep clinical expertise paired with strategic and entrepreneurial thinking. He is an active contributor to nephrology education, clinical decision support, and medical device development — committed to bridging the gap between what patients need and what medicine can deliver.

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RADIOLOGY

Mohammad Sammy Weis, MD

Dr. Sami Weis is a Senior Consultant Radiologist with over 25 years of experience in multimodality diagnostic imaging across the UAE and Syria. He currently practices at University Hospital Sharjah and serves as a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Sharjah College of Medicine.

His subspecialty expertise includes Cardiac CT, Coronary CT Angiography, CT and MR Angiography, MRI, and advanced cardiovascular imaging. Dr. Weis has extensive experience in advanced CT applications, MRI interpretation, pediatric and breast imaging, as well as image-guided interventional procedures. Throughout his career, he has held several departmental leadership positions, including serving as Head of Radiology in multiple institutions.

Actively engaged in medical education and research, Dr. Weis regularly participates in leading international scientific meetings, including RSNA, ESR, and SCCT.

Ihsan Mamoun, MD, MBA

Ihsan Mamoun, MD, MBA is a pediatric and neuroradiologist who practiced at Cleveland Clinic beginning in 2013, where he completed both his residency and fellowship training. He holds Certificates of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Pediatric Radiology and Neuroradiology from the American Board of Radiology, is board certified in Imaging Informatics, and earned his MBA in 2016. Dr. Mamoun is actively involved in resident and fellow education and has participated in pediatric and neuroimaging clinical rounds and tumor boards at Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital.

A member of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) since 2010, Dr. Mamoun has served in multiple leadership roles, including Vice President of SAMS from 2020 to 2022 and as a former foundation board member. He has contributed extensively to humanitarian medical relief efforts, emphasizing the role of radiology in crisis settings through educational initiatives and continued teleradiology support for facilities inside Syria. Dr. Mamoun has presented at SAMS national and international conferences and other professional society meetings and currently practices in Tampa, Florida.

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RADIOLOGY

Mohammad Arabi, MD

Dr. Arabi is an Assistant Professor at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, College of Applied Medical Sciences. He completed advanced fellowships in Vascular and Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Neuroradiology at the University of Michigan, USA. He is board-certified in Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Vascular Medicine, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (UK).

Dr. Arabi is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Journal of Interventional Radiology and serves as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology (JVIR). A highly accomplished academic, he has authored nearly 100 scientific publications, contributed to four book chapters, and delivered numerous presentations at regional and international conferences.

He serves on the Board of the Pan Arab Interventional Radiology Society (PAIRS) and has been recognized with fellowship status from both PAIRS and the Society of Interventional Radiology (USA).

Baraa Allaf, MD, FACOG

Dr. Allaf is a double American Board-certified specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He serves as Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Mercy Hospital in New York, and is an Associate Professor at New York Institute of Technology.

He earned his medical degree from the University of Aleppo, completed his Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and fellowship training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Stony Brook University and NYU Winthrop University Hospital.

Dr. Allaf specializes in high-risk obstetrics, prenatal diagnosis, fetal echocardiography, and advanced obstetric ultrasound, with particular expertise in early fetal anatomy assessment and invasive prenatal diagnostic procedures.

He has authored peer-reviewed publications and presented at national and international scientific meetings, while remaining actively involved in the education and mentorship of medical students, residents, and Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellows.

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ONCOLOGY

Haifaa Abdulhaq, MD

Haifaa Abdulhaq, MD, is a clinical professor at UCSF and director of Hematology and Hematology /Oncology Fellowship at UCSF Fresno. She is board certified in hematology and medical oncology with expertise in malignant hematology and interest in stem cell transplantation and cellular therapy.

She completed her residency in internal medicine and fellowship in hematology and oncology at Western Pennsylvania Hospital and Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Abdulhaq is a member of the American Society of Hematology, the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the American Society of Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation. She is also a board member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Central California Chapter and serves as the director of cellular therapy at Community Health Centers.

Her professional interests include medical education and clinical research. Dr. Abdulhaq is a recipient of the Henry Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching at UCSF and serves as the principal investigator for numerous clinical trials in malignant hematology. She is also a steering committee member at UC Hematological Malignancy Consortium.

Moutaz Ghrewati, MD

Dr. Moutaz Ghrewati was born in Aleppo, Syria, and earned his medical degree from Al Kalamoon University in 2014. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Saint Joseph's University Medical Center (2017–2020), followed by a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology (2021–2024).

Dr. Ghrewati is board-certified in both Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology and currently serves as faculty in the Genitourinary (GU) and Gastrointestinal (GI) Oncology programs. He is affiliated with the nationally recognized JTCC, where he is involved in the care of patients with complex malignancies and in advancing cancer education and research.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Ghrewati enjoys following politics and soccer.

Ahmed Absi, MD

Dr. Ahmed Absi is Section Head of Hematology at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Jeddah, a position he has held since 2020. He has served as a Consultant in Hematology, Medical Oncology, and Bone Marrow Transplantation at King Abdulaziz Medical City since 2007.

His clinical practice focuses primarily on malignant hematology, with particular expertise in leukemias and lymphoproliferative disorders. In addition to patient care, Dr. Absi dedicates a significant portion of his professional efforts to quality improvement initiatives, with a special interest in health informatics and healthcare system optimization.

Dr. Absi is actively involved in medical education, mentoring Hematology fellows and Internal Medicine residents, and contributing to the development of future healthcare professionals.

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ONCOLOGY

Jamil Debel, MD, MPH

Dr. Jamil Debel is a medical doctor and public health specialist currently serving as Director of the Cancer Disease Directorate at the Syrian Ministry of Health. In this role, he leads national efforts in cancer control, including strategic planning, development of clinical guidelines, expansion of early detection programs, and strengthening oncology services across Syria.

Dr. Debel also serves as Chairman of the Syrian Board of Hematology, overseeing postgraduate training, curriculum development, and national certification examinations for hematology specialists. With a Master of Public Health (MPH) and extensive experience in health system strengthening, he has contributed to numerous national initiatives aimed at improving access to cancer care, enhancing diagnostic capacity, and integrating evidence-based practices into clinical pathways.

His work has included the establishment of the National Cancer Registry and the development of international collaborations with organizations such as the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Dr. Debel has authored and co-authored several publications on cancer care in conflict settings, including research addressing barriers to breast cancer treatment in northwest Syria.

Zain Douba, MD

Dr. Zain Douba is a Syrian physician, hematology researcher, public health advocate, and medical educator whose leadership has driven research and training across Aleppo and the global medical community. She currently serves as a fellow and researcher in the Department of Hematology at the Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Health, with over 1,100 citations across hematology, public health, and internal medicine.

A multi-project leader, Dr. Douba has directed large research teams across major Aleppo hospitals and serves as Scientific Coordinator and Trainer at the CME Office, Faculty of Medicine, University of Aleppo. She has delivered training and advocacy in antimicrobial resistance, infection prevention and control, drug abuse awareness, and simulation-based medical education — including as an invited WHO-affiliated lecturer in the annual Antibiotic Resistance Awareness Workshop for residents and healthcare workers.

Internationally, she is a Cochrane Author, British Society of Hematology Associate Member, and JIPO Fellow, with collaborative publications spanning institutions across Europe, Latin America, and North America.

Dr. Douba exemplifies Syrian medical persistence, grounded locally, recognized globally.

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ANESTHESIA

Ammar Zakaria, MD

Dr. Ammar Zakaria is an anesthesiologist with a strong interest in emergency and critical care medicine, particularly in airway management, resuscitation, and patient safety. Through his clinical training and practice, he has developed extensive experience in airway assessment, emergency response, and the management of high-risk clinical situations.

Dr. Zakaria has participated in numerous educational and clinical training initiatives focused on advanced airway management techniques and evidence-based approaches to emergency care. He is committed to advancing patient safety and improving clinical decision-making through the application of best practices in airway and critical care management.

Albaraa Hamid, MD

Dr. Albaraa Hamid earned his medical degree in Latakia and graduating from Damascus University in 2012. He subsequently pursued advanced training in anesthesiology in Chicago, where he developed expertise in trauma anesthesia before completing a fellowship in pain management.

Driven by a passion for both medicine and the outdoors, Dr. Hamid later relocated to Portland, Oregon, where he expanded his interests in wilderness medicine, mountain rescue, and mountaineering. He currently serves as Vice Chief of his anesthesiology program, combining clinical leadership with a commitment to education and high-quality patient care.

Raea Dahhan Kassab Bachi, PhD

Prof. Raea Dahhan Kassab Bachi is Professor of Anesthesia and Intensive Care at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Aleppo, and currently serves as Head of the Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care. She has extensive academic and clinical experience in perioperative medicine, anesthetic management, and critical care practice.

In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Prof. Bachi is actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, with a strong commitment to teaching and mentoring medical students and residents in anesthesia and critical care. Her academic interests focus on advancing perioperative patient care, critical care medicine, and evidence-based anesthesia practice.

Prof. Bachi has participated in numerous scientific conferences and educational programs in the fields of anesthesia and intensive care and continues to contribute to the advancement of anesthesiology education and clinical training. Through her leadership, teaching, and clinical work, she is dedicated to improving patient safety, medical education, and critical care services.

Azzam Alkhudari, MD

Dr. Azzam Khudari is an Interventional Pain Management and Anesthesiology Attending Physician at Stroger Cook County Hospital. He is actively involved in a Pain Medicine Fellowship Program, where he teaches and mentors trainees while maintaining a busy clinical practice.

With more than 20 years of experience in pain management, Dr. Khudari has dedicated his career to the evaluation and treatment of patients with acute and chronic pain conditions through both medical and interventional approaches.

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OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ammar Safar, MD

Dr. Ammar Safar is an American Board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai. He currently serves as Chief Medical Officer of Moorfields Eye Hospitals in the UAE and Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology at Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Dr. Safar completed his medical education in Syria before pursuing postgraduate training in the United States. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Georgetown University, where he served as Chief Resident, followed by a two-year fellowship in Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He later joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where he served as Assistant and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Vitreoretinal Surgery at the Jones Eye Institute.

His clinical and research interests focus on diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular diseases, and age-related macular degeneration. His work has contributed to advancing the management of retinal vascular disorders and exudative macular degeneration. Dr. Safar was the inaugural recipient of The Martha Wood Bentley Endowed Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Arkansas and remains actively involved in leading international ophthalmology organizations.

Waddah Jalabi, MD MSc FRCSEd

Dr. Waddah Jalabi graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo in 1992 and completed his residency training in Ophthalmology at Aleppo University Hospital between 1992 and 1995. He earned a Master's Degree in Ophthalmology from the University of Aleppo in 1996.

Dr. Jalabi pursued advanced subspecialty training in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery through fellowships at Magrabi Eye Hospital in Jeddah (1996–1997) and Hull Royal Infirmary in the United Kingdom (1997–1998). In 1999, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCS).

He served as Staff Grade Ophthalmologist at Torbay Hospital, UK (2000–2001), followed by a decade as an attending ophthalmologist at Aleppo University Hospital and in private practice (2002–2012). He later worked as Consultant Ophthalmologist at Lincoln County Hospital, UK (2013–2014).

Since 2014, Dr. Jalabi has served as Medical Director and Head of the Vitreoretinal Unit at Batal Specialist Medical Center in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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OPHTHALMOLOGY

Shahem Kawji, MD

Dr. Shahem Kawji graduated from the University of Aleppo School of Medicine in 2000 before pursuing postgraduate training in the United States. He completed a three-year residency in Internal Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, followed by a research fellowship in Ophthalmology at the University of Southern California (USC).

Dr. Kawji subsequently completed a three-year residency in Ophthalmology at Indiana University and a two-year fellowship in Vitreoretinal Surgery at the University of Virginia (UVA). In 2015, he established his solo retina practice in Newport Beach, California, where he continues to focus exclusively on the medical and surgical management of retinal diseases.

Ahmed Alsayed Ali, MD

Dr. Ahmed Al-Sayed Ali is a Syrian ophthalmologist and eye surgeon with extensive clinical, surgical, and hospital management experience in northern Syria. He previously served as Head of the Ophthalmology and Eye Surgery Department at Bab Al-Hawa Hospital in Idlib, where he led surgical services, supervised patient care, and trained ophthalmology residents and surgical fellows. He currently serves as Director of Al-Noor Hospital for Eye Diseases and Surgery, operated by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

Dr. Al-Sayed Ali holds the Syrian Board of Medical Specialties certification in Ophthalmology and earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Aleppo. His surgical expertise covers cataract, vitreoretinal, glaucoma, strabismus, oculoplastic, trauma, lacrimal tract, and reconstructive eye surgeries. Across his career, he has treated more than 80,000 patients and performed thousands of ophthalmic procedures, including more than 4,000 cataract surgeries and over 1,000 trauma surgeries. He also completed an advanced vitreoretinal surgical fellowship with SAMS in 2024.

His professional profile combines advanced ophthalmic surgery, clinical leadership, resident supervision, and hospital management in a complex conflict-affected healthcare context.

Muhammad Iyad Azrak, MD

Dr. Azrak is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at The Ohio State University (OSU).

In addition to his academic and clinical responsibilities, Dr. Azrak is an active member of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), contributing to educational and healthcare initiatives that support medical professionals and patients in Syria and beyond.

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CARDIOLOGY

Mohamed Faher Almahmoud, MD MS

Dr. Mohamed Faher Almahmoud, MD, MS, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI is a board-certified cardiologist and interventional cardiologist with Texas Cardiology Associates of Houston and serves as faculty at the University of Houston. He specializes in coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, structural and valvular heart disease, and advanced catheter-based cardiovascular interventions.

Dr. Almahmoud completed his medical training at the University of Aleppo, the American University of Beirut, and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, followed by advanced cardiology and interventional cardiology training at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

He is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease, Nuclear Cardiology, Echocardiography, Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT), and Vascular Interpretation (RPVI). His expertise includes coronary and peripheral vascular interventions, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), MitraClip procedures, PFO and ASD closure, management of venous thromboembolic disease, and mechanical circulatory support for cardiogenic shock and advanced heart failure.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Almahmoud completed two years of NIH-sponsored clinical research and has participated in major cardiovascular trials focused on atherosclerosis and ischemic heart disease. His research interests include atrial fibrillation, heart failure, obesity and weight management, valvular heart disease, and lipid disorders.

Waddah Maskoun, MD

Dr. Waddah Maskoun, MD is a board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist specializing in heart rhythm disorders, catheter ablation, cardiac implantable electronic devices, and conduction system pacing. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and Electrophysiology training at Indiana University School of Medicine and his Cardiovascular Disease fellowship at Medical College of Wisconsin. He currently serves as Director of Electrophysiology Research and Director of the Cardiac Device Clinic at Henry Ford Hospital. Previously, he served as Director of Clinical Electrophysiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in the training of cardiology and electrophysiology fellows in the United States.

Dr. Maskoun has authored more than 25 peer-reviewed publications and numerous scientific abstracts in the field of cardiac electrophysiology. In addition to his academic and clinical work, he is actively involved with the Syrian American Medical Society, supporting medical education, humanitarian initiatives, and the development of advanced cardiac services. He also helps lead fellowship-level training programs in cardiac arrhythmias and cardiac device therapy in Syria, contributing to the development of the next generation of electrophysiologists.

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CARDIOLOGY

Mahmoud Houmsse, MD

Dr. Hoummse graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo in 1989 and completed six months of surgical residency training at Aleppo University Hospital. In 1990, he conducted and published cardiovascular research in the field of hypertension at the University of Nebraska before completing his residency in Internal Medicine in West Virginia.

He subsequently pursued fellowship training in Cardiovascular Medicine and Cardiac Electrophysiology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Since 2006, Dr. Hoummse has held academic appointments and currently serves as a Clinical Professor of Cardiac Electrophysiology in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine.

Dr. Hoummse has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and contributed to seven book chapters.

He is married to an amazing wife Rehab, and has 4 girls - Aseel, Elaff, Engie and Jannah; and one son Mustafa.

Tamim Antaki, MD, FHRS, FACS

Dr. Antaki, a native of Aleppo, is a proud graduate of its public schools and was shaped by the city's rich culture and historic streets. He earned his MD from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo in 1983 and completed Higher Studies in Surgery at Aleppo University Hospital in 1987.

He later moved to the United States, where he completed a residency in General Surgery at The Methodist Hospital of New York in 1993, followed by a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Arkansas in 1996. From 1998 to 2008, Dr. Antaki served as Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Antaki currently practices Cardiothoracic Surgery on Florida's Space Coast as a member of Health First Medical Group. His professional interests include adult cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, and surgical management of cardiac rhythm disorders.

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GASTROENTEROLOGY

Sulieman Abdalraheem, MD

Dr. Sulieman AbdalRaheem is a Consultant Gastroenterologist and Transplant Hepatologist at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, where he serves as the Lead Physician of the MASLD Clinic.

He is board-certified in Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Obesity Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine and American Board of Obesity Medicine.

Dr. Sulieman completed his fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at MetroHealth / Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He advanced his expertise with fellowships in Transplant Hepatology and Nutrition Support at the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, where he later joined the staff as a consultant physician.

Muhamad Kamil Obideen, MD

Dr. Obideen is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, and Transplant Hepatology. He graduated from the University of Aleppo School of Medicine in 1997 and completed his Internal Medicine residency as well as his Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship training at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia.

From 2005 to 2009, Dr. Obideen served as Assistant Professor and Associate Program Director in Emory University's Division of Gastroenterology. He currently practices with Atlanta Gastroenterology Associates, where he serves as Senior Partner and Managing Partner.

His clinical practice focuses on digestive and liver diseases, while his professional interests include physician leadership, medical education, and advancing high-quality gastrointestinal and hepatology care.

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GASTROENTEROLOGY

Omar Al-Subee, MD

Dr. Alsubee has been in gastroenterology practice for more than 23 years and currently holds an academic appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor. He brings extensive international clinical experience, including 11 years of practice in Saudi Arabia, providing him with broad exposure to gastrointestinal and liver diseases commonly encountered in the Middle East as well as in the United States.

Throughout his career, Dr. Alsubee has been actively involved in medical education, teaching and mentoring medical students, residents, and fellows. In addition to his clinical and academic work, he has a strong interest in outcomes research and advancing evidence-based approaches to patient care.

Anas Almoghrabi, MD

Dr. Almoghrabi graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Damascus in 2009. His decision to pursue a career in Internal Medicine was shaped during his clinical rotations, where he was drawn to the variety and complexity of medical conditions and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on patients' lives.

During his time at the University of Chicago, Dr. Almoghrabi participated in basic science research exploring the potential chemopreventive effects of vitamin D in colon cancer, with a particular focus on the suppression of the local colonic renin-angiotensin system. He later completed fellowship training in Gastroenterology, where he developed a strong interest in advanced endoscopic procedures, particularly Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP).

Dr. Almoghrabi currently serves as an Interventional Gastroenterologist at John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County in Chicago. He is passionate about medical education and enjoys working closely with medical students, residents, and fellows.

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ENDOCRINOLOGY

Opada Alzohaili, MD

Dr. Opada Alzohaili completed his internal medicine degree from Damascus University Medical School in Damascus, Syria. He had his internal medicine training at Wayne State University and finished Endocrinology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Alzohaili is Board Certified in Endocrinology with special emphasis on the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, insulin resistance, the management of polycystic ovarian disease, and obesity.

He is an assistant professor of endocrinology at Wayne State University in Detroit. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Alzohaili has been an investigator in over 110 clinical trials for type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, cholesterol and heart disease.

In his "spare time," he continues to share his knowledge through lectures, presentations and publications in Michigan and other states. He holds privileges at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center in Dearborn, Garden City Hospital as well as Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit.

He is a member of diabetes task force committees at Detroit medical center, Oakwood health care system and Garden City Hospital where he helped establish inpatient diabetes protocols

He enjoys teaching internal medicine and family practice interns and residents at Sinai Grace, Oakwood, Garden City and Batsford hospitals through routine weekly lectures, grand rounds and case discussions, also through resident monthly endocrine rotations in his office

He is a member of the American Diabetes Association, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, The Endocrine Society, The Medical Review Institute of America, also a member of the quality improvement committee at local Health Maintenance Organization, and recently elected to serve on the board of the largest hospital physicians organization in the Detroit metro area

He was voted as teacher of the year by Sinai Grace Hospital internal medicine program 3 consecutive years, top doctor by Detroit Hour Magazine, teacher recognition award by other internal medicine and family practice teaching programs

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ENDOCRINOLOGY

Wael Taha, MD

Dr. Taha graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo before joining the Endocrinology Division at Maimonides Medical Center as a Research Associate, where he investigated osteoporosis in adolescents. He subsequently completed his Internal Medicine residency at Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, followed by fellowship training in Endocrinology at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Following fellowship, Dr. Taha was awarded a two-year NIH T32 training grant to focus on bone and calcium disorders. His research has resulted in multiple publications on osteoporosis, hypercalcemia, and calcium excretion. He has also been actively involved in community education initiatives aimed at improving bone health throughout Southeast Michigan.

Throughout his career, Dr. Taha has been deeply committed to medical education, participating in the training of medical students, residents, and fellows, and contributing to the development of endocrinology fellowship curricula. He currently holds the academic rank of Associate Professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine and serves as Program Director of the Endocrinology Fellowship Program at Wayne State University and Detroit Medical Center.

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SURGERY

Maher Hamish, MD, MSc, FEBTS, FEBVS, FRCS

Dr. Maher Hamish is a Senior Consultant and Honorary Professor specializing in Vascular Surgery, Pediatric Vascular Surgery, and Oncovascular Surgery. With more than 25 years of experience, he currently serves as the clinical lead for these specialties in London and at University College London.

Dr. Hamish has a particular interest in endovascular and robotic interventions and has played a leading role in developing advanced oncovascular services at one of the largest referral centers in the United Kingdom. His clinical and research work focuses on aortoiliac disease, pediatric vascular disorders, and sarcoma surgery.

He serves as Principal Investigator for the EVOCC trial and is actively involved in academic surgery through participation in numerous regional, national, and international conferences and professional committees. Dr. Hamish is also a member of the national selection committee for higher surgical training in the United Kingdom.

Maan Taba, MD, MS, FRCS (Ortho & Trauma) Eng.

Dr. Taba began his medical studies in Damascus in 1980 and completed his medical degree at the University of Granada, Spain, in 1986. He subsequently completed his training in Orthopedic Surgery between 1986 and 1991.

From 1992 to 2000, Dr. Taba practiced as a Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon in Spain before subspecializing in Foot and Ankle Surgery, serving as a Consultant Foot and Ankle Surgeon from 2000 to 2010. Since 2010, he has worked as a Senior Consultant Foot and Ankle Surgeon in the United Arab Emirates.

Since 2012, Dr. Taba has served as Head of the Foot and Ankle Surgery Centre of Excellence at Mediclinic (Medcare) Hospital Dubai. He is the Founder and President of the UAE Foot and Ankle Surgery Club and serves as a Board Member of the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA).

Dr. Taba is an active member of several international professional societies, including BOFAS, MIFAS, EFAS, and SEMCPT.

Mohannad Nasani, PhD

Prof. Mohannad Nasani is a General and Bariatric Surgeon at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Aleppo. He is certified by both the Arab Board and the Syrian Board of General Surgery and holds a PhD in Laparoscopic and General Surgery.

Prof. Nasani is actively involved in clinical practice, surgical education, and the training of medical students and surgical residents. His work focuses on advancing minimally invasive surgical techniques and improving outcomes in general and bariatric surgery.

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SURGERY

Moataz Hamsho, MD

Dr. Hamsho is a Senior Consultant in General and Visceral Surgery with a special focus on colorectal surgery, minimally invasive surgery, and robotic surgery. He has extensive experience in advanced colorectal and pelvic floor procedures and is actively involved in the implementation of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programs to improve surgical outcomes and patient care.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Hamsho is deeply engaged in surgical education and professional development. He is the Co-Founder and Coordinator of the General Surgery Section of the Syrian German Medical Association (SGMA), where he leads international surgical training programs and workshops focused on minimally invasive and advanced surgical techniques.

Mohamed Yasser Sabouni, MD, MSc

Dr. Yasser Sabouni is a Consultant Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at Leeds Teaching Hospitals in the United Kingdom. He completed his specialist training in Pediatric Orthopaedics at Southampton University Hospital and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Sabouni has played a key role in the growth and development of the Leeds Pediatric Orthopaedic Unit. Joining the service when it consisted of only two surgeons, he worked alongside colleagues to expand it into a major regional center with seven consultant surgeons, trainees, and a senior Pediatric Orthopaedic Fellow.

His primary clinical interests include the management of Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) and congenital foot deformities in infants and children. Beyond his clinical practice, Dr. Sabouni leads international charitable missions dedicated to treating pediatric musculoskeletal deformities across the Middle East.

Abdulrahman Barakat, MD

Dr. Barakat is a physician and healthcare leader holding both MD and MBA degrees, with more than 30 years of international medical experience across North America, Australia, and the Middle East. A graduate of the University of Aleppo School of Medicine, he is board-certified in Anesthesiology, Pain Management, and Critical Care Medicine, with additional expertise in spinal cord stimulation, percutaneous discectomy, vertebroplasty, and kyphoplasty.

After more than two decades of clinical practice in the United States, Dr. Barakat relocated to Australia, where he co-founded Merit Health Clinic in Sydney. He is recognized for his commitment to multidisciplinary, patient-centered care and advancing innovative approaches in pain and spine medicine.

Eyad Khabbaz, MD

Dr. Khabbaz earned his MD and Master's degree from Damascus University and served as an Instructor at the University of Aleppo from 2000 to 2005. He completed fellowships in Head & Neck Surgery and Advanced Comprehensive Otolaryngology at the University of Cincinnati, followed by a fellowship in Advanced Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia.

Dr. Khabbaz has held several academic and leadership positions throughout his career, including service at the National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Assistant Professor at UPMC, and Chief of Surgery at PAH. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at West Virginia University.

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PATHOLOGY

Wasim Fawzi Raslan, MD, PhD

Dr. Wasim Raslan graduated from Damascus University Medical School in 1979 and completed a postgraduate degree in Otolaryngology (ENT) at Damascus University in 1982. He subsequently pursued residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, completing his training in 1990. During this period, he also earned a PhD in Experimental Pathology and Virology.

Dr. Raslan continued his subspecialty training with fellowships in Head and Neck Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh and Cancer Surgical Pathology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. In 1992, he joined Loyola University as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Otolaryngology.

Later in his career, Dr. Raslan served at Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he held leadership roles including Chief of Pathology Services before continuing as a Consultant Pathologist. He currently practices as a Consultant Pathologist with HCA Healthcare hospitals in Miami, Florida.

Salafa Albaghli, MD

Dr. Albaghli is a Consultant Anatomic Pathologist at King Saud Medical City in Riyadh, with subspecialty expertise in Head and Neck Pathology. She earned her medical degree from the University of Damascus, completed the Saudi Board of Anatomic Pathology, and pursued fellowship training in Head and Neck Pathology at the University of Toronto.

Her clinical interests include salivary gland, thyroid, and upper aerodigestive tract pathology, as well as structured pathology reporting, quality improvement, and pathology education. Dr. Albaghli has also held leadership roles within anatomic pathology services, including serving as Section Head of Anatomic Pathology.

She is actively involved in resident education and case-based teaching, with a focus on practical diagnostic approaches and multidisciplinary collaboration in patient care.

Mohamad Ghanem Sunbuli, MD

Dr. Mohamad Ghanem Sunbuli graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Damascus University and completed his residency training in Anatomic Pathology at the same institution. He later pursued additional pathology residency training in the United States at St. John Hospital to further advance his expertise.

Dr. Sunbuli subsequently completed fellowships in Surgical Pathology and Head and Neck Pathology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the world's leading cancer centers. He later joined Prince Sultan Military Medical City in Saudi Arabia, where he has made significant contributions to pathology practice, medical education, and residency training.

For 12 years, Dr. Sunbuli served as Program Director of the Pathology Residency Program and currently practices as a Senior Consultant in Anatomic Pathology at Prince Sultan Military Medical City.

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PATHOLOGY

Anas Saad, MD MBA

Anas Saad, MD, MBA, is an AP/CP board-certified pathologist currently completing hematopathology fellowship training at Wayne State University / Detroit Medical Center, with expected completion in June 2026. He is an incoming hematopathologist at AmeriPath / Quest Diagnostics in Indianapolis, beginning in July 2026. His work focuses on diagnostic hematopathology, pathology informatics, laboratory quality, workflow improvement, and the practical implementation of digital tools and artificial intelligence in healthcare settings.

Dr. Saad has served as a CAP laboratory inspector, with inspection experience across anatomic pathology, cytopathology, hematology, coagulation, and flow cytometry. His informatics and quality work includes laboratory information system (LIS) development and implementation for Syrian pathology services, real-time quality and turnaround-time monitoring tools, and structured reporting approaches aimed at improving consistency and operational visibility. His professional interests center on building reliable systems that improve pathology workflows, laboratory quality, healthcare delivery, and patient care in both U.S. and resource-limited settings.

Wareef Kabbani, MD, FCAP, CPE

Dr. Wareef Kabbani earned his MD degree from the University of Aleppo in 1994. He completed residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Wayne State University in Michigan, followed by fellowships in Surgical Oncologic Pathology and Cytopathology at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and UT Southwestern Medical Center between 2000 and 2002.

Dr. Kabbani subsequently joined the faculty at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he served as Director of Cytopathology and Program Director of the Cytopathology Fellowship Program, attaining the rank of Associate Professor. In 2011, he joined the Department of Pathology at Methodist Health System in Dallas, where he currently serves as Medical Director of Methodist Richardson Medical Center and Director of Cytopathology.

His clinical interests include gastrointestinal (GI) pathology, genitourinary (GU) pathology, and cytopathology. Dr. Kabbani has authored 63 peer-reviewed publications and has collaborated on numerous research projects focused on the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of GI and GU malignancies.

Abdulkader Alshughri, MD

Dr. Abdul Kader Al Shughri is a Consultant Neuropathologist at the University Hospital Cologne, Germany, one of the country's leading academic medical centers. He specializes in diagnostic neuropathology, with particular expertise in central nervous system tumors, intraoperative consultations, and multidisciplinary neuro-oncology care.

Dr. Al Shughri earned his medical degree from Jordan University of Science and Technology and completed advanced specialty training in pathology and neuropathology in Syria and Germany. He holds German board certification in Neuropathology and is actively involved in resident education, digital pathology initiatives, and the integration of artificial intelligence into diagnostic practice.

His academic work includes multiple peer-reviewed publications in internationally recognized journals, including Neuro-Oncology and Frontiers. His research interests focus on AI-supported histopathology, stimulated Raman histology, and innovative approaches to brain tumor diagnosis and classification.

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PATHOLOGY

Mohammad Adib Houreih, MD, DipRCPath

Dr. M. A. Houreih is a histopathologist based in Latakia, Syria, where he has been operating a private histopathology laboratory for more than 15 years. He combines diagnostic practice with medical education, actively teaching medical students and residents while continually expanding his expertise through challenging and complex pathology cases.

Dr. Houreih holds the Syrian Board of Pathology and the Diplomate of the Royal College of Pathologists (UK). With 18 years of experience in academic pathology, he is committed to advancing pathology education and promoting knowledge sharing within the medical community.

Guided by the principle that “Sharing is Caring,” Dr. Houreih actively engages in professional education and discussion through social media and academic platforms.

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

DENTAL

Louy Al Dehni, DDS, MSD

Dr. Al Dehni graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry at Tishreen University in 2010 and earned his MSc in Endodontics from the University of Aleppo in 2018. He serves as a faculty member at Al-Shahbaa University and the Syrian University of Science and Technology.

Dr. Al Dehni maintains a private practice focused on Endodontics and Restorative Dentistry at The Medical Pearl Dental Center and serves as Medical Manager of Syria Gates Dental Supplies Company. He is also a speaker for Denjoy Endodontic Company (China) and has delivered numerous lectures and hands-on training workshops at regional conferences and educational events.

Bakr Haddad DDS, OMFS

Dr. Haddad earned his Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Aleppo in 2001. He completed his specialty training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Cairo University in 2005 and obtained a Diploma in Oral Implantology from Ain Shams University in 2004. He further advanced his training through an Advanced Course in Maxillofacial Surgery at Alexandria University in 2006.

Since 2019, Dr. Haddad has served as Head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Aleppo University Hospital, where he is actively involved in clinical practice, surgical training, and academic education.

Anas Damlakhi, DDS, OMFS

Dr. Anas Damlakhi is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon with more than 30 years of clinical experience spanning oral surgery, implantology, facial aesthetics, and smile rehabilitation. Trained and practiced across Germany and the Arab world, he has built a reputation for combining surgical expertise with advanced digital dentistry techniques to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Damlakhi is deeply committed to education and mentorship. He regularly lectures, conducts training courses, and shares his expertise with dental professionals and trainees, helping shape the next generation of clinicians and innovators in dentistry.

Jamal Dabbas, DDS, PhD

Dr. Dabbas was born in 1963 and earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the University of Aleppo in 1986. In 1996, he completed advanced postgraduate training and obtained diplomas (CES & DU) in Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Forensic Odontology, and Maxillofacial Prosthetics.

With decades of experience in clinical dentistry and specialized dental care, Dr. Dabbas has developed expertise across multiple disciplines, combining functional rehabilitation with advanced restorative and surgical approaches.

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DENTAL

Ehab Baydak, DDS, MSc, SB.OMFS

Dr. Ehab Baydak is a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, holding both a Master's degree and Syrian Board certification. He possesses a distinguished clinical background, having served as a surgeon in field hospitals during the Syrian revolution, managing complex trauma and war-related injuries.

Currently, he serves as the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Dentistry, Idlib University, and is the Head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Department at the University Hospital. A leader in surgical training, he coordinates residency programs and exam blueprints for the Syrian Board. His work focuses on bridging academic rigor with clinical excellence, with a particular interest in medical education, digital dentistry, and minimally invasive techniques to improve patient quality of life.

Salem Akkad, DDS, MS

Dr. Akkad earned his DDS before completing a Master's degree in Prosthodontics at West Virginia University. He subsequently pursued a one-year fellowship in Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Disorders at the Orofacial Pain Center at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Akkad is board-certified in both Prosthodontics and Dental Sleep Medicine. His current practice is dedicated to the diagnosis and management of TMJ disorders, orofacial pain, and sleep-related breathing disorders, with a focus on improving function, comfort, and quality of life for his patients.

Ahnaf Aljajah, DDS, MS

Dr. Ahnaf Aljajah is a dental business strategist, educator, and healthcare entrepreneur with more than two decades of experience in dental practice growth, leadership, and organizational development. He is the Founder of the PRIME System and Modern Dental Marketing, a framework that integrates patient-centered care, conscious leadership, behavioral psychology, and sustainable business growth.

As Founder and CEO of multiple healthcare and education organizations—including Dentflix Academy, Mastery Academy, DentSpa, Hospital XP, and Dental GPS—Dr. Aljajah is dedicated to advancing ethical management, professional excellence, and human-centered healthcare across the region.

Nawaf Masri, DDS, MSD

Dr. Nawaf Masri was born in Damascus, Syria, and graduated from the University of Damascus Faculty of Dentistry in 1992. He continued his education in the United States, earning his dental degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in 1996. After five years of general dental practice in Cleveland, Ohio, he returned to Case Western Reserve University to complete specialty training in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, earning a Master's degree in the field.

Since 2003, Dr. Masri has maintained a private orthodontic practice in Livonia, Michigan. He has been an early adopter of lingual braces and invisible orthodontic treatment and developed American Aligners through Masri Orthodontics. His professional interests include functional occlusion, airway-conscious orthodontics, and long-term treatment stability.

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DENTAL

Ziadeddin Al Baghdadi, DDS, PD, MS, PhD, MPH, PhD, Paed Dent Cert., FRCD(C). ABPD

Dr. Ziad Baghdadi is a board-certified pediatric dentist with over 30 years of expertise in clinical care, teaching, and research. He holds certifications from the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC), the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB), and the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD). As a diplomate of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Baghdadi has served as an associate professor at multiple universities in the Middle East and Canada.

He is an internationally recognized researcher, author, and editor specializing in early childhood caries, clinical dentistry, dental public health, and treatment for children with special healthcare needs.

Douaa Hasan Shehab, DDS, MSc

Dr. Douaa Shehab is a Specialist in Fixed Prosthodontics who graduated from the University of Aleppo in 2022. She has actively participated in numerous lectures and hands-on workshops focused on prosthodontics, restorative dentistry, and full-mouth rehabilitation.

In addition to her clinical training, Dr. Shehab has contributed to dental education as a lecturer at both the University of Aleppo and Al-Shahbaa Private University, supporting the development of dental students and young professionals.

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NEUROLOGY

Taleb Alsalloum, MD Candidate

Taleb Alsalloum is an accomplished final-year medical student at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Hama, with a distinguished dedication to clinical neurology and evidence-based neuroscience. Throughout his medical training, he has actively engaged in advanced research methodologies, focusing on stroke awareness and neurodegenerative diseases. Demonstrating exceptional academic commitment early in his career, Taleb serves as an active peer reviewer for esteemed international medical journals, including *Frontiers in Neurology* and *BMC Neurology*, contributing directly to the evaluation of global scientific literature. His primary research interest lies in translating complex medical evidence into practical, accessible public health education frameworks, particularly within resource-limited environments.

At this conference, he will be presenting his specific work titled 'Transforming Online Surveys into Stroke Education in Resource-Limited Settings.' Through this presentation, Taleb aims to share innovative, data-driven approaches that bridge the gap between clinical research, sustainable medical education, and community-level patient care outcomes to enhance neurological literacy in the region. His broader vision involves establishing sustainable healthcare initiatives that empower local communities and improve patient outcomes.

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NEUROLOGY

Husam Kayyali, MD

Dr. Husam Kayyali is the Chief of Pediatric Neurology Division at Sidra Medicine in Qatar. He is also serving as the Director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at Sidra Medicine.

Dr. Kayyali is American Board Certified in Pediatric Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy. Before joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Kayyali was an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and he co-established the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Children's Mercy Hospital in Missouri. Then he moved to King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia where he served as the Head of Pediatric Neurology Section, and the Director of Pediatric Neurology Fellowship Program.

Ibrahim Hanafi, MD, MSc

Dr. Hanafi is a PhD candidate at the Department of Neurology in Würzburg, Germany. He holds a Masters in Translational Neuroscience from Würzburg, Germany and a postgraduate certificate in Translational Neurology and Stem Cells from Edinburgh, UK. His research focuses on brain electrophysiological and metabolic dynamics in response to novel deep brain stimulation paradigms.

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PULMONARY / ICU / SLEEP

M. Abdulgany Hamadeh, MD

Dr. Hamadeh graduated from Damascus University in 1983. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Loyola University from 1985 to 1988, followed by fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Northwestern University from 1989 to 1992.

Dr. Hamadeh is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, and Sleep Medicine. He serves as Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and is Chief of the Pulmonary Section at Christ Hospital Medical Center.

Eyad Almasri, MD

Dr. Almasri earned his medical degree from the University of Damascus, where he completed his medical training between 1990 and 1996. He subsequently trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Damascus Hospitals before pursuing postgraduate training in the United States.

Dr. Almasri completed his Internal Medicine residency and fellowship training at the University of Pittsburgh, followed by subspecialty training in Critical Care Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Sleep Medicine. Since 2010, he has served as faculty at the UCSF Fresno Regional Campus.

In addition to his clinical and academic responsibilities, Dr. Almasri currently serves as Assistant Dean for Research at UCSF Fresno, where he supports research initiatives, faculty development, and academic advancement.

Mohamad Naem Shahrour, MD

Dr. Shahrour earned his medical degree from Damascus University School of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine residency training at Case Western Reserve University-affiliated hospitals, followed by fellowship training in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at Cornell-affiliated hospitals.

Dr. Shahrour is board-certified in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine and currently serves as Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at Watson Clinic. Prior to his work in the United States, he served as Professor of Medicine and Head of the Pulmonary Division at Damascus University School of Medicine.

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PULMONARY / ICU / SLEEP

Fateh Kashkash, MD

Dr. Kashkash was born in Aleppo in 1978 and earned his medical degree from the University of Aleppo. He subsequently completed a Master's degree in Internal Medicine, a Master's degree in Pulmonary Medicine, and a PhD, further advancing his expertise in respiratory diseases and academic medicine.

Dr. Kashkashi currently practices Pulmonary Medicine at Aleppo University Hospital, where he serves as Head of the Pulmonary Department. In this role, he is actively involved in patient care, medical education, and the development of pulmonary services and training programs.

Asaad Jandali, MD

Dr. Jandali graduated from the University of Aleppo School of Medicine in 1991. He completed his Internal Medicine residency training in Chicago, followed by fellowship training in Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, and Sleep Medicine in New York.

Dr. Jandali currently practices Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine in private practice in Munster, Indiana. He is also a proud and active member of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), contributing to its mission of advancing healthcare and medical education.

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

NEPHROLOGY

Mohamed Abdul Karim Sekkarie, MD, MPH

Dr. Mohamed Sekkarie graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Damascus University in 1981. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, followed by a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Sekkarie is a former member of the SAMS Board of Directors and served as Treasurer of the organization. Throughout his career, he has served on several committees of both the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN).

Since 2012, Dr. Sekkarie has been actively involved in multiple initiatives aimed at improving kidney care in Syria, including dialysis services, nephrology education, and healthcare capacity building. He has authored or co-authored more than 25 peer-reviewed publications focusing on nephrology in Syria and the broader field of conflict nephrology.

Ahmad Oussama Rifai, MD

Dr. Oussama Rifai is a board-certified nephrologist and internist who has been practicing nephrology, dialysis, and critical care medicine in Panama City, Florida, since 1999. He is the Senior Managing Partner of Hypertension, Kidney and Dialysis Specialists, a leading nephrology practice where he oversees the care of patients with chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and end-stage renal disease. He also provides care for hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients through DaVita and Fresenius dialysis programs and serves patients across regional hospitals.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Rifai has served as Vice President of Medical Affairs at The Virtual Nephrologist since 2008. He is actively involved in medical education as an Affiliate Clinical Associate Professor and Core Site Director for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM), where he has contributed to the training and mentorship of future physicians since 2016.

Dr. Rifai graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo in 1990 and completed his Internal Medicine residency and Nephrology fellowship at the University of Tennessee in Memphis in 1999.

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NEPHROLOGY

Khalid Haj-Nasan, MD

Dr. Haj Nasan serves as a member of the Kidney Diseases Committee at the Syrian Ministry of Health. He is also the Chair of the Scientific Council of Nephrology within the Syrian Commission for Medical Specialties, where he plays a leading role in postgraduate nephrology education, training standards, and specialist certification.

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PARALLEL SESSIONS

SOFT SKILLS & GENERAL MEDICINE

Ahmad Oussama Rifai, MD

Dr. Oussama Rifai is a board-certified nephrologist and internist who has been practicing nephrology, dialysis, and critical care medicine in Panama City, Florida, since 1999. He is the Senior Managing Partner of Hypertension, Kidney and Dialysis Specialists, a leading nephrology practice where he oversees the care of patients with chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and end-stage renal disease. He also provides care for hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients through DaVita and Fresenius dialysis programs and serves patients across regional hospitals.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Rifai has served as Vice President of Medical Affairs at The Virtual Nephrologist since 2008. He is actively involved in medical education as an Affiliate Clinical Associate Professor and Core Site Director for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM), where he has contributed to the training and mentorship of future physicians since 2016.

Dr. Rifai graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo in 1990 and completed his Internal Medicine residency and Nephrology fellowship at the University of Tennessee in Memphis in 1999.

Ossama Al Masalmeh, MD

Dr. Al Masalmeh is a graduate of Damascus University School of Medicine and is board-certified in Internal Medicine. He completed a research fellowship at Harvard Medical School and subsequently pursued fellowship training in Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care.

Throughout his career, Dr. Al Masalmeh has combined clinical practice, research, and medical education with a strong interest in preventive health. His more recent work has focused on lifestyle medicine, wellness medicine, and obesity medicine, emphasizing evidence-based approaches to improving long-term health outcomes and quality of life.

Mousab Almusaddy, MD, FCCP, CHPC

Dr. Mousab Almusaddy is the founder of ThePurposefulDr.com, a coaching platform dedicated to helping physicians build more intentional, fulfilling, and high-performing careers. For the past four years, he has worked as a life and high-performance coach, primarily supporting physicians in achieving professional success while maintaining personal well-being and purpose.

Drawing on his experience working with healthcare professionals, Dr. Almusaddy focuses on leadership development, mindset transformation, communication, productivity, and sustainable performance in medicine.

Nabil Alzaeim, MBBCh, MSc

Nabil Alzaeim, MD, is an academic hospitalist at The Ohio State University hospitals and an active leader in medical education, mentorship, and global health. He is deeply involved with the SAMS, where he supports clinical education, residency training, and healthcare capacity-building in Syria.

He previously served as Program Director of the SAMS Internal Medicine Residency Program in Idlib and currently serves as Chair of the SAMS Medicine Assembly, a member of the SAMS Education Committee, and part of the leadership team and co-founder of Team SAMS in Syria.

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SOFT SKILLS & GENERAL MEDICINE

Ahmad AlKaji, MD, MSc

Dr. Ahmad Alkaji is a Consultant Clinical Microbiologist at the Ministry of Health in Kuwait with extensive experience in diagnostic microbiology, antimicrobial stewardship, and infection prevention and control. He holds a Kuwaiti Board Certificate in Clinical Microbiology, a Master's degree in Microbiology, and is an Associate Member of the Royal College of Pathologists (Medical Microbiology), United Kingdom.

His clinical work focuses on microbiology-guided diagnosis and management of severe infections, bloodstream infections, ICU-related infections, and practical antimicrobial decision-making. He is actively involved in multidisciplinary clinical consultation, laboratory-based clinical support, postgraduate medical education, and residency examination development.

Dr. Alkaji serves as a member of the Scientific Council for Laboratory Medicine and the Scientific Council for Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Syrian Board of Medical Specialties. He is also the author of "The Essential Clinical Reference in Infectious Diseases," a comprehensive Arabic clinical reference textbook in infectious diseases.

Opada Alzohaili, MD, FACE, MBA

Dr. Opada Alzohaili graduated from Damascus University School of Medicine and completed his Internal Medicine residency at Wayne State University, followed by a fellowship in Endocrinology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

He is board-certified in Endocrinology with special interests in diabetes, insulin resistance, obesity, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Dr. Alzohaili serves as Assistant Professor of Endocrinology at Wayne State University and has participated as an investigator in more than 110 clinical trials involving diabetes, osteoporosis, cholesterol disorders, and cardiovascular disease.

A dedicated educator, he is actively involved in teaching medical students, residents, and fellows and has received multiple teaching awards, including Teacher of the Year honors. He also serves on several professional and quality improvement committees and remains active in clinical research, medical education, and endocrine care.

Mohammad Fattal, MD, ABFM, ABOMD

Dr. Fattal is an American Board-certified physician in Family Medicine and Obesity Medicine with more than 20 years of experience in primary care. His practice focuses on adult and geriatric medicine, with extensive experience caring for Medicare patients and managing complex chronic medical conditions.

In addition to his outpatient practice, Dr. Fattal has served in leadership roles as a Medical Director for nursing homes and long-term care facilities. He is committed to preventive care, chronic disease management, and patient-centered treatment plans, while also performing minor office-based orthopedic and dermatologic procedures to provide comprehensive care.

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PATHOLOGY

Saed Khayyata, MD

Dr. Khayyata graduated from the University of Aleppo School of Medicine in 1999. He completed his residency training in Pathology at Wayne State University, followed by advanced fellowship training at the University of Pennsylvania and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Khayyata currently practices pathology at Corewell Health in the United States, where he is involved in diagnostic pathology and multidisciplinary patient care. His training at leading academic institutions has provided extensive expertise in surgical pathology and oncologic pathology.

Abida Kadi, MD

Dr. Kadi is a pathologist with subspecialty expertise in Dermatopathology and Hematopathology. He serves as Assistant Professor at Tulane University and practices as a staff dermatopathologist at AW Dermatopathology Services.

Dr. Kadi's clinical and academic work focuses on the diagnosis of complex skin disorders and hematologic diseases, with a commitment to pathology education, multidisciplinary collaboration, and advancing diagnostic excellence.

Fayez Daaboul, MD, MPH

Dr. Daaboul is a Hematopathologist and Oncologic Surgical Pathologist serving as an attending pathologist with McLaren Pathology Group within the McLaren Health System. His practice focuses on the diagnosis of hematologic malignancies and oncologic pathology, working closely with multidisciplinary teams to support patient care and treatment planning.

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DENTAL

Ahmad Hawasli, DDS, MSc

Dr. Ahmad Hawasli is a board-certified periodontist and dental implant specialist with extensive international education, advanced surgical training, and years of clinical experience in the United States. He earned his dental degree in Egypt in 2004 before pursuing postgraduate training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Damascus, which he completed in 2010. Driven by his passion for advanced dental care and academic excellence, Dr. Hawasli continued his education in the United States at the University of Maryland, where he completed his postgraduate residency and Master's degree in Periodontics in 2015.

In 2016, Dr. Hawasli achieved board certification from the American Board of Periodontology in Periodontics and Dental Implant Surgery, reflecting his commitment to the highest standards of patient care and professional excellence. Since 2017, he has been practicing in private practice across Virginia and Washington, focusing on periodontal therapy, implant dentistry, and advanced surgical procedures.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Hawasli is actively involved in research and academic contributions. In 2021, he published two scientific papers addressing oral squamous cell carcinoma and leukemia in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

Mohammad Khattab, DDS, MS, PhD

Dr. Khattab holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Periodontology from Damascus University, awarded in 1994. He served as Director of the Periodontology Clinics at the University of Aleppo from 2006 to 2013 and has played a significant leadership role in dental education in Syria.

From 2016 to 2023, Dr. Khattab served as the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Aleppo (Liberated Areas), and currently serves as Vice Dean. He has been a faculty member and instructor in Periodontology at the Faculty of Dentistry at both the Free University of Aleppo and the University of Aleppo. He also teaches Periodontology within the Specialized Master's Program at the Syrian University for Science and Technology.

Dr. Khattab is a frequent lecturer at scientific conferences and educational events and remains actively involved in advancing dental education and periodontal care.

Mohammad Ali Yousef, DDS, MSc, PhD, MedEd

Dr. Mohamad Yousef is a specialist in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry. He holds a PhD in Periodontics from Damascus University and a Master's degree in Medical Education from the Syrian Virtual University. He currently serves as Head of the Department of Periodontology at Al-Wadi International Private University in Syria.

Dr. Yousef has presented at numerous national and international scientific meetings, including the Cairo International Dental Conference (CIDC 2026) and DIGITIZE 3.0 in Sri Lanka. He is the founder of Perio Camp, a virtual educational platform dedicated to advancing knowledge and professional development in periodontology and implant dentistry.

His clinical and research interests focus on the relationship between periodontitis and peri-implantitis, cross-infection control, and evidence-based implant therapy.

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DENTAL

Mounir Kharchaf, DDS, MDS, FACP

Dr. Kharchaf is a Board-Certified Prosthodontist and currently serves as Chairman of the Dental Department at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH&RC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He earned his DDS degree from Damascus University before pursuing advanced training in the United States, where he completed a residency in Prosthodontics and a Fellowship in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Kharchaf holds dental licenses in multiple U.S. states and has extensive experience in both academic and private practice settings. Prior to his current position, he served as Associate Professor and Associate Director of Prosthodontics at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona.

His clinical expertise encompasses all aspects of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, including rehabilitation of patients with head and neck cancer, acquired and congenital craniofacial defects, management of patients undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, implant surgery and restoration, full-mouth rehabilitation, complete and partial dentures, and cosmetic dentistry.

Dr. Kharchaf is committed to advancing patient care through clinical excellence, leadership, education, and innovation in maxillofacial prosthodontics.

Mahmoud Albarazi, CES in orthodontics

Dr. Albarazi earned his DDS from the University of Aleppo and pursued advanced postgraduate training in France, obtaining a Diplôme Interuniversitaire (DIU) in Orthodontics, a CES in Dental Biomaterials, and a CES in Orthodontics from Paris V University.

From 2007 to 2019, he served as a lecturer at the University of Aleppo. Since 2021, Dr. Albarazi has been a frequent speaker at dental and orthodontic conferences in Syria and internationally, including the 4th Iraqi International Orthodontic Conference (2024) and the 14th Jordanian Orthodontic Congress (2025).

He has maintained a private orthodontic practice focused on digital orthodontics since 2018 and is recognized as the first provider and producer of Shape Memory Aligners in Syria.

Husam Karzoun, DMD

Dr. Husam Karzoun, DMD earned his dental degree from the University of Aleppo in 2010 and later completed an Advanced Standing Program at Boston University in 2018. He is a graduate of the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine at Boston University and currently provides comprehensive dental care through his private practices in Boston, Massachusetts.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Karzoun has gained extensive research experience through collaborations with Harvard University, Tufts University, and Boston University. He is also deeply committed to mentoring international dentists, helping them navigate U.S. licensure pathways and successfully transition into professional practice in the United States.

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DENTAL

Mohamed Hamze, DDS, CES, DU, MSc. Periodontics

Mohamed Hamze, DDS, graduated with a diploma in periodontology from Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France, and holds a Master's degree in Biosciences. His work combines humanitarian health, policy advocacy, and public health research through his engagement with SAMS.

In late 2012, he founded the Dental Care Programme (White Smile) which provided approximately a quarter million free dental treatments for people in need in Northwest Syria until the end of 2021.

Abd Al Hadi Kawaiah, DDS, DMD, MS Orthodontists

Dr. Kawaiah earned his DDS from Algeria in 1985 and completed advanced training in Orthodontics in France in 1988. He later obtained his DMD degree in Canada in 1996 and pursued further advanced orthodontic training in Los Angeles, California, including continuing education at UCLA.

Dr. Kawaiah has dedicated his career exclusively to the practice of orthodontics and currently maintains a private orthodontic practice in Aruba. He brings extensive international experience in orthodontic treatment and has remained committed to advancing patient care through modern orthodontic techniques and continuing professional development.

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Abd Arrahman Alomar, MD

Dr. Alomar was born in April 1968 and earned his Master's Degree in Pediatrics from the University of Aleppo in 1997. He practiced as a pediatrician in Syria from 1997 to 2011 before transitioning into healthcare leadership and humanitarian health programming.

Over the past decade, Dr. Alomar has held numerous leadership positions with major humanitarian and health organizations, including UOSSM, SEMA, SRD, and SAMS. His roles have included Medical Coordinator, Primary Healthcare Coordinator, Director of Medical Administration, Chief Executive Officer, Health Cluster Co-Coordinator, and Senior Health and Nutrition Advisor. He also served as Coordinator of Public Relations, Advocacy, and Technical Affairs for the Health Directorates of Hama, Idlib, and Latakia.

Since joining SAMS, Dr. Alomar has held several senior leadership positions, including Senior Health & Nutrition Advisor, Senior Institute Programs Manager, and currently serves as Senior AMU Manager and a member of the SAMS Institute Executive Committee.

Samer AlJenidi, MD

Dr. Samer Aljenidi is a specialist in Pediatrics and Neonatology with more than four decades of clinical experience in child health. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo and has practiced pediatrics since 1984 in Syria and several Arab countries. Since 2013, he has been practicing in the United Arab Emirates, where he currently works at Lamsat Medical Center.

Throughout his career, Dr. Aljenidi has maintained a strong interest in child growth and development, neonatal care, nutrition, breastfeeding support, preventive medicine, and vaccination programs. He has also been actively involved in medical education and public health awareness, particularly in the fields of infant and young child feeding, growth monitoring, and the long-term effects of crises on child health.

In recent years, his academic interests have expanded to include the impact of war, displacement, and chronic stress on children and communities, with a particular focus on epigenetics and the transgenerational transmission of trauma. He is committed to bridging clinical medicine, public health, and emerging biomedical research to improve the well-being of children and future generations.

Ahmed Reslan, MD

Dr. Reslan is a third-year Pediatric Resident at Aleppo University Hospital. Dr. Reslan is committed to serving children and families through clinical care, community engagement, and continuous professional development.

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PEDIATRICS

Mohammed Morshed Tamim, MD

Dr. Mohammed Morshed Tamim is a Consultant Neonatologist at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Ohio, USA. He is American Board-certified in both Neonatology and General Pediatrics and is in good standing with both boards.

Dr. Tamim previously served as Associate Medical Director and Chairman of the Pediatric Educational Committee at Akron Children's Hospital. He began his pediatric and neonatology training in Dubai, UAE, before completing his Pediatric Residency and Neonatology Fellowship at MetroHealth Medical Center, affiliated with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. He recently joined the Neonatology Department at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where he provides care across a network that includes three Level III NICUs and one Level IV NICU. The Cleveland Clinic Neonatology Program is consistently recognized among the top neonatal programs in the United States.

In addition to his clinical and academic work, Dr. Tamim remains actively engaged in international medical education and capacity building. Most recently, he participated in a clinical mission to Damascus, conducting NICU rounds and educational activities with attending physicians and residents at major teaching hospitals.

Bassel Mouti, PhD

Dr. Mouti earned his MD degree and Diploma of Specialized Studies (DES) in Pediatrics from the University of Aleppo. He further advanced his training in France, obtaining AFSA certifications in Pediatrics and Neonatology, as well as a Diplôme Inter-Universitaire (DIU) in Neonatal Resuscitation from Claude Bernard University in Lyon.

Dr. Mouti served as Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Aleppo University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine from 2012 to 2022. Since 2022, he has held the position of Vice Dean for Scientific Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine, contributing to medical education, academic development, and pediatric training.

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Youmna Mousattat, MD

Dr. Mousattat is a Pediatric Hospitalist at WVU Medicine Golisano Children's Hospital, where he serves as Medical Director of the Inpatient Pediatric Unit and Newborn Nursery. He graduated from the University of Aleppo in 1999 and completed his Pediatric Residency at Charleston Area Medical Center.

Dr. Mousattat has a strong interest in pediatric inpatient care, medical education, and physician mentorship. He previously served as Student Clerkship Director at the West Virginia University School of Medicine and remains actively involved in organized pediatrics as Vice President of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

A dedicated member of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) for over a decade, Dr. Mousattat has contributed to medical education and capacity-building initiatives in Syria. He participated in a clinical mission to Aleppo University Hospital and has supported educational programs and collaboration efforts through SAMS.

Mahmoud Kallas, MD

Dr. Kallas graduated from the University of Aleppo School of Medicine in 2006 and began his pediatric training in the United States in 2007. He is currently a Pediatric Nephrologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) and The Ohio State University (OSU).

Dr. Kallas specializes in the care of children with nephrotic syndrome, glomerulonephritis, kidney transplantation, and resistant hypertension. He serves as Director of Pediatric Nephrology, Director of the Hypertension Program, and Director of Glomerulonephritis (GN) Clinical Trials at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where he is actively involved in clinical care, research, and medical education.

Vivian Faks, MD, MSc

Dr. Faks is a specialist pediatrician and a member of the academic staff at the University of Aleppo Faculty of Medicine. She currently serves as Head of the Division of Neonatology at Aleppo University Hospital and brings more than 30 years of experience in neonatal and pediatric care.

Throughout her career, Dr. Faks has been actively involved in clinical practice, medical education, and the training of medical students and pediatric residents, contributing to the advancement of neonatal care services in Syria.

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Hebatullah Awad, MD

Dr. Hebatullah Mufid Awad is a Syrian pediatrician and PhD candidate in Pediatric Neurology at the University of Aleppo, Syria. She was born in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 1993.

She obtained her medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo and completed her residency training in Pediatrics at Aleppo University Hospital. She is currently in her third year of doctoral studies in Pediatric Neurology, with a particular interest in epilepsy and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Her PhD research focuses on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings in children with focal epilepsy, aiming to identify structural abnormalities and improve diagnostic approaches in pediatric epilepsy.

Dr. Awad is actively involved in the clinical care of children with neurological disorders and has a special interest in improving the quality of epilepsy care and advancing pediatric neurology services in Syria. She is committed to combining clinical practice, research, and medical education to enhance outcomes for children with neurological diseases.

Beyond her professional activities, Dr. Awad is a wife and mother of three children. She is passionate about her profession and dedicated to providing compassionate, evidence-based care for children and their families.

Shaden Kassar, BCBA-Phd

Shaden Kassar is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), entrepreneur, and advocate for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. With more than a decade of experience in applied behavior analysis, she has dedicated her career to expanding access to high-quality, compassionate care for underserved communities. As the founder and owner of Autism Care Therapy (ACT), she has led the growth of one of Illinois' largest Medicaid-serving ABA providers, offering ABA, speech, and occupational therapy services across multiple locations. Shaden is also an approved course provider for BACB and QABA and is committed to training the next generation of behavior analysts. In addition to her clinical and business leadership, she focuses on improving service delivery and reducing treatment barriers for families affected by autism.

Hind Allouch, MS, BCBA

Hind Allouch is a behavior analyst and mental health professional with extensive experience in psychology, applied behavior analysis (ABA), and clinical leadership. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Psychology from Kansas State University. She also completed graduate studies in Applied Behavior Analysis through the University of Massachusetts, further specializing in evidence-based behavioral interventions.

Hind is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and a Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) in the state of Illinois. She currently serves as the Clinical Director of the ACT Orland Clinic, where she oversees clinical services, staff development, and the implementation of high-quality behavioral programs for individuals with developmental and behavioral needs.

Throughout her career, Hind has worked with children, adolescents, and families across a variety of clinical and community settings. Her professional interests include autism spectrum disorders, behavior change, parent training, mental health, and the integration of behavioral science into everyday life. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Mental Health Counseling and Traumatology at Liberty University in Virginia, further expanding her expertise in counseling, trauma-informed care, and psychological well-being.

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Mohamed Wisam Sakabani, MD

Dr. Mohammad Wisam Sakbani is a board-certified physician in Sleep Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Obesity Medicine. In the United States, he serves as Medical Director of Sleep Labs and Testing Services for Trinity Health Michigan, leading initiatives focused on expanding access to high-quality sleep care and improving patient outcomes.

Internationally, Dr. Sakbani serves as the lead of the SAMS Autism Academy team in Damascus, Syria, where he oversees the development of autism diagnostic, therapeutic, educational, and workforce training programs. His work integrates clinical leadership, medical education, and humanitarian service, with a focus on building sustainable healthcare systems and expanding access to evidence-based care for underserved populations.

Bariah Dardari Duwaji, MD, ABP, ABIHM

Dr. Baraa Al-Dardari Duwaji is a Consultant Pediatrician specializing in developmental and behavioral disorders in children and adolescents. Her expertise includes the evaluation and management of speech and language disorders, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning difficulties, and other developmental conditions.

Dr. Duwaji is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Integrative Medicine. She is dedicated to providing comprehensive, patient-centered care that supports the developmental, behavioral, and overall well-being of children and their families.

