



2nd European Arab Medical Congress

9-11 OCT 2025 | ABU DHABI

REPORT

PRESENTED BY



باحثي الامارات
EMIRATES SCHOLAR
مركز بحوث ودراسات
RESEARCH & STUDIES CENTER

هيئة زايد
لأصحاب الهمم
Zayed Authority
for People of Determination



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DEDICATION:

We are pleased to present this comprehensive report for the 2nd Edition of the European Arab Medical Congress (EAMC) 2025, held under the theme “Practical Approaches in Rehabilitation Medicine and Psychology.” Building upon the remarkable success of the inaugural congress, this year’s edition has further strengthened our mission to foster collaboration between European and Arab medical communities, creating a dynamic platform for healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers to exchange knowledge and explore innovative solutions.

EAMC 2025 gathered global experts in psychology, neuroscience, rehabilitation medicine, and clinical care to explore applied, evidence-based strategies that advance patient recovery, improve mental health outcomes, and enhance integrated rehabilitation systems. The congress also featured high-level diplomatic and ministerial sessions, with the participation of ambassadors, ministers, and healthcare decision-makers, providing a unique platform for strategic engagement and international collaboration.

This document stands as a testament to the visionary leadership of the United Arab Emirates and its unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare excellence, scientific research, and international partnerships. Over the course of this influential event, we witnessed invaluable contributions from medical experts, rehabilitation specialists, psychologists, researchers, and policy leaders, whose insights and expertise shaped meaningful discussions and actionable outcomes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies

H.E Dr. Abdulla Belhaif Al Nuaimi

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council,
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center



In a time where global health systems are tested by rising challenges from mental health crises and neurodegenerative disorders to the evolving frontiers of AI in medicine and rehabilitation, this congress has become a vital nexus of innovation and action.

We have not only explored clinical advances but also reaffirmed the human core of medicine: to heal, to restore dignity, and to care. The theme of this year, Practical Approaches in Rehabilitation Medicine and Psychology, has reminded us that the future of medicine is not only found in technology or research but in the stories of recovery, resilience, and reintegration behind every patient's journey.

Our conversations have stretched across disciplines and borders, from pediatric neurorehabilitation to cross-cultural mental health frameworks, underscoring that health is a universal right and that solutions must be as diverse and interconnected as the communities we serve. In bringing together physicians, psychologists, AI experts, therapists and visionaries from Europe, the Arab world and beyond, we have witnessed what is possible when knowledge is shared without boundaries.

The congress has also affirmed the crucial role of education and continuous professional development. Through CME-accredited sessions and thought-provoking discussions, we are not only expanding clinical expertise but also cultivating ethical leaders prepared to navigate the moral questions of tomorrow's healthcare.

The spirit of collaboration witnessed here, between institutions like Emirates Scholar, Zayed Authority for People of Determination, the European Medical Association and the Emirates Medical Association, stands as a shining example of what unity can achieve in the face of complexity.

To future generations of medical professionals and patients alike, we pledge to continue advancing care that is inclusive, evidence-based, and empathetic. We leave here not with conclusions, but with renewed determination to shape a world where every individual, regardless of age, ability, or geography, can access the care they deserve.

With profound gratitude to every contributor, speaker and delegate: thank you. Together, we have reimagined what a medical congress can be and together, we move forward, empowered to build a healthier, more compassionate future for all.



H.E Abdulla Abudale Al Humaidan

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



In the name of the Zayed Authority for People of Determination, I am honored to welcome you all to the second edition of the European-Arab Medical Congress 2025, an event that goes beyond the boundaries of science and medicine to embrace the values of humanity, dignity and inclusive progress.

This congress is not merely a platform for medical discourse; it is a space where compassion meets innovation, and where the aspirations of individuals, regardless of ability are reflected in every conversation, every research paper, and every solution presented.

At Zayed Authority, our mission has always been rooted in empowering people of determination and ensuring their right to quality care, equitable opportunities and full inclusion in society. That mission finds a natural home in the themes and focus areas of this congress, especially in its dedication to rehabilitation medicine, mental health, and neuropsychology.

What we are witnessing today is a milestone in Arab-European collaboration. The partnerships forged here, the insights exchanged, and the shared commitment to evidence-based practice will, I am confident, shape new policies, inspire new technologies, and open new doors of hope for countless families across our region.

I thank our strategic partners, the European Medical Association, Emirates Medical Association, and all institutions who contributed to making this congress a true model of global cooperation.

Let us leave this event not only with knowledge, but with renewed determination. Let us commit to building healthcare systems that are not only advanced, but also inclusive, compassionate, and just. Because a society's progress is not measured only by how far it can go but by how well it uplifts every individual, including those who walk a different path.



Dr. Ghuwaya Al Neyadi

Senior Vice President, Medical & Wellbeing
ADNOC Group



At ADNOC, on World Mental Health Day, we recognize that the overall wellbeing of individuals creates a positive impact on their families and their communities. Our strategies at ADNOC are thoughtfully designed with a holistic approach to life, integrating resources and programs that empower individuals to thrive both in their workplaces and within society.

Prioritizing mental health allows our people to return to their families and communities with renewed energy and optimism, which enhances our collective quality of life. In line with the Year of Community and the guidance of our wise leadership, we are proud to collaborate with our strategic partners to strengthen the foundations of quality of life for our employees, their families, and the wider community.

We remain committed to building a deep-rooted culture where everyone feels supported, valued, and empowered. Through managerial support, awareness campaigns, and specialized training, we continue to expand understanding and engagement in mental health, while promoting trust, empathy, and open communication.

Among our key mental health support resources, available in the workplace and beyond, are those that will be shared with you during today's awareness session. These resources were designed to ensure the psychological stability and wellbeing of both our employees and their families.

We have launched the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which provides around-the-clock psychological, social, and legal counseling in multiple languages, ensuring immediate support with full confidentiality. We have also made available professional mental health counselors and wellness specialists to offer guidance whenever needed.

Furthermore, we introduced the Mental Health Ambassadors Program, offering specialized training courses for employees and managers like, developed in collaboration with our strategic partners, including Sakina. Through advanced digital and online platforms, we also provide easy-to-use resources and virtual assistants such as Bea'ah and Truder, ensuring that every employee has access to confidential, personalized psychological and emotional support anytime and anywhere.

By integrating these programs and resources, ADNOC continues to promote a strong, sustainable wellbeing culture, because we believe that mental health is not just a personal responsibility, but a shared community value. Together, we can create a brighter future, one where every individual is given the opportunity to flourish and grow.

In conclusion, we wish you all continued wellbeing, health, and happiness.
Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this important cause.



Sheikha Dr. Noura Al Qasimi

President
Emirates Medical Association (EMA)



It brings me immense pride to witness the second edition of the European-Arab Medical Congress convene here in Abu Dhabi, at the heart of a nation that values knowledge, healing, and human dignity.

This congress is not simply a calendar event; it is a reflection of the region's growing voice in global medicine. It speaks of our readiness, not only to adopt international standards, but to shape them. It reflects our belief that meaningful progress is born when diverse minds come together, united by shared values and a commitment to serve. As President of the Emirates Medical Association, I have seen firsthand the dedication of physicians, researchers, and policymakers across our nation.

Their work, grounded in science and compassion, stands today on a global stage side by side with our European colleagues, exploring practical approaches in rehabilitation medicine and psychology, two fields at the core of human care.

This year's congress speaks to the future of medicine: a future where mental health is prioritized, where people of determination receive the care they deserve, and where innovation—be it through artificial intelligence or neuro-rehabilitation, remains deeply human in purpose.

I extend my gratitude to all participating institutions and experts who made this congress a beacon of collaboration. I also salute the unwavering support of the UAE's leadership in championing scientific and medical advancement, not only as a national goal but as a shared global responsibility.

Let this gathering inspire deeper cooperation, bolder ideas, and systems of care that recognize the full dignity of every patient.
Welcome to Abu Dhabi. Welcome to a new chapter in Arab-European medical collaboration.



Dr. Fawaz Habbal

Director General
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



The European Arab Medical Congress has not only provided a forum for advancing clinical knowledge and innovation but has also cast a powerful light on the collective future of healthcare in our region and beyond. In an era where medical challenges transcend borders and diseases affect populations irrespective of nationality or culture, the urgency to foster medical collaboration and holistic rehabilitation approaches has never been greater. It is within platforms like the European-Arab Medical Congress that we reaffirm our shared responsibility to bridge healthcare disparities and bring patient-centered care to the forefront.

Rehabilitation science, psychiatry, neurology, and emerging technologies such as AI and VR now stand as the pillars of a new healthcare paradigm, one that is not only curative but preventive, not only clinical but human. These pillars empower us to break down systemic barriers, integrate knowledge across disciplines, and reimagine the future of care for all.

It is now incumbent upon us to carry forward the spirit of progress and purpose that has animated every session of this congress. Let us embed its values into our hospitals, classrooms, and institutions. Let us advocate for a healthcare system that is inclusive, forward-looking, and rooted in empathy.

Together, we are building a future where science serves humanity and where healing is not a privilege, but a universal promise.



Dr. Firas Habbal

President - Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Throughout this congress, we have stood at the intersection of innovation and compassion, confronting the urgent challenges facing medicine and mental health today. We have listened deeply to the voices of clinicians, researchers, and change-makers across continents, each offering unique insight, all united by a common purpose: to advance healing, dignity and hope. In our shared journey, we celebrated the convergence of diverse disciplines from psychiatry to neurorehabilitation, from pediatric care to AI-driven diagnostics. These intersections are not mere academic curiosities; they are catalysts for progress, revealing new paths to serve the lives and well-being of patients across the globe.

Together, we have forged collaborations rooted in trust and knowledge. We have laid the foundations for lasting medical cooperation between Europe and the Arab world, bridging not just borders, but mindsets. In every session, workshop, and encounter, we moved one step closer.

As we return to our hospitals, our universities, and our communities, let us carry forward the spirit of the European-Arab Medical Congress. Let us remain committed to transforming medical knowledge into compassionate action. Let us believe fiercely, that no challenge in health is insurmountable when we work hand in hand. Together, we are not only reimagining healthcare.. we are healing it.



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01

AT
GLANCE

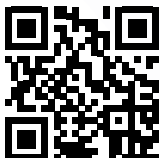
EAMC 2ND EDITION- ABUDHABI 2025

ABOUT EAMC

Under the theme “Practical Approaches in Rehabilitation Medicine and Psychology”, the European Arab Medical Congress (EAMC 2025) is presented by Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies, and Zayed Authority for People of Determination, supported by Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and in collaboration with the European Medical Association and Emirates Medical Association.

Coinciding with the global observance of World Mental Health Day, this year’s congress serves as a landmark platform to reaffirm the importance of mental health, rehabilitation, and holistic patient care as global priorities. EAMC 2025 will unite distinguished experts, researchers, and healthcare leaders from Europe, the Arab region, and beyond to exchange evidence-based practices and innovative solutions in rehabilitation medicine and psychology.

The congress will emphasize real-world applications—from advancing neurorehabilitation and enhancing mental health care, to strengthening patient-centered approaches. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, participants will explore practical strategies to bridge research and clinical practice, improve recovery outcomes, and elevate overall well-being.

 9 - 11 OCT, 2025	 Abu Dhabi Energy Center Abu Dhabi - UAE
	



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Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies (ESCRS):

is a premier independent institution dedicated to advancing academic research in the UAE and the Arab region. Our mission is to enrich public discourse, inform decision-making, and foster innovation through rigorous research, scholarly publications and impactful conferences and seminars. Collaborating with academic, governmental, and private sector partners, we promote interdisciplinary research and knowledge



exchange to address regional challenges and opportunities. ESCRS aspires to be a recognized hub of research excellence, driving positive societal change and contributing to global knowledge networks through evidence-based research and informed policy recommendations.



Zayed Authority for People of Determination:

With centres and clubs for People of Determination across Abu Dhabi, Zayed Authority for people of Determination provides a range of integrated services that aim at rehabilitating disabled people for inclusion into the community. ThroughoalongZayed Authority for people of Determination's scope of service

Presented By



and create new sections and therapeutic units in all centretermination's scope of service and create new sections and therapeutic units in all centresansion plans to accommodate disabled people all over the emirate of Abu Dhabi. All alongZayed Authority for people of Determination's scope of service and create new sections and therapeutic units in all centretermination's scope of service and create new sections and therapeutic units in all centrest was inspired by President of the U.A.E., Ruler of Abu Dhabi, on the need to widen the Zayed



Authority for people of Determination's scope of service and create new sections and therapeutic units in all centres in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western Region.

Conference Aim:

The European Arab Medical Congress aims to bring together esteemed medical professionals, researchers, and policymakers from Europe and the Arab world to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and advance innovation in rehabilitation medicine and mental health.

This diverse platform connects psychiatrists, psychologists, rehabilitation specialists, healthcare administrators, researchers conducting groundbreaking studies, and government officials shaping public health policies. Through more than 20 specialized workshops and training sessions, the congress focuses on enhancing professional skills in psychological assessment, rehabilitation strategies, integrated care models, and community-based approaches to mental health.



The congress also promotes scientific excellence by encouraging original research contributions. Submitted abstracts are reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and accepted authors are invited to submit full-text papers presenting unpublished results and insights in accordance with the conference's formatting guidelines.

Conference Objectives:

1

Psychiatry & Clinical Psychology

- . Practical CBT and DBT protocols in post-trauma rehab
- . Innovations in depression, anxiety, and PTSD treatment
- . Psychological assessment tools in rehabilitation planning
- . Personality disorders and behavioral rehabilitation
- . Community-based mental health models

2

Therapeutic Technologies

- . Virtual reality and gamified cognitive training
- . Robotics in physical rehabilitation
- . Tele-rehabilitation: platforms and policies
- . AI-powered mental health monitoring and prediction tools
- . Wearable tech for behavioral and mobility tracking

3

Rehabilitation Medicine

- . Post-acute neurorehabilitation for stroke and brain injury
- . Spinal cord injury: functional restoration and support systems
- . Multidisciplinary chronic pain management
- . Functional medicine approaches in rehabilitation
- . Evidence-based physical and occupational therapy protocols

4

Special Populations

- . Pediatric rehabilitation and early psychological intervention
- . Geriatric mental health and fall-prevention rehab
- . Rehabilitation for People of Determination
- . Gender-specific rehab care (e.g., postnatal depression, female trauma recovery)



5

Neurology and Neuropsychology

- . Cognitive rehabilitation and neuroplasticity
- . Epilepsy, MS, and Parkinson's rehab strategies
- . Integration of neuropsychological assessments in therapy
- . Traumatic brain injury (TBI): recovery and adaptation

6

Health Policy, Ethics & Public Health

- . Ethics in mental health and rehab practice
- . Accessibility and inclusivity in health systems
- . Mental health integration in emergency care
- . Policy development for rehabilitation systems in conflict zones
- . Funding models and investment in rehabilitation infrastructure

7

Rehabilitation Approaches in Clinical Toxicology

- . Advancing Recovery Protocols for Patients After Acute Toxic Exposure
- . Bridging the Gap Between Detoxification and Long-Term Care
- . Multidisciplinary Strategies for Functional and Psychological Restoration
- . Rebuilding Lives: From Toxicological Crisis to Sustainable Health
- . Personalized Rehabilitation Pathways in the Aftermath of Poisoning

International attendees:

CONTINENT	USER COUNT
Asia	216
Africa	83
North America	67
South America	69
Europe	186
Australia	95
TOTAL	716

Domestic attendees:

UAE - Abu Dhabi	401
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TOTAL
ATTENDEES

1117



17

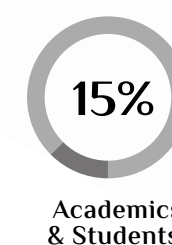
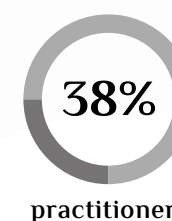
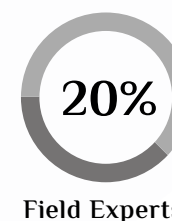
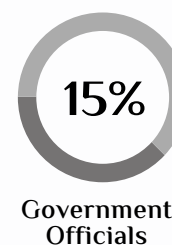
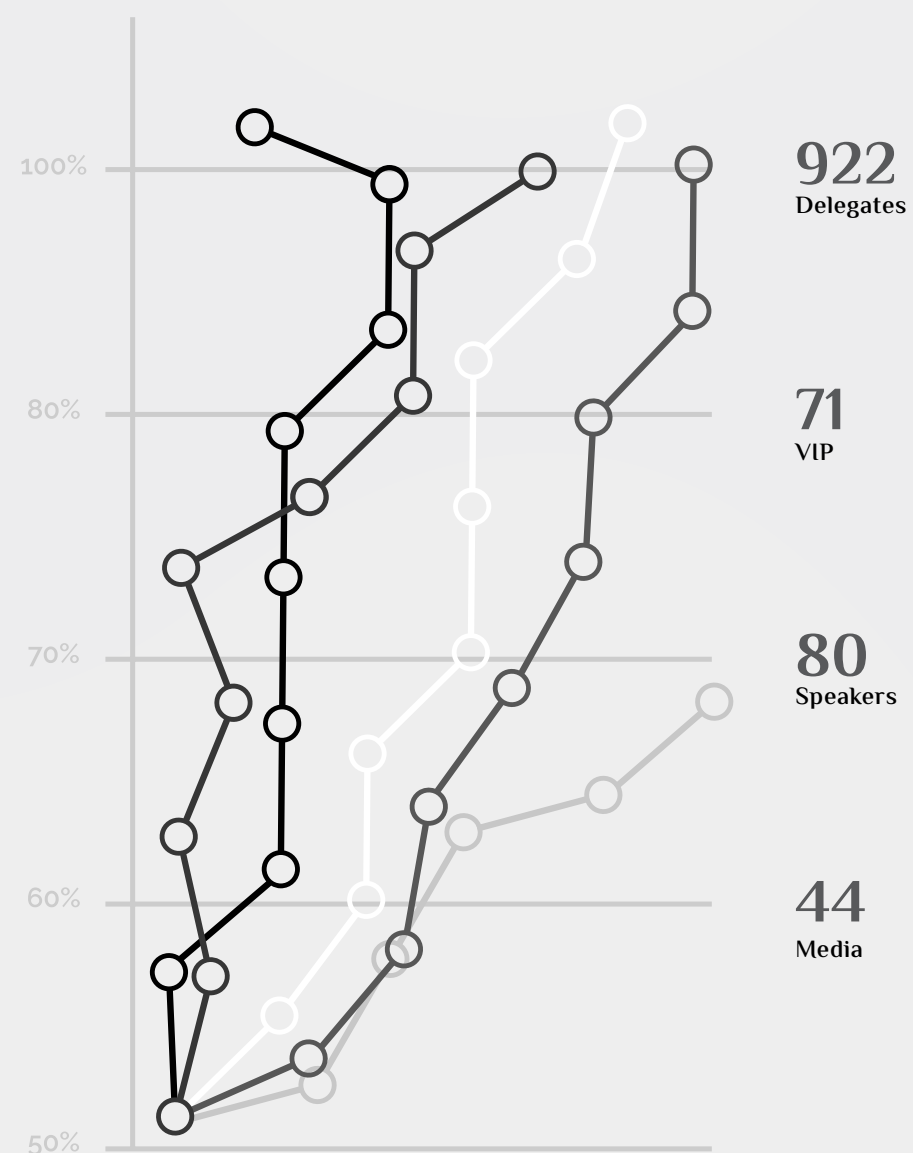
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

32

COUNTRIES

1117

ATTENDEES



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02

COMMITTEES

STEERING COMMITTEE

**H.E. Abdulla Abudalee
Al Humaidan**

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



**Dr. Fawaz
Habbal**

Director General
Emirates Scholar Center for Research
and Studies



**Dr. Firas
Habbal**

President/ Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research
and Studies



**Sheikha Dr. Noura
Al Qasimi**

President
of Emirates Medical Association (EMA)



**Dr Ammar
Al Banna**

Director of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Dr Ammar
Al Banna**

Director of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



**Prof. Prisco
Piscitelli**

Epidemiologist and Vice President of the Italian
Society of Environmental Medicine (SIMA)



**Dr. Vincenzo
Costigliola**

Founder & President of European Medical
Association(EMA)



**Prof. Guglielmo
M. Trovato**

EMA Director (Board of the European Medical
Association) for e-learning, scientific media &
telemedicine



**Dr. Luigi
Bonavina**

Professor of Surgery at the University of Milan
Medical School, Milano, Italy.



**Nasiba
Al Hammadi**

Head of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Center -
Al Dhafra Early Detection Unit - Abu Dhabi



Recommendations:

1

Promote evidence-based rehabilitation protocols by encouraging stronger collaboration between clinicians and researchers.

2

Adopt community-based mental health models to reduce stigma and improve accessibility.

3

Accelerate adoption of digital health tools such as tele-rehabilitation, VR-based therapies, and AI-powered monitoring.

4

Tailor rehabilitation strategies for pediatric, geriatric, gender-specific groups, and People of Determination.



5

Enhance rehabilitation for People of Determination, ensuring inclusivity in healthcare systems.

6

Embed cultural competency training in rehabilitation and mental health services to bridge communication gaps across diverse populations.

7

Encourage mentorship programs linking senior experts with young researchers and clinicians.

8

Publish congress proceedings in indexed journals to increase global visibility and impact.



Next Edition Goals

1

Form regional working groups to continue dialogue and implement congress outcomes.

2

Launch an online knowledge-sharing platform for participants to exchange protocols, case studies, and innovations.

3

Create a European-Arab Rehabilitation Research Network to coordinate multicenter studies and clinical trials.



4

Advocate for policy harmonization across regions to ensure equitable access to rehabilitation and mental health services.

5

Organize annual thematic workshops aligned with International Mental Health Day to sustain momentum.

6

Influence global health agendas by contributing to WHO and UN initiatives on rehabilitation and mental health.



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03

SPONSORS
& PARTNERS



2nd
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Medical Congress
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ADNOC:

Founded in 1971, ADNOC is a leading diversified energy group, wholly owned by the Abu Dhabi Government. Our network of fully integrated businesses operates across the energy value chain, helping us to responsibly meet the demands of an ever-changing energy market.

Already in the top tier of the lowest carbon intensity oil and gas producers in the world, we are taking significant steps to make today's energy cleaner while investing in the clean energies of



tomorrow, strengthening our position as a reliable and responsible global energy provider.

We are allocating an initial \$23 billion to advance and accelerate lower-carbon solutions, investing in new energies and decarbonization technologies to enable our net zero by 2045 ambition and our commitment to zero methane emissions by 2030.



مركز أبوظبي للطاقة Abu Dhabi Energy Center





2nd
European Arab
Medical Congress
9-11 OCT 2025 | ABU DHABI

abu dhabí

Convention & Exhibition Bureau

Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau :
Drives and supports the development and promotion of business events tourism throughout the emirate efficiently, effectively, and transparently, and in partnership with all its stakeholders. Its main mission is to champion the emirate as a dynamic global business events leader. Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau can assist with any planners' needs and acts as a one-stop shop, offering free advice, help with planning and local knowledge. Key assistance includes researching bid opportunities,



assisting with a tailored bid strategy to ensure competitiveness, providing destination promotional collateral and boosting delegate numbers through the authority's international offices. The Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau team provides co-ordination with local partners, and helps arrange introductions to key Abu Dhabi stakeholders, secures support from mainline industry and tourism leaders, and assists with government liaison, researching appropriate venues, offering PR and marketing support, and providing innovative activities and pre- and post-conference ideas. Our ground breaking Advantage Abu Dhabi is aimed at catalysing and seeding innovative and viable business events aligned to the Abu Dhabi Government's 2030 Economic Vision.





Emirates Medical Association (EMA): was established in 1981, as a non-profit organization composed of health practitioners that are members of the EMA as defined by its bylaws. EMA is responsible for supervising and conducting scientific training, events and conferences as well as collaborating with health organizations.



EMA launched its work through its competent supervisory, executive and specialist boards and committees. EMA is a scientific organization which has legal personality, and its headquarter in Dubai, with one branch in Abu Dhabi.



European Medical Association (EMA):

Created in 1990 by doctors from the 12 member states, the European Medical Association (EMA) was established as an “International Foundation Pursuing a Scientific Aim” according to the Belgian law dated 25/10/1919. It is a unique, independent non-profit organisation, which offers every European Community doctor the opportunity to: Join a European network of doctors and add



a European dimension to their professional and social life. The Association today has a much broader perspective, it is made up of associate members in all the states of the European Union, and in many non-EU states, in Asia, Africa and, to a lesser extent, the Americas and Oceania.





Ural Federal University(UrFU): is one of the largest and leading higher educational institutions in Russia bringing together fundamental education and innovative approach towards the challenges of modern times. UrFU is a world-class university in the heart of Eurasia committed to the complex and sustainable development of research and teaching. It is home to 50 000+ students from more than 100 countries of the world and more than 4400 faculty members including the top-notch global experts.



UrFU Institutes offer around 400 Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree programs in natural sciences and mathematics, engineering, IT, social sciences, economics and management, arts and humanities etc. taught in Russian and English. The number of UrFU alumni exceeds 400 000+. Breakthrough studies are pursued in 164 modern research and development laboratories and 72 research excellence centres. The university is open to international collaboration having around 400 partners all over the globe and is an active participant of such initiatives as BRICS Network University, SCO Network University, CIS University, Association of Sino-Russian Technical Universities (ASRTU), Russian-African Network University.



Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research & Development Center:

In line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Nasser Centre for Science and Technology (NCST) was established in 2014 under the leadership of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

NCST equips Bahraini youth with future-ready skills in engineering, energy, AI, cloud computing,



مركز سمو الشيخ ناصر
للبحوث والتطوير في الذكاء الاصطناعي
Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research
& Development Centre



and cybersecurity, while also pioneering a unique Sports & Business track that combines academics with professional football training.

The Centre's Corporate Training Arm provides internationally accredited programs tailored to labour market needs, while the Nasser AI R&D Centre drives innovation in artificial intelligence, big data, and the metaverse through partnerships with government and private sectors. Recognized with awards such as the Future Award at GITEX and the Best AI Project in Education in the Middle East, NCST continues to shape Bahrain's next generation of leaders and innovators.



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Energy Partner



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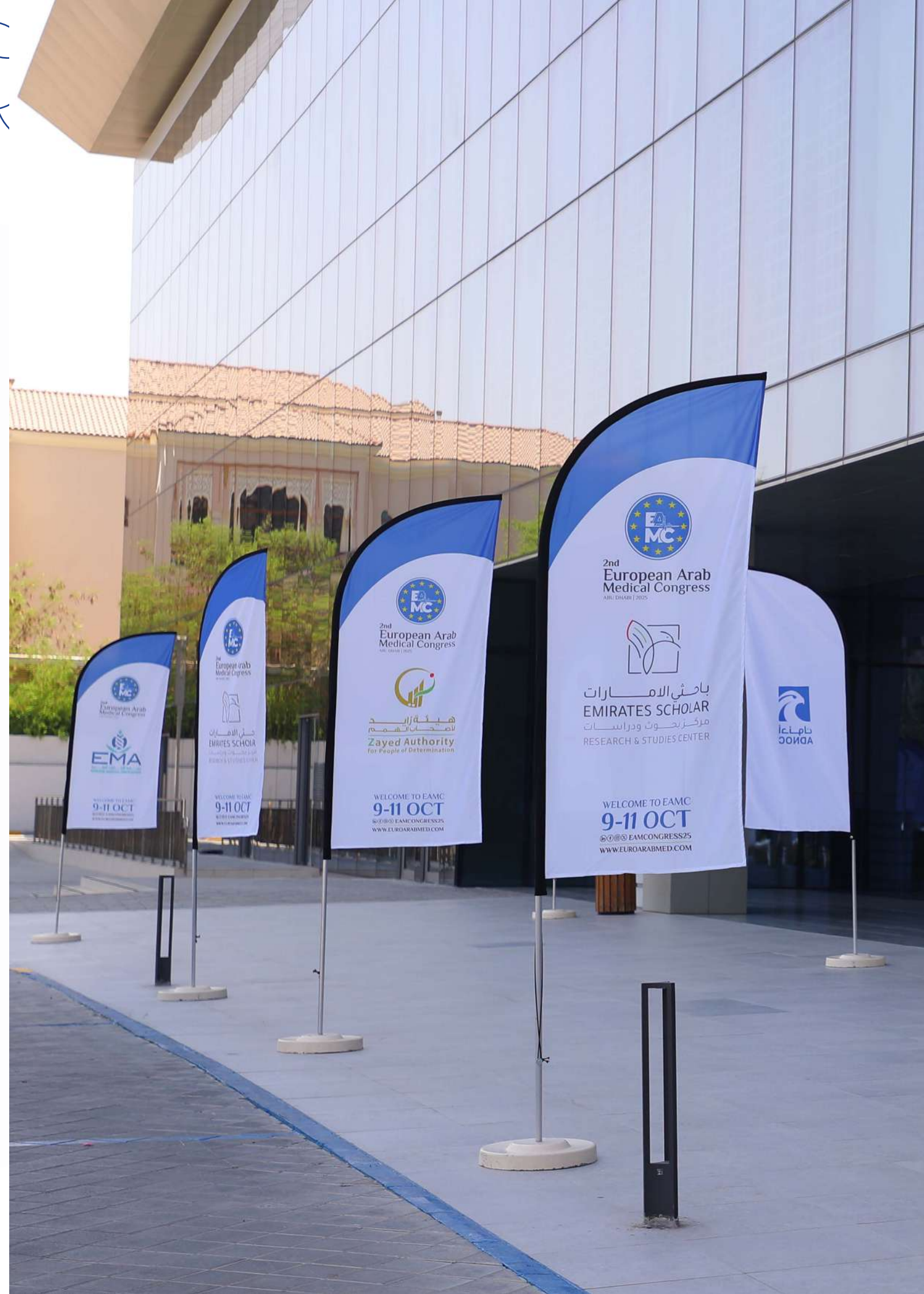
Registered By



Accommodation By



Indexed By



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04

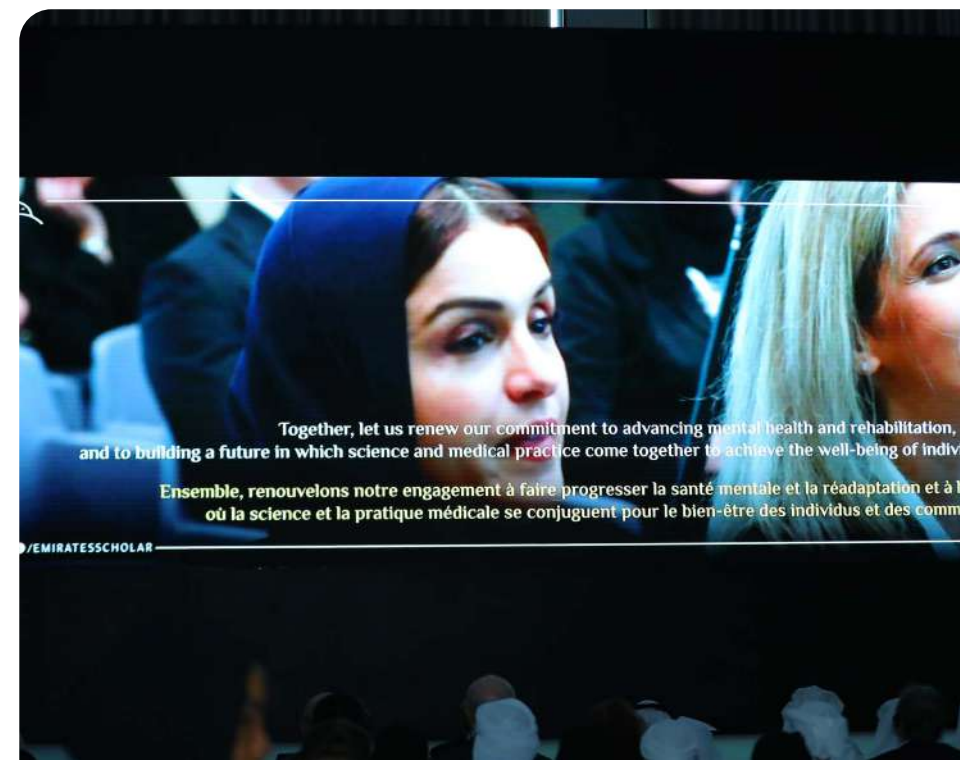
CONFERENCE
GALLERY



Conference Gallery

Opening ceremony







Conference Gallery

**Scientific
sessions**





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Conference Gallery

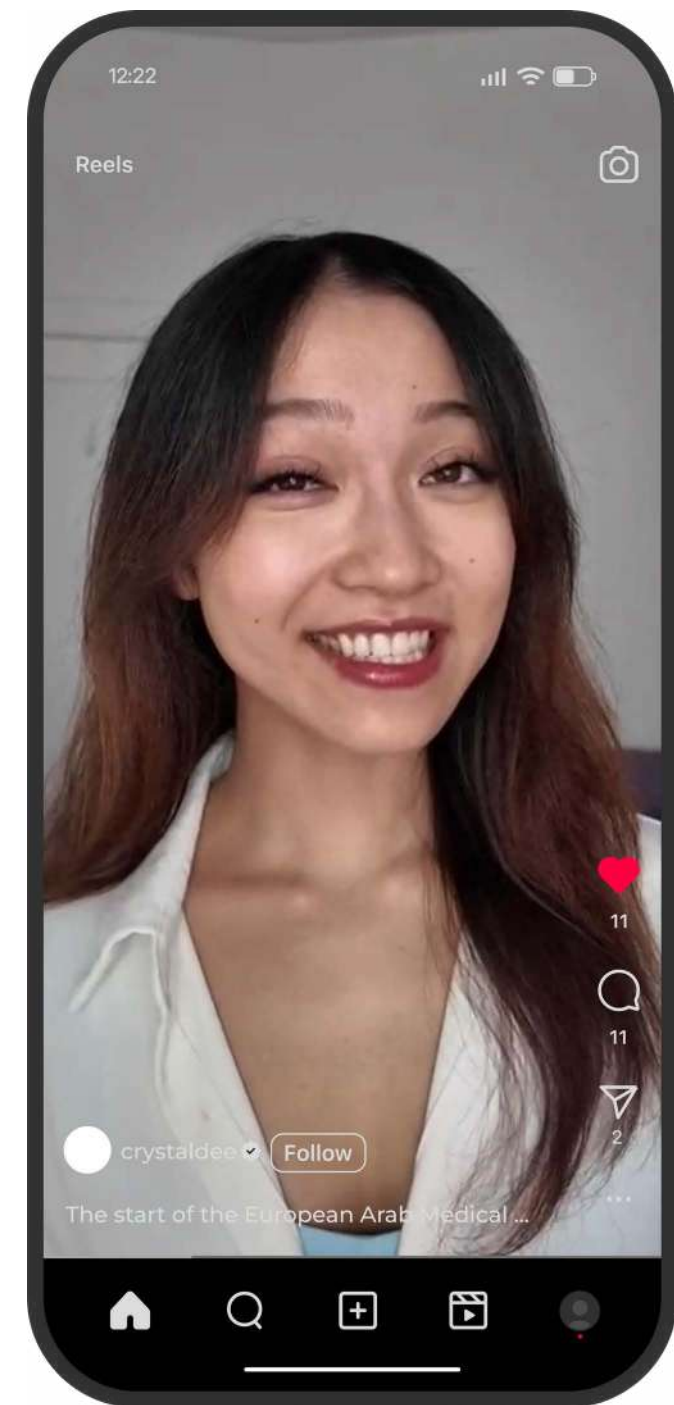
Memorandum of Understanding

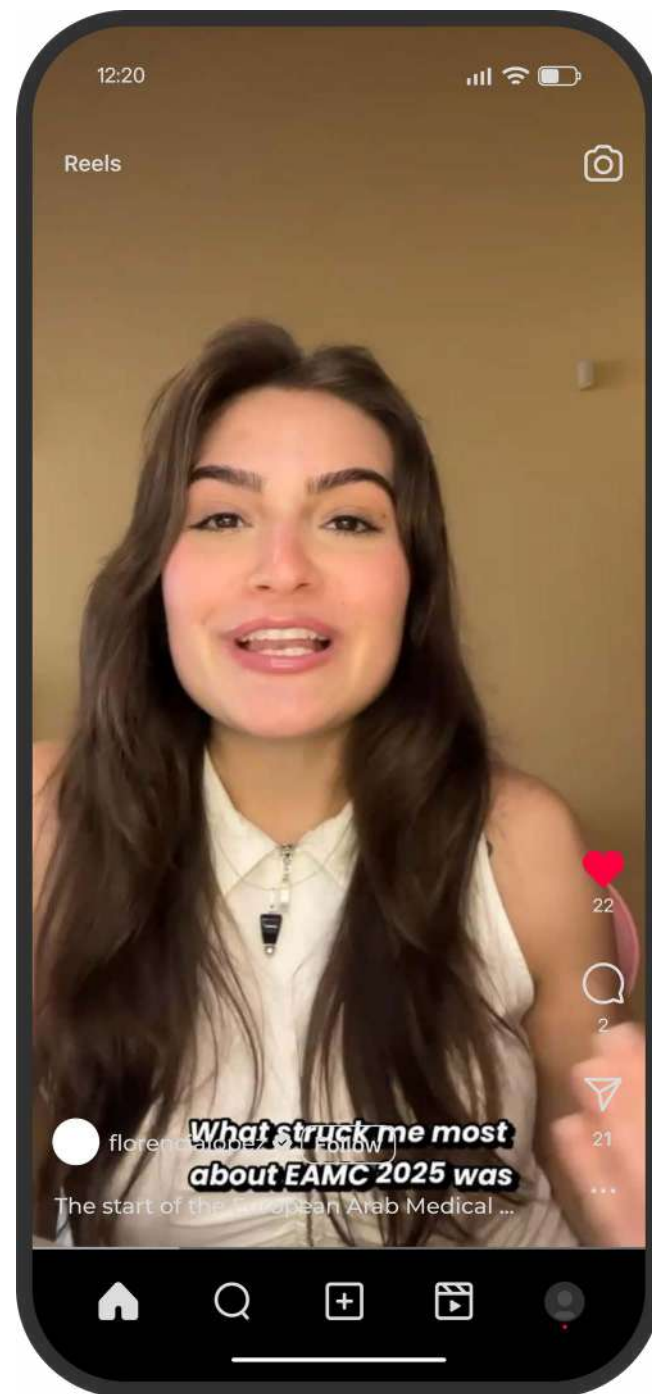
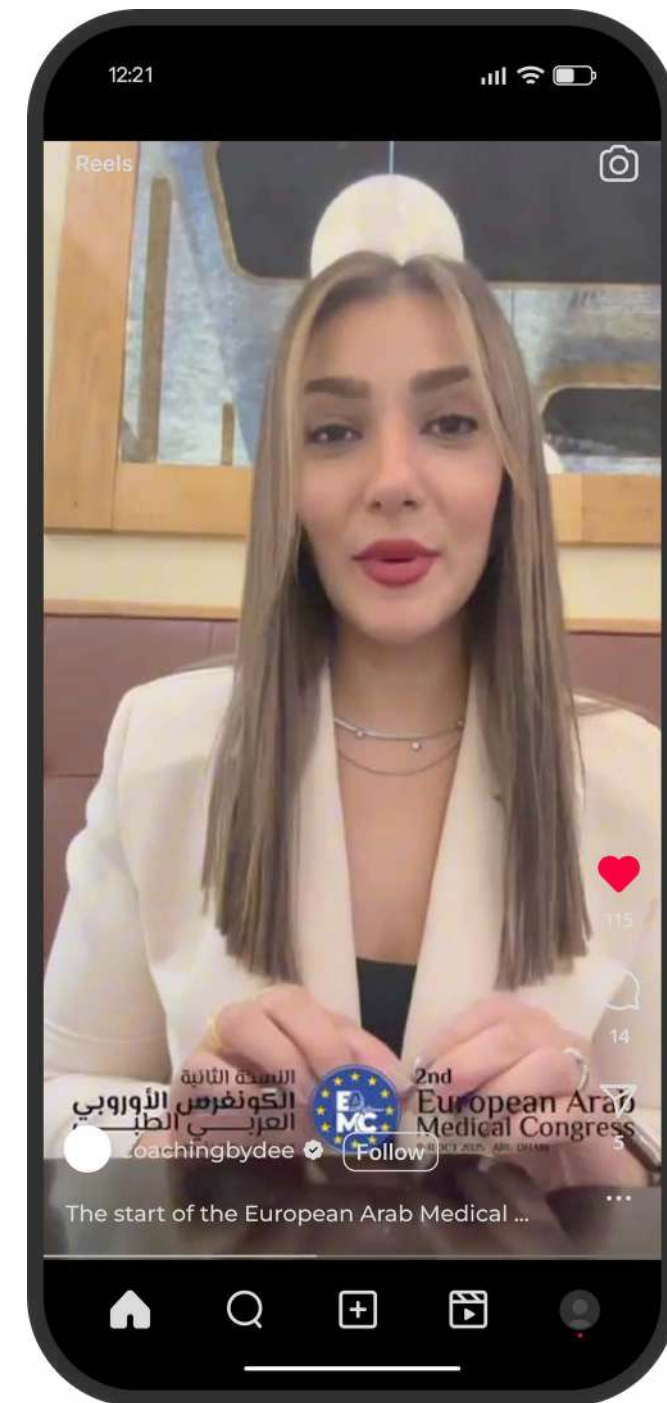




Conference Gallery

**Media
coverage**







Conference Gallery

Abu Dhabi Visit





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Conference Gallery

Networking





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05

AGENDA

9 OCTOBER 2025

DAY

1

Session 1: Psychiatry & Clinical Psychology

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM (120 MIN)

Session Chair

Prof Franchesca Rubulotta

Chief of the Dept of Intensive care and Anesthesiology at unict, Italy



Dr. Asma Ben Houdi

Consultant Psychiatrist at American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology | Mental Health Treatment



Dr. Victoria Mountford

Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Eating Disorder Service Lead at Sage Clinics



Nasiba Al Hammadi

Head of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Center - Al Dhafra Early Detection Unit - Abu Dhabi



Session 2: Rehabilitation Medicine

11:30AM – 1:00 PM (90 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Mohamed Arnaout

Neurosurgery Consultant, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City



Dr. Teresa Abbattista

Radiologist, Consultant at the EMA Board



Dr. Muhammad S. Tahir

Psychiatrist /Chairman - American Wellness Center, DHCC /Kids Heart Medical Center Group U.A.E



Session 3: Special Populations

11:30AM – 1:00 PM (90 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Osman El-Labban
 Head of Family Medicine Department,
 Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai



Dr. Audrey J.W Katsidzira
 Head of Therapies, CAMHS at Aspris Wellbeing
 Centres UAE



Dr. Ola Safi
 Pediatric Neurology Specialist at American Center
 for Psychiatry and Neurology



Tatiana Tomenko
 President of the Ural Association of Epileptologists,
 Head of the Laboratory of Cognitive Behavioral
 Research of the Ural Federal University



Session 4: Rehabilitation Medicine

02:00PM – 04:00 PM (120 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Kirstie Jade Hughes
 Speech Pathologist at Mediclinic Parkview Hospital



Dr. Anita Sunil Kumar
 Clinical Psychologist at Dubai Foundation for
 Women and Children



Alexander Kotyusov
 Chief of Laboratory of Neurotechnology Ural
 Federal University



Dr. Patrick Aeberhard
 Cardiologist, former President of Médecins du
 Monde Doctors of the world
 Founder of MSF (Doctor without Borders)



Session 5: Culture, Health Policy, Ethics & Public Health

02:00PM – 04:00 PM (120 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Nathalie Awad
 Physiotherapist at American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology



Dr. Mishkat Shehata
 Clinical Director for Longevity at PureHealth, Vice President of Emirates Lifestyle and Longevity Medicine Society



Dr. Hanan Selim
 Founder & CEO of Healology.me and TacklandTalk.com



Session 6: Culture, Health Policy, Ethics & Public Health

04:00PM – 05:30 PM (90 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Zakiya Patel
 Vice President of the Emirates Speech Language Pathology Society (ESLPS)



Chantale Ishac RC
 Founder at Brainspotting Middle East & North Africa



Dr. Alya Al Shehhi
 Senior Social Specialist at Zayed Authority for People of Determination



Session 7: Mental Health Rehabilitation

02:00PM – 03:00 PM (60 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Mehnaz Zafar Ali

Consultant Psychiatrist, Head of Community Psychiatry Department, Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital, UAE



Dr. Bawish Ejaz Ali

Occupational Therapist at American center for psychiatry and Neurology



Salwa Al Saedi

Allied Heath Manger
AAH- Sakina SEHA , Al Ain Hospital





10 OCTOBER 2025

DAY 2

Welcoming Remarks

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (30 MIN)

- National Anthem
- Congress Official Video

H.E Dr. Abdulla Belhaif Al Nuaimi

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council,
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center



H.E Abdulla Abudale Al Humaidan

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



Dr. Ghuwaya Al Neyadi

Senior Vice President, ADNOC Group
Medical & Wellbeing ADNOC



Sheikha Dr. Noura Al Qasimi

President of Emirates Medical Association (EMA)



10:300 AM - 10:35 AM (5 MIN)

- Ministerial Speech
- Discussion Topic "National Policies for Protecting Families and Advancing Childhood Mental Health in Europe and the Arab World"

H.E Sarah El Haïry

High Commissioner for Children,
Minister Delegate for Children, Youth and Families
- Frensh Republic



Panel Discussion (2): Role of Social partnerships in promoting mental Health

10:35 AM - 11:05 AM (30 MIN)

Session chair

Dr. Fawaz Habbal

Director General,
Emirates Scholar Center
for Research and Studies United Arab Emirates



H.E Dr. Layla Abdulaziz Ebrahim Al Hyas

Executive Director of the Monitoring and Innovation Sector at the Department of Community Development, Abu Dhabi



H.E Dr. Omniyat Al Hajeri

Executive Director Community Health Abu Dhabi Public Health Center



Dr. Ghuwaya Al Neyadi

Senior Vice President, Medical & Wellbeing ADNOC Group



Dr. Arafat Al Kaabi

Acting Director of Family Guidance and Counseling Department at Family Development Foundation



Dr. Zain Al Yafei

Chief Executive Officer of SAKINA



Panel Discussion 3: International Best Practices in Advancing Mental Health

11:05 AM - 11:35 AM (30 MIN)

Session chair

Dr. Fatima Al Dhaheri

Director of Health Care services, Zayed Authority
for People of Determination



Dr. Firas Habbal

President/ Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



H.E Dr. Ashraf El-Shihy

Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research President of Badr University, Egypt



H.E Dr. Viktor Koksharov

President of the Ural Federal University Russian Federation



Dr. Jassim Haji

Exe. Advisor to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al Research Centre Kingdom of Bahrain



Dr Ammar Al Banna

Director of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



Session 8: Mental Health, Neurology and Neuropsychology

02:00 PM – 03:00 PM (60 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Aram Hasan
 Consultant Psychiatrist at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, Dubai



Co-Chair

Ahmed Alnuaimi
 Business Administration student specializing in Accounting at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University



Dr. Faisal Nawaz
 Psychiatry resident physician and researcher at Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



Dr. Nidal Tourkmani
 Cardiologist, Consultant at the EMA Board



Session 9: Community-based Mental Health Models

02:00 PM – 03:00 PM (60 MIN)

Session Chair

Dr. Narges Sheikhsari
 Executive Advisor & Public Health Expert



Dr. Mariam Halawani
 Art Psychotherapist at ATIC Psychological & Counselling Center



Dr. Natalia Gomez
 Art Therapist and Licensed Psychologist



Dr. Sara Powell
 Art Psychotherapist and Director of ATIC Psychological & Counselling Center



Dr. Rassil Ghazzaoui
 Lead Clinical Psychologist - Complex Psychiatric Disorders at The Valens Clinic.



11 OCTOBER 2025

DAY 3



2nd
European Arab
Medical Congress
9-11 OCT 2025 | ABU DHABI

Executive Session

9:00 AM – 11:00 PM (120 MIN)

Dr. Firas Habbal

President/ Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research
and Studies



Dr. Fawaz Habbal

Director General
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



H.E Abdulla Abudale Al Humaidan

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



H.E Dr. Victor Koksharov

President of the Ural Federal University



Dr. Dmitry Chernoukhov

Deputy Director in Ural Institute of Humanities of
Ural Federal University



Nasiba Al Hammadi

Head of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Center - Al
Dhafra Early Detection Unit - Abu Dhabi



The background is a deep blue with a subtle, glowing molecular or network structure in a lighter blue hue. A large, semi-transparent circle is positioned in the center-right, containing the number '06' in a light blue, serif font.

06

SPEAKERS LIST

H.E Dr. Abdulla Belhaif Al Nuaimi

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council,
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center



Dr. Ghuwaya Al Neyadi

Senior Vice President Group Medical &
Wellbeing ADNOC



H.E Sarah El Haïry

High Commissioner for Children,
Minister Delegate for Children,
Youth and Families



H.E Dr. Layla Al Hayas

Executive Director of the Monitoring and
Innovation Sector at the Department of
Community Development, Abu Dhabi



Dr. Zain Al Yafei

Chief Executive Officer of SAKINA



Dr. Firas Habbal

President/ Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research
and Studies



H.E Dr. Victor Koksharov

President of the Ural Federal University



H.E Abdulla Abudalee Al Humaidan

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



Sheikha Dr. Noura Al Qasimi

President
of Emirates Medical Association (EMA)



Dr. Fawaz Habbal

Director General
Emirates Scholar Center for Research
and Studies



H.E Dr. Omniyat Al Hajeri

Executive Director Community Health Abu
Dhabi Public Health Center



Dr. Arafat Al Kaabi

Acting Director of Family Guidance and
Counseling Department at Family Development
Foundation



H.E Dr. Ashraf El-Shihy

Former Minister of Higher Education
and Scientific Research,
President of Badr University, Egypt



Dr. Jassim Haji

Executive Advisor to His Highness Sheikh
Nasser – Artificial Intelligence Research
& Development Centre



Dr Ammar Al Banna

Director of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



Prof. Francesca Rubulotta

Chief of the Department of Intensive Care
and Anesthesiology at UNICT, Italy



Dr. Vicki Mountford

Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist
& Eating Disorder Service Lead at Sage Clinics



Dr. Mohamed Arnaout

Neurosurgery Consultant
at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City



Dr. Muhammad S. Tahir

American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology
Child, Adolescent & Adult Psychiatrist |
Director/Chairman American Wellness Center



Ms. Audrey Katsidzira

Head of Therapies, CAMHS at Aspris Wellbeing
Centre



Dr. Tatiana Tomenko

Ural Association of Epileptologists President &
Ural Federal Universitys Cognitive Behavioral
Research Lab Head.



Dr. Fatima Al Dhaheri

Director of Health Care services, Zayed
Authority for People of Determination



Dr. Asma Ben Houidi

Consultant Psychiatrist at American Center for
Psychiatry and Neurology



Nasiba Al Hammadi

Head of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Center -
Al Dhafra Early Detection Unit - Abu Dhabi



Dr. Teresa Abbattista

Radiologist, Consultant at the European Medical
Association Board



Dr. Osman El-Labban

Head of Family Medicine Department,
Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai



Dr. Ola Safi

Pediatric Neurology Specialist at American
Center for Psychiatry and Neurology



Dr. Kirstie Hughes

Speech Pathologist at Mediclinic Parkview
Hospital



Dr. Anita Sunil

Clinical Psychologist at Dubai Foundation for Women and Children



Dr. Alexander Kotiusov

Head of the laboratory «Educational and scientific laboratory of Neurotechnology», Ural Federal University



Dr. Patrick Aeberhard

Founder of MSF (Doctor without Borders)



Dr. Nathalie Awad

Physiotherapist at American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology



Dr. Mishkat Shehata

Clinical Director for Longevity at PureHealth, Vice President of Emirates Lifestyle and Longevity Medicine Society



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Ms. Salwa Al Saedi

Allied Health Manager for Sakina



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Consultant psychiatrist at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, Dubai



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Business Administration student specializing in Accounting at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University



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Art Therapist and Licensed Psychologist



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Art Psychotherapist and Director of ATIC Psychological & Counselling Center



Dr. Rassil Ghazzaoui

Lead Clinical Psychologist – Complex Psychiatric Disorders, The Valens Clinic



Sara Al jneibi

Occupational health and safety department



Dr. Dmitry Chernoukhov

Deputy Director in Ural Institute of Humanities of Ural Federal University



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07

**SPEAKERS
BIO**

H.E DR. ABDULLA BELHAIF AL NUAIMI

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Dr. Abdulla Belhaif Al Nuaimi, a respected figure in the field of climate change and environmental policy, was the former Minister of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE, beginning his tenure in July 2020. In this pivotal role, he was instrumental in shaping and executing the nation's climate resilience and ecosystem protection strategies through the formulation of impactful policies and initiatives. Beyond his ministerial duties, Dr. Belhaif chaired both the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment and the National Biosecurity Committee. Prior to this, from 2013 to 2020, he held the position of Minister of Infrastructure Development. During his tenure, he was a driving force behind the advancement of federal infrastructure projects, including inter-emirate highways and government facilities. He also presided over the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program and the Federal Transport Authority. Recently, Dr. Belhaif has transitioned into a thought leadership role, delivering keynote speeches on navigating uncertain environmental futures for various organizations. Currently, he is an active lecturer and author, focusing on topics related to climate change, renewable energy and the built environment.



H.E ABDULLA ABUDALEE AL HUMAIDAN

Director General
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



H.E Dr. Abdulla Abudalee Al Humaidan holds a Master's degree in Information Systems Management in 2018 from the Abu Dhabi School of Management, a Bachelor's degree in Information Systems Management in 2008 from the Higher Colleges of Technology in the UAE, and a Diploma in Information Systems Management in 1998 from the same university. He held the position of Executive Director at the Abu Dhabi Tawteen Council between 2012 and 2016, and Director of the Project Management Office at the same institution between 2010 and 2012. He held several positions at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), including: Director of the Human Resources and Administrative Affairs Department, Head of the Training and Development Department, Head of the Recruitment Committee, Head of the Media and Publications Committee between 2007 and 2010, and Training Officer between 2002 and 2007. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Rehabilitation Centre since January 2012, and a member of the Supreme Committee of the seventh session of the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Programme for Excellence and Community Intelligence. Secretary General of Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination since January 2016, United Arab Emirates. He worked as an assistant and programmer at Emirates Media Corporation between 1999 and 2002, and as a training coordinator at Abu Dhabi Drilling and Chemical Products Company between 1998 and 1999.



DR. GHUWAYA AL NEYADI

Senior Vice President Group Medical & Wellbeing - ADNOC



Dr. Ghuwaya Al Neyadi has over 20 years of experience in leadership, healthcare, and wellbeing. In her current role as Senior Vice President of ADNOC Group Medical & Wellbeing, she leads the implementation of ADNOC's wellbeing strategy, which focuses on fostering a vibrant and engaged work environment. This holistic approach prioritizes people, enhances the quality of the work environment, strengthens social cohesion, and promotes the wellbeing initiatives at ADNOC. Dr. Al Neyadi is a board member of Burjeel Holdings and the founder and board director of Manzilthe wellbeing initiatives at ADNOC are designed to create a supportive culture that promotes comprehensive employee wellbeing, encompassing physical health, mental health, and intellectual growth. Before joining ADNOC, Dr. Al Neyadi held various positions at the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Department of Health (DOH), focusing on public health management, health regulation, and HSE. She is a Consultant Family Physician with a PhD and a master's degree in healthcare administration. Throughout her career, Dr. Al Neyadi has taken on leadership roles with notable achievements, chairing and participating in several management and healthcare committees, some of which operate at the national level. In addition, she serves as the Deputy Chair of the ADNOC Group Gender Balance Committee, Chair of the People of Determination Inclusivity Committee, Member of ADNOC Corporate Social Responsibility, Strategy Lead of the ADNOC Energy for Wellbeing Committee, Member of ADNOC Business Continuity, and Chair of the ADNOC Group Medical Committee, which addresses ADNOC Group occupational health requirements. Externally, Dr. Al Neyadi is a board member of Burjeel Holdings and the founder and board director of Manzil Healthcare Services. As a working mother, she engages in various social and volunteering activities outside her regular work commitments, serving as a role model for Emirati women leaders and demonstrating how to efficiently balance professional responsibilities without compromising family commitments.



SHEIKHA DR. NOURA AL QASIMI

President
of Emirates Medical Association (EMA)



Sheikha Dr. Noura Al Qassimi, President of the Emirates Society of Ophthalmology Consultant Ophthalmologist Sheikh Khalifa Medical City Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences United Arab Emirates University (MBBS) Master's degree at Kasr El-Aini, Cairo Ophthalmology Residency Program at Bonn University Hospital German Board (Facharzt) two-year Fellowship in Medical Retina 18-month Fellowship in Uveitis and Medical Retina Moorfields Eye Hospital multi-center clinical research trials diabetic retinopathy, vascular retinopathy, retinal degenerations, macular diseases, and inflammatory eye conditions retinal research and guidelines American Academy of Ophthalmology American Society of Retina Specialists Euretina International Uveitis Study Group



H.E SARAH EL HAÏRY

High Commissioner for Children, Minister Delegate for Children, Youth and Families

H.E. Dr. Sarah El Haïry, born on 16 March 1989 in Romorantin-Lanthenay to Moroccan parents, is the current High Commissioner for Children in France law degree from the University of Nantes Member of Parliament Secretary of State for Youth and Engagement Secretary of State for Youth and Universal National Service Secretary of State for Biodiversity Minister Delegate for Children, Youth, and Families MoDem party municipal and metropolitan councillor in Nantes



DR. FAWAZ HABBAL

Director General
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies

Dr. Fawaz Habbal is an esteemed Associate Professor with a PhD in E-Government Applications and Business Information Technologies, specializing in Process Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and Business Innovative Technologies.

His research interests encompass Computer Applications, AI in data prediction, and Data Science. Dr. Habbal possesses extensive experience in strategy, particularly within innovation, digitalization, and information technology across various industries.

As the Founder, Director General, and Board of Trustees Member at the Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies in the UAE, he leads a multidisciplinary research team.

His leadership is pivotal in steering research efforts towards impactful academic contributions. In this capacity, he demonstrates a profound understanding of research methodologies, knowledge dissemination, and aligning research with organizational objectives.



H.E DR. LAYLA AL HAYAS

Executive Director of the Monitoring and Innovation Sector at the Department of Community Development, Abu Dhabi

H.E Dr. Layla AHyasaziz Ebrahim Al Hyas is the Community Development Executive Director with the Department of Community Development – Abu Dhabi, with 20 years Total Work Experience. H.E. Dr. Layla Al Hayas has led strategies, policies and standards development and guided the design and development of strategic initiatives in the social sector. She also served as the Executive Director of the Monitoring and Social Innovation Sector in DCD, and during her tenure led several projects aimed at developing innovative solutions to social challenges using research and innovation tools. Her Excellency had previously served as programme manager in the education sector and had contributed to the development of some public health policies and strategies in the school's education environment. She also worked as a senior research analyst – at the National Rehabilitation Centre and oversaw a range of research focusing on prevention of hazardous behaviors, substance abuse and reintegration into the family and society. Dr. Al Hyas holds a PhD in Public Health and primary care – Imperial College London-UK, and MSC in Clinical Pharmacy International Practice and Policy – University College London UCL- UK.



H.E DR. OMNIYAT AL HAJERI

Executive Director Community Health Abu Dhabi Public Health Center

Dr. Omniyat Al Hajeri is the Executive Director of the Community Health Sector at the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre. She is an endocrinologist and a consultant in public health and leadership, with over 20 years of experience in Abu Dhabi hospitals. Dr. Al Hajeri is recognized for her leadership in advancing inclusive, prevention-led health systems and for advocating for mental health awareness



DR. ZAIN AL YAFEI

Chief Executive Officer
SAKINA

Dr. Zain Al Yafei is the Chief Executive Officer of SAKINA, a mental health platform in the UAE. He is dedicated to providing accessible, comprehensive, and empathetic mental health care. With over 18 years of experience, he has held various leadership roles in healthcare, including Chief Medical Officer at Purelab and Director of Pharmacy and Allied Health at SEHA. Dr. Zain holds a PhD in Immunology from the University of Bristol, UK, and is accredited by the American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology. His extensive background in leadership and passion for excellence have been instrumental in the rapid success of SAKINA.



DR. ARAFAT AL KAABI

Acting Director of Family Guidance and Counseling
Department at Family Development Foundation

Dr. Arafat Al Kaabi holds a dual leadership position at the Family Development Foundation (FDF) in the United Arab Emirates, where he focuses on supporting the Emirati family and strengthening its cohesion through comprehensive consulting programs and initiatives for senior citizens. As the Head of the Family Counseling Department, he is responsible for providing specialized social and family consultations, actively working to strengthen family bonds and offer practical solutions to the issues facing Emirati families. He also participates in various events aimed at raising community awareness about the importance of family cohesion. Furthermore, as the Head of the Senior Citizens (Elderly) Department, he oversees the development and implementation of quality programs and initiatives designed to support senior citizens, such as the "Barakat Al Dar" program. His role is dedicated to ensuring integrated social care for the elderly and their families, thereby guaranteeing their positive integration into society and educating families about the psychological, health, and social needs of older individuals. Dr. Al Kaabi has played a prominent role in community development through his guidance and consultations, and has actively participated in numerous important social forums and gatherings, such as the Senior Citizens and Residents Forum, to discuss crucial issues affecting the family and the wider community. His work has been instrumental in empowering senior citizens, boosting their morale, and revitalizing their activity through specialized programs.



DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President – Vice Chancellor
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Dr Firas Habbal is the President of Emirates Scholar Center and Chief Executive Officer of Geminos Investment Group with a strong background in leadership, business development, and scientific research, Dr Habbal have made significant contributions to various organizations. His educational background includes a PhD in International Business Management, MSc in Project Management, and BSc in Internet Commerce. He is also member of multiple research committees and president of more than 15 Scientific conference in UAE

Dr. Habbal worked as Regional Director at many respectful organizations, and he fulfilled his academic career as an Associate Professor in the Department of Business, at 3 different universities: Al Ain University of Science and Technology, American University in Emirates, and Fujairah Academy.

He is serving as Editor in Chief of 3 international journals and an editorial member and reviewer of several international reputed journals

Dr. Habbal has been Co-Chair of many international indexed conferences, Head of local chair of more than 20 international conferences both domestically and globally.

Dr. Habbal interest areas of research are Quality Management, International Management, Data Management, Technology Acceptance, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Sensing.

He has successfully published more than 21 publications in more than 18 indexed journals and 6 international conferences and contributed to more than 6 registered patents.



H.E. DR. ASHRAF EL-SHIHY

Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research,
Arab Republic of Egypt



Prof. Dr. Ashraf Mohamed El-Shihy is a distinguished academic leader and expert in higher education policy and research. He currently serves as the President of Badr University in Cairo (BUC) and has previously held key positions, including Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, President of the Egyptian Chinese University, and President of Zagazig University.

Dr. El-Shihy has played a significant role in shaping educational policies in Egypt and Africa. He led the Education and Scientific Research Policies Committee and served as Head of the Technical Bureau for Education, Science, and Technology in Africa, as well as the Association for Developing Education in Africa (AFEA). He has been instrumental in fostering international collaborations and strategic planning for higher education.

A Professor of Structural Engineering since 1995, Dr. El-Shihy has mentored countless students and contributed to research in advanced structural engineering.

He holds a BSc from Cairo University, an MSc from Southampton and Zagazig Universities, and a PhD from Southampton University. His work continues to impact education, research, and policy on a national and international level.

Through his unwavering commitment to education, research, and policy development, Dr. El-Shihy continues to play a transformative role in shaping the future of higher education in Egypt, Africa, and beyond.



H.E DR. VICTOR KOKSHAROV

President
of Ural Federal University, Russia



H.E Dr. Victor Koksharov, Born on August 1, 1964 in Kamensk-Uralsky, Sverdlovsk region. In 1986, he graduated from the history department of the Ural State University named after A. M. Gorky. After graduation, he worked there as an assistant in the USSR history department, secretary of the Komsomol committee, senior lecturer in the department of modern history and theory of international relations. In 1992, he received a candidate of historical sciences degree, defending a dissertation on the topic "The activities of American oil companies in Saudi Arabia (1933-1945)". In 1995, he was transferred to the Department of External Relations of the Presidium of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences as a chief specialist. Then he was transferred to the administration of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region, where he held senior positions in the Information and Analysis Department and the Department of International and Foreign Economic Relations, later reorganized into the Ministry of International and Foreign Economic Relations of the Sverdlovsk Region. Until May 2004, he was the head of the department of this Ministry. In May 2004, he was appointed to the post of Minister of International and Foreign Economic Relations of the Sverdlovsk Region. In 2007-2009, he was the Chairman of the Government of the Sverdlovsk Region. He was appointed to the post of Rector of the Ural Federal University named after the first President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin by order of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin on April 9, 2010. He is a member of the expert council under the Government of the Russian Federation, a member of the Russian International Affairs Council, co-chairman of the Association of Leading Universities of Russia, chairman of the council of rectors of the Sverdlovsk region, chairman of the audit commission of the Association of Socio-Economic Universities of Russia, a member of the Association of Technical Universities of Russia and China, co-chairman of the association "Consortium of Flagship Universities of the State Corporation Rosatom", a member of the forum of rectors of the University of the Arctic, a member of the organizing committee of the forum "Dialogue Russia - Republic of Korea" in 2013. He is fluent in German and English. He is married and has a daughter. 2010 - 2025 Rector of the Ural Federal University 2025 - ... President of the Ural Federal University



DR. JASSIM HAJI

Executive Advisor to His Highness Sheikh Nasser – Artificial
Intelligence Research & Development Centre



Dr. Jassim Haji is the President of the Artificial Intelligence Group and currently serves as the Executive Advisor at the HH Sheikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research & Development Centre. With a distinguished career in technology leadership, Dr. Haji has participated as a keynote speaker and chairman in over 385 conferences across the Middle East and Europe, addressing critical advancements in Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Big Data, Cybersecurity, and Digital Transformation. His thought leadership has been reflected in numerous published articles covering these domains. Dr. Haji holds a Master's degree and a Doctorate from Newcastle University and the University of Sunderland in the United Kingdom. Recognized for his contributions to innovation and technology, he has received 44 prestigious awards in the fields of technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship across the Middle East. In addition to his advisory and public speaking engagements, Dr. Haji is a prolific author, having published five books in English, Spanish, and Arabic on Artificial Intelligence, algorithms, and emerging technologies. He has also authored over 780 articles featured in both regional and international media platforms in English and Arabic.



DR AMMAR AL BANNA

Director
of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital



Dr. Ammar Albanna is a Canadian trained Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and the Director of Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital. He was the founding Head of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center of Excellence at Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital in Dubai and the founding president of the Emirates Society for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, the national representative society for this field in United Arab Emirates, under the Emirates Medical Association. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) and at the University of Sharjah. Dr. Albanna is the Vice President of the International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals (IACAPAP). Dr. Albanna completed his psychiatry residency and child and adolescent psychiatry training at McGill University, Canada. He then joined the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children as a fellow in Pediatric Neuropsychiatry. Dr. Albanna is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and an international fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He also holds a Master's degree in Healthcare Leadership from McGill University. Dr. Albanna has peer-reviewed research publications and is a recipient of Research Grant Awards as the Principal Investigator, including the Dubai Harvard Center for Global Healthcare Delivery Research Award and from Al Jalila Foundation. His current research focus is on neuropsychiatric disorders in the UAE including Autism Spectrum Disorder and innovative models for healthcare delivery. He is the Co-Principal Investigator for the research project that received the first cycle funding from SWARD (Sandoq Al Watan Research Award). Dr. Albanna has received awards for recognition of his clinical, research and educational work. He is regularly invited to present at local and international scientific meetings. Dr. Albanna is a peer reviewer for scientific medical journals and served on and chaired the scientific committee of several conferences. Dr. Albanna has chaired a global mental health conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder, and chaired the global congress of the International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals (IACAPAP) in 2022 in Dubai, following a winning bid for Dubai to host this prestigious congress. He is a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Mohamed Bin Rashid University. Further, he served on the Jury committee of prestigious awards including the Fatima Bint Mubarak Award.



DR. FATIMA AL DHAHERI

Director of Health Care services, Zayed Authority for People
of Determination



Dr. Fatima Al Dhaheri is a double American Board-certified physician in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). She is the founding director of the UAEU Fungal Reference Laboratory, the first national center dedicated to fungal diagnostics, resistance surveillance, and research in the UAE.

Dr. Al Dhaheri earned her medical degree with honors from UAEU in 2013 and began her career as a teaching assistant in the Department of Pediatrics. She completed her pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., followed by fellowship training in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Boston Children's Hospital. She pursued additional subspecialty training in Immunocompromised Host Infectious Diseases (ICH-ID) through joint training at Boston Children's Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also holds a certificate from the Harvard Catalyst Academy for Clinical and Translational Research.

Clinically, Dr. Al Dhaheri serves as a Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC), Burjeel Medical City and Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Center (ADSCC), where she manages complex infections in immunocompromised and transplant patients. She is a Transplant ID Advisor to the Emirates Organ Transplant Committee and a founding member and current Vice President of the Emirates Infectious Diseases Society under the Emirates Medical Association (EMA).

Her professional interests include transplant infectious diseases, fungal infections, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine advocacy, and medical education. She is passionate about building national capacity in infectious diseases through research, clinical care, and mentoring the next generation of clinician-scientists.



PROF. FRANCESCA RUBULOTTA

Chief of the Department of Intensive Care and Anesthesiology at UNICT, Italy

Prof. Francesca Rubulotta is an internationally recognized expert in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) with over 20 years of clinical, academic, and leadership experience. She completed her medical degree with distinction in Italy and trained across Italy, the USA, the Netherlands, and Belgium, obtaining specializations in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, a PhD in Medicine from the University of Catania, and an Executive MBA from Imperial College Business School, London. She has served as the inaugural Chair of the Department of Critical Care Medicine at McGill University, Canada, and previously held senior roles at Imperial College London and the NHS. Prof. Rubulotta has contributed extensively to research, education, and innovation, chairing several international initiatives, including the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine's Division of Professional Development and the CoBaTrICE project. She is the founding member of the International Women in Critical Care Network (iWIN ETS), an active congress organizer, and a widely published author in critical care, leadership, and ethics. A frequent keynote speaker at global conferences, she has received multiple prestigious awards, including the Women of the Year Award (2021) and Creative Women Ambassador Award (2021).



DR. ASMA BEN HOUIDI

Consultant Psychiatrist at American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology

Dr. Asma Ben Houidi is a Consultant Psychiatrist at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology (ACPN) in the UAE. A graduate of the Faculté de Médecine de Tunis (2009), she completed her psychiatry residency at Al Razi Hospital in Tunisia and Le Vinatier Hospital in France. She holds a Master's degree in Forensic Psychiatry, along with diplomas in Perinatal Psychiatry, Child Development, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, and Addictology. With over a decade of international clinical experience, Dr. Ben Houidi brings a multicultural perspective to psychiatric care, having practiced in Tunisia, France, and the UAE. Beyond clinical work, she is actively involved in teaching, research, and mental health advocacy, with contributions to international journals and regional awareness initiatives. Her approach is integrative, combining medication, psychotherapy, and social support to deliver patient-centered care. She currently leads the LAI (Long-Acting Injectable) Clinic at ACPN—the first of its kind in the region—and volunteers as Clinical Director for Special Olympics UAE.



DR. VICKI MOUNTFORD

Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Eating Disorder Service Lead at Sage Clinics

Dr Victoria Mountford, BA(Hons), DCl Psy, is Lead Clinical Psychologist and Eating Disorder Service Lead at Sage Clinics in Dubai. She combines her clinical work with research and teaching. She has over twenty years' experience of working with individuals with eating disorders and body image concerns and their families. She was part of the founding team who developed FREED, the first early intervention eating disorder service in the UK. She is a supervisor and lecturer on the MANTRA training course. She has published widely, including three books Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for the Eating Disorders: A Comprehensive Treatment Guide (2007), Beating Your Eating Disorder: A Cognitive-Behavioural Self Help Guide for Adult Sufferers and their Carers (2010) and Brief Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Non-Underweight Patients: CBT-T for Eating Disorders (2019). Her research interests include early intervention, body image and cognitive behaviour therapy. In 2020 she was jointly awarded the Outstanding Clinician Award by the Academy of Eating Disorders.



NASIBA AL HAMMADI

Head of the Comprehensive Diagnostic Center - Al Dhafra Early Detection Unit - Abu Dhabi

She has extensive experience in case diagnosis and developing services for children and their families. She contributed to the development of the Abu Dhabi Fashion Brands Directory, was the first programmer for the Al Dhafra Food Center, and developed early childhood services and family counseling. She is an academic specializing in workshops for government agencies, as well as independent projects such as the Emirati-Russian Dictionary of Psychology project. We also actively participate in scientific conferences and seminars to enhance knowledge and professional practice in the field of mental health and rehabilitation.



DR. MOHAMED ARNAOUT

Neurosurgery Consultant
at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City

Mohamed Arnaout, with over a decade of dedicated neurosurgical practice, has honed his expertise in spine and skull base surgery at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, complementing a robust background in pediatric neurosurgery. His role as a neurosurgeon is bolstered by an unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare services through meticulous surgical precision and innovative practices. The intersection of clinical excellence and academic contribution defines his dual capacity as a Neurosurgeon and Lecturer, where he helps cultivate the next generation of medical professionals. At the core, his mission is to deliver compassionate care, engage in continuous learning, and contribute to the field of neurosurgery with evidence-based practices and patient-centered outcomes.



DR. TERESA ABBATTISTA

Radiologist, Consultant
at the European Medical Association Board

Breast Imaging Unit Head since 2016 -Principe di Piemonte Hospital Senigallia (Ancona-Italy) Founder and active General Secretary of the association "Accademia Ecografica Senigalliese" devoted to teaching ultrasound to doctors; this association organizes several meetings to take care of ultrasound training of doctors. - Head and Coordinator of the SIUMB Basic School of Ultrasound and SIUMB Senological School since 2016 - President of MASU (Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound)I deliver comprehensive lectures on diagnostic senology in diverse formats and instruct on all aspects of basic ultrasound, including specialized sessions on abdominal and superficial tissue sonography. I am fond of driving the development and improvement of ultrasound training techniques and educational strategies." Main interests: - Breast imaging, interventional biopsy and Magnetic Resonance - Gastrointestinal Imaging including CEUS of the liver and the bowel I discussed several invited lectures in my area of expertise in national and international meetings 08.08.2025 Teresa Abbattista



DR. MUHAMMAD S. TAHIR

American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology Child, Adolescent & Adult Psychiatrist |
 Director/Chairman American Wellness Center

Dr. Muhammad S. Tahir is American Board Certified in Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and qualified as a General (Adult) Psychiatrist. Before relocating to Dubai, in 2011, I served as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital, the University Hospital of Columbia, and Cornell University (USA). I also worked as an Assistant Unit Chief, leading the multidisciplinary treatment team at USA's New York Presbyterian Hospital – Westchester Division. I completed my adult psychiatry residency training at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center (affiliated with Columbia University) and my child/adolescent psychiatry fellowship at Weill Cornell University Hospital in New York (USA).



DR. OSMAN EL-LABBAN

Head of Family Medicine Department,
 Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai

Osman El-Labban is a Family Medicine Consultant, Ex-head of Family Medicine Department at Al Zahra Hospital Dubai & Ex co-director of family medicine residency program at Dubai Health Authority (DHA). He has graduated from the American University Hospital, Beirut, Lebanon in June 1985 and holder of Fellowship of Royal College of General Practitioners (FRCGP) in U.K. & Arab Board in Family Medicine specialty. He is lecturer, clinical trainer, public speaker and medical conferences organizer who believes in the great potentials of family physician role in community. His expertise ranges from academic, managerial to clinical experience with his main contributions in his career include empowering the concept of prevention in family practice through creating practical wellness packages, travel & adult immunization clinics for patients and updating medical knowledge of family physicians through organizing medical conferences & workshops, in addition to enhancing patient health education processes resulting in gaining a lots of colleagues' & patients' love & appreciation over years. His managerial skills extend for more than 30 years in different positions in his career journey as doctor in charge, member of executive committees, co-director of family medicine residency program In DHA and head of department which were augmented through obtaining Healthcare Leadership Certificate from Cornell University, USA. Have been chosen as one among the top 25 family physicians in Dubai and he has achieved the first rank as the leader of the team of the year 2017 at Al Zahra Hospital Dubai



MS. AUDREY KATSIDZIRA

Head of Therapies,
CAMHS at Aspris Wellbeing Centre

Dr. Audrey Katsidzira is a Senior Clinical Psychologist, Neuropsychology Specialist, and transformational learning leader with expertise in family-centered care and organizational development. As Head of Therapies for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) at Aspris Wellbeing Centre in Abu Dhabi, she leads multidisciplinary teams in neuropsychological assessments, autism spectrum evaluations, and evidence-based interventions, integrating neuropsychology and family-centered approaches to provide holistic support. Beyond clinical practice, she is an educator, trainer, and consultant, designing learning programs that enhance emotional intelligence, resilience, and leadership across healthcare, corporate, nonprofit, and educational sectors. With over a decade of experience, she supervises practitioners, supports organizational wellness, and develops strategies for change management, combining clinical expertise, compassionate leadership, and evidence-based practices to help individuals and organizations achieve lasting growth.



DR. OLA SAFI

Pediatric Neurology Specialist at American Center
for Psychiatry and Neurology

Dr. Ola Safi is a specialist pediatric neurologist working at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, Abu Dhabi. She earned her medical degree from Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon, in 2013 and completed her residency training in pediatrics at Hotel de Dieu de France Hospital. Then, she achieved her fellowship in pediatric neurology in France in 2018. Besides her interuniversity diploma in pediatric neurology, Dr Safi also obtained an interuniversity diploma in clinical neurophysiology from France. Dr Safi has worked in many hospitals in Lebanon as a pediatric neurologist before joining ACPN in 2021. Dr Safi treats children and adolescents with epilepsy, autism, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, neurodevelopmental delays, learning disabilities, neuromuscular disorders and neurodegenerative disorders. Dr Safi has a specific interest in pediatric epilepsies, and she is a member of European Pediatric Neurology Society.



DR. TATIANA TOMENKO

President of the Ural Association of Epileptologists, Head of the Laboratory of Cognitive Behavioral Research of the Ural Federal University

Tatiana Tomenko, neuropsychiatrician, neurophysiologist, PhD, President and Founder of the Ural Association of Epileptologists, Head of the Laboratory of Cognitive Behavioral Research at Ural Federal University, Head of the Center for Brain Dysfunction and Epilepsy at the European Medical Center UMMC-Health, Assistant Professor at the Department of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Medical Genetics at Ural Medical University. Dr. Tomenko defended her PhD thesis under the supervision of Professor Mukhin K. (Moscow, Russia) in 2008. As a practicing physician, Tatiana treats children with various forms of epilepsy, epileptic encephalopathies, and different genetic diseases. For the first time, Dr. Tomenko organized the introduction of the ketogenic diet and vagus stimulator treatment in the Ural region. Tatiana Tomenko is the main organizer of the annual epileptology conference in the Urals. She participates at international and regional conferences, and teaches doctors, psychologists and students. Tatiana is currently working on a research project on the topic of clinical and genetic correlations of photosensitive epilepsy.



DR. KIRSTIE HUGHES

Speech Pathologist
at Mediclinic Parkview Hospital

Kirstie Hughes is a Speech-Language Therapist specializing in adult neurorehabilitation and complex dysphagia. Trained in South Africa and currently based in Dubai, she brings extensive experience in acute and post-acute care, working with patients with neurological conditions, head and neck cancers, and complex swallowing and communication disorders. Passionate about evidence-based and functional therapy, Kirstie is committed to creating individualized treatment and home programs that optimize both recovery, and quality of life. Currently pursuing a master's degree with research focused on professional learning and development in speech therapy, she is deeply committed to advancing the profession through ongoing education, clinical innovation, and advocacy.



DR. ANITA SUNIL KUMAR

Clinical Psychologist at Dubai Foundation for Women and Children

Anita is a Clinical Psychologist by profession and licensed Psychologist-Social Therapist, accredited by the Community Development Authority of Dubai, with over 32 years of professional experience across India, Oman, and the UAE. She currently serves as a Consultant & Therapist at the Dubai Foundation for Women & Children, the UAE's first licensed non-profit shelter, where she has dedicated 14 years to supporting survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse. Her expertise spans trauma intervention, early childhood development, family and marital counseling, and the rehabilitation of survivors of abuse. She integrates holistic and evidence-based approaches into her clinical practice, including early intervention and ecological models of support. She is a certified Mindfulness Practitioner, certified Therapeutic Art Life Coach, and has specialized training in Animal-Assisted Therapy and Dance & Movement Therapy. She serves as a Consultant on the Early Childhood Development Expert Panel with the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority and is an active member of the American Psychological Association (Division 43) and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), among numerous other national and international professional bodies, reflecting her wide-reaching commitment to advancing best practices in psychology and child protection. As an international speaker and passionate advocate for child protection and women's empowerment, she has delivered presentations at leading global forums such as the World Rehabilitation Congress, ISPCAN Congress on Child Abuse Prevention, multiple regional and international Mental Health Conferences, and the UNODC Conference on Human Trafficking in Kazakhstan. Her work is dedicated to empowering silent survivors and enhancing community resilience through targeted awareness, prevention, and capacity-building efforts.



DR. ALEXANDER KOTIUSOV

Chief of Laboratory of Neurotechnology Ural federal University

Dr. Alexander Kotiusov (Alexander Kotyusov) is a prominent academic and research figure known for his work in Neurotechnology and Psychology. His career is centered on advancing the understanding of cognitive functions and neurological development, particularly in pediatric populations. Dr. Kotiusov currently serves as the Head of the Educational and Scientific Laboratory of Neurotechnology at the Ural Federal University (UrFU) in Russia, where he is affiliated with the Department of Psychology. His research expertise lies at the intersection of psychology and neurological technology, focusing on Cognitive Assessment and Neurophysiological Correlates. His work investigates neurological and cognitive outcomes, especially in children who have experienced conditions such as Early Ischemic Stroke. He also studies cognitive load and executive functions. Dr. Kotiusov's methodology utilizes advanced neuroimaging and monitoring techniques, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Electroencephalography (EEG), and Pupillometry (eye-tracking). Demonstrating his international engagement, he has participated in scientific forums, having served as a speaker at events such as the 2nd European Arab Medical Congress.



DR. PATRICK AEERHARD

Founder
of MSF (Doctor without Borders)

Dr. Patrick Aeberhard is a French-Swiss cardiologist, born on 13 February 1945 in Paris, who played a key role in founding Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and later Médecins du Monde, and who has served as President of Médecins du Monde (1987–1989) following earlier leadership within the organization from 1981 to 1995; he began his humanitarian journey as a physician for the ICRC in Biafra in 1968 and conducted numerous missions in conflict zones such as Lebanon, Afghanistan, Rwanda, and Haiti; he also served as a health policy advisor in the cabinet of French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner across multiple terms, focusing on issues like substance abuse, social exclusion, and anti-doping efforts; since 2005, he has been an Associate Professor at Paris 8 University where he created the “Health, Emergency, Development” diploma; he has authored numerous works on humanitarian law, human rights, NGO challenges, global healthcare, and public health ethics, and has been involved with several human rights and aid organizations, contributing to documentaries and scientific publications.



DR. NATHALIE AWAD

Physiotherapist at American Center
for Psychiatry and Neurology

Nathalie Elias Awad Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy Physiotherapist Nathalie Elias Awad is Physiotherapist at ACPN. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy from the Fatima College of Health Sciences, Abu Dhabi in 2019. She is a DOH licensed Physiotherapist in Abu Dhabi. Starting her career in physiotherapy and rehabilitation in 2019, she worked as physiotherapist for the inpatient and long-term care unit at Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi and at Danat Al Emarat Hospital for their inpatient and outpatient clinics seeing patients of all ages. She carried out her clinical training at prestigious healthcare institutions including Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, and Healthpoint Hospital Abu Dhabi. She is well-versed in musculoskeletal, neurological, ICU, post-operative rehabilitation for orthopedic as well as obstetrics & gynecology patients, as well as rehabilitation for children and newborns. With a passion for voluntary service, she dedicated her time as a fitness screener at the Special Olympics World Games for People of Determination for the 2017 & 2018 seasons. Her areas of interest include women's health for outpatient and inpatient, virtual prenatal services, NICU along with post discharge neonatal services including follow-ups and parent education about premature complications, and early interventions. Her approach to treatment follows evidence-based care plans that are updated with the latest interventions. Working with a multitude of age groups, Ms. Awad works with children with developmental delays, adults having pelvic floor rehabilitation, neurorehabilitation, pain management and musculoskeletal cases. Nationality: Syrian / Armenian Spoken Language(s): Arabic, English



DR. MISHKAT SHEHATA

Clinical Director for Longevity at PureHealth, Vice President of Emirates Lifestyle and Longevity Medicine Society

Dr. Mishkat Shehata is a pioneering force in lifestyle and longevity medicine, currently serving as a Founding Member and Vice President of the Emirates Lifestyle and Longevity Medicine Society and the Regional Director for the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine in the Middle East. She leads as the Clinical Director of the PURA Longevity Clinic at Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City and PureHealth. A double board-certified Consultant in Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine, as well as a certified Clinical Practitioner in Applied Functional Medicine, Dr. Shehata brings 15 years of expertise. She is a Diplomate of the International Board of Lifestyle Medicine and holds memberships with the Healthy Longevity Medicine Society and the Royal College of General Practitioners (UK). Her academic background is equally distinguished, including a Master's in Public Health (MPH), a Master's in Health Service Delivery and Disease Prevention, and Professional Diplomas in Sports & Exercise Nutrition and Fitness & Weight Loss.



DR. HANAN SELIM

Founder & CEO of Healology.me and TackleandTalk.com

Dr. Hanan Selim is a visionary Founder and CEO of Healology and Tackleandtalk.com, internationally acclaimed for her transformative impact on healthcare, leadership, and organizational well-being. Celebrated by His Majesty Sheikh Sultan Al Qassimi of the United Arab Emirates as one of the 'Top Influential Speakers at the International Government Communication Forum' focused on driving impactful business and industry change, Dr. Hanan also earned the distinguished title of 'The Pharmacist of the Future' from 16 major international TV and radio networks. An award-winning holistic healthcare professional, sustainability entrepreneur, and inspiring keynote speaker, Dr. Hanan specializes in empowering women leaders and advancing sustainable health solutions. Her thought leadership and pioneering work have been spotlighted on prominent platforms including Dubai TV, Australian TV, The Khaleej Times, and more. At the heart of her mission is Tackle and Talk—a passionate initiative designed to provide organizations with an affordable, safe, and supportive space to elevate mental health and well-being. Through this platform, she drives peak performance, unlocks exponential productivity, reduces sick leave, boosts employee retention, and delivers powerful, data-driven insights that optimize both departmental and organizational success. Recognized globally as a Top Healthcare Thought Leader, Dr. Hanan Selim continues to inspire and lead transformative change at the intersection of health, leadership, and sustainable innovation.



MS. ZAKIYA PATEL

Vice President of the Emirates Speech Language Pathology Society (ESLPS)

Zakkiya graduated from the University of Witwatersrand with a B. A (Speech Therapy and Audiology), Masters in Early Childhood Intervention from the University of Pretoria and a certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). She is currently working in Tawam Hospital as Team Leader of Speech Language Therapist. Zakkiya has experience working with a variety of populations in both acute care and outpatients. Her areas of interest include early intervention and dysphagia. She is an advocate for early intervention and is passionate about working with patients and their families to promote social, emotional and behavioural health.



CHANTALE ISHAC

Founder of Brainspotting Middle East & North Africa

Chantale Ishac is an internationally renowned trauma specialist and founder of Brainspotting Middle East & North Africa, spearheading the growth of Brainspotting, a powerful neuroscience-based trauma therapy, in the MENA region. With global expertise spanning two decades across Australasia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, Chantale has pioneered culturally responsive interventions and trauma healing services. From founding non-profits to working with elite performers and leading trauma initiatives for displaced communities, her lens is of culturally attuned innovation and compassion. Awarded 'Young Alumni for Outstanding Achievement' from the University of Sydney, recognised as a Health Science Thought Leader, and Sydney Health Leaders invited speaker on multiple occasions, she presents frequently at conferences internationally on trauma, addiction, performance, and treatment interventions. Under the direction of Brainspotting founder Dr. David Grand, she is the first Brainspotting Trainer (in training) in MENA, training local practitioner communities to make advanced trauma therapy widely accessible.



DR. ALYAA AL SHEHHI

Senior Social Specialist at Zayed Authority for People of Determination

Senior Social Specialist Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Ph.D. in Development Policies master's degrees Business Administration Family Counseling & Social Work Bachelor's degree in Social Work professional diplomas Marital Counseling Family Counseling Behavior Modification Personality Understanding Professional Diploma Project "Community Empowerment for People of Determination" "In My Voice, I Tell It" training programs human development, management, and family counseling empowering people of determination and their families positive and lasting impact



DR. MEHNAZ ZAFAR ALI

Consultant Psychiatrist, Community Mental Health Services at Al Amal Psychiatry Hospital

Dr. Mehnaz Zafar Ali is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical lead for Community Psychiatry Services at Al Amal hospital, under Emirates Health Services (EHS). She also serves as Associate professor of Psychiatry at University of Sharjah and Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid University. She has accomplished her MD in Psychiatry, MRCPsych from UK and American Board Certification in Community Psychiatry. Her extensive contributions to global mental health advocacy are reflected in her international roles as Director at Large at the World Federation of Mental Health and middle eastern representative for the World Health Organization. Dr. Zafar has been elected as Co-Chair of Women Mental Health section at World Psychiatry Association (WPA) and Board member of Rehabilitation Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. Her dedication to the field of medical education and research is demonstrated through her role on the International Advisory Board of the Journal of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences and as the accreditation surveyor for the fellowship programs at National Institute for Health specialties, UAE. In addition, she leads the Behavioral health information system at EHS, spearheading the development of digital mental health solutions by integrating cutting-edge technologies with evidence-based practices.



DR. BAWISH EJAZ

Occupational Therapist at American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology



Bawish Ejaz Ali is highly accomplished Pediatric Occupational Therapist with over a decade of clinical experience across the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. I am completing Master of Science in Advancing Practice (Sensory Integration) from Sheffield Hallam University (UK) and is a licensed practitioner with the Department of Health (UAE), HCPC (UK), Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT), and World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). My expertise lies in the assessment and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), ADHD, global developmental delay, and sensory processing dysfunctions. With advanced certification in Sensory Integration, she delivers evidence-informed interventions using neuroaffirming, play-based, and family-centered approaches. I held leading clinical roles at institutions such as Oxford Health NHS Trust (UK), Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City (SSMC), Danat Al Emarat Hospital, and currently serves at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology (ACPN) in Abu Dhabi. My interdisciplinary practice spans neonatal and pediatric rehabilitation, reflex integration, ADL training, feeding therapy, and sensory-based interventions for emotional regulation. In parallel with clinical work, I am conducting postgraduate research focusing on parental awareness and understanding of sensory integration differences in neurodivergent children in the UAE. My research interests include health education, early intervention, and cross-cultural approaches to family-centered care. I am passionate advocate for inclusion, clinical excellence, and professional education, regularly contributing to parent training workshops, CME events, and community engagement initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sensory health and developmental support needs.



MS. SALWA AL SAEDI

Allied Health Manager for Sakina



Salwa Saeed Ali Kharbash Alsaedi Allied health Manager Sakina Speech language pathologist with a Master degree from the University of Sydney Australia. Salwa is specialized in speech disorders, language disorders, feeding disorder and communication disorders with experience in different service delivery both inpatient and outpatient services. 1. Took part in licensing department in HAAD. 2. Co-chair of the speech pathology committee SEHA. 3. Specialized in speech therapy for oncology. 4. Taking part with the UAE University speech and language therapy program.



DR. ARAM HASAN

Consultant psychiatrist at the American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology, Dubai



Psychiatrist & Consultant at ACPN Adjunct Professor Assistant in CMHS at UAEU Trauma- psychotherapist, supervisor and trainer, EMDR therapist Transcultural expert and trainer, in the Netherlands, UAE Lecturer at various international conferences and European universities in the Netherlands, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and in Belgium, the UAE, Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine, etc Founder of the Psychiatrists without Borders Foundation and CoTeam MHC and academy in NL Holder of copyright of intervention and diagnostic and intervention: "OMBF", "I-Toolbox And treatment therapy, "Lifeline book method" Consultant psychiatrist and trauma psychotherapist. Dutch Board-certified in psychiatry at Erasmus MC in the Netherlands I have over 20 years of professional experience in the Netherlands and more than 5 years in the UAE. A member of various health associations, such as the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) Former board member and current member of the Netherlands Psychiatric Association (NVvP), as well as NtVP (ESTSS) and VVAA "I have participated in numerous research studies and have published multiple articles in English, Dutch, Russian, Kurdish, and Arabic. Additionally, I have contributed several chapters to educational books and have lectured at universities in the Netherlands, Belgium, the UAE, and Syria. I have also participated in and presented on various television programs." My passion is to spread knowledge and improve culturally oriented mental health care.



AHMED ALNUAIMI

Business Administration student specializing in Accounting at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University



Ahmed Alnuaimi

Ahmed Alnuaimi is a prominent figure in the UAE, known for his legal and political activism. He has been a director of the Eslah Society and has been involved in various political movements advocating for reforms in the UAE. Alnuaimi has faced significant legal challenges, including a conviction in absentia for 15 years of prison time and being included in the government's terror list. He has also been a director at DEWA, Nawah Energy Company, and ADNOC, where he has contributed to various energy sector developments.



DR. FAISAL NAWAZ

Psychiatry resident physician and researcher at Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital

Dr. Faisal Nawaz

Dr. Faisal Nawaz is a resident physician at Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital in Dubai, where he focuses on the intersection of research, technology, and global wellbeing. He has a strong academic background, having completed his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Surgery from Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Dubai. Dr. Nawaz has over 60 published articles and book chapters in medical education, digital health, and social media research. He co-founded the Global Remote Research Scholars Program, where he mentors and publishes with scholars across different countries. His work includes creating a global network at the intersection of research, medtech, and wellbeing, and he is involved in the development of the world's first healthcare metaverse, Aimeris.



PROF. NIDAL TOURKMANI

Cardiologist, Consultant
at the European Medical Association Board

Dr Nidal Tourkmani Consultant and Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prehabilitation at the EMA Board Cardiologist, Responsible of Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit ("Mons. Giosuè Calaciura Clinic" Catania-Italy) Cardiologist, Consultant Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit ("Mons. Giosuè Calaciura Clinic" Catania-Italy) Cardiologist, Consultant and Responsible of the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Cardiovascular Prevention Service (Diagnostica Cardiovascolare Del Dr. Salvatore Gibiino S.r.L.Catania-Italy) Perform Consultant of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit (Cardiology-ARNAS Garibaldi-Prsesidio "Centro" Catania-Italy) Coordinator of the Italian Association of Hospital Cardiologists (ANMCO) working group on Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation - (Sicily/Italy) Cardiologist, Consultant (Guangzhou-China) Member of the Working Group on Cardiac Rehabilitation-Italian Society of Cardiology Past-President of Italian Association for Cardiovascular Prevention, Rehabilitation and Epidemiology – Sicily (Italy)



DR. NARGES SHEIKHANSARI

Executive Advisor & Public Health Expert

Dr. Narges Sheikhsari is a public health executive with over a decade of experience in various global health affairs. While her main area of focus is developing policies and implementing strategies for healthcare transformation, her expertise spans population health and longevity, research, health behavior change and digital health and innovation. Dr. Sheikhsari has successfully led significant public health programs, influencing policy at national and international levels.



DR. MARIAM HALAWANI

Art Psychotherapist at ATIC Psychological & Counselling Center

Mariam is a US trained art psychotherapist and has an MA in Art Therapy from NYU, New York. Her clinical experience includes working with clients in psychiatric, medical, educational and clinical settings in different countries including the US, Italy and the UAE. She has a special interest in working with adolescents and young adults experiencing psychological distress, suicidal ideation, self-harm and/or identity confusion. Being born and raised in the Middle East, Mariam's expertise also lies in supporting Arab families in navigating multigenerational patterns, trauma and difficult relational dynamics. She is passionate about bridging generational gaps and different cultural and ideological perspectives that can sometimes surface in Arab families. Mariam is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in International Psychology in order to expand her clinical skills beyond borders. She is a published author and contributor to art psychotherapy journals and books. Her research focus includes vulnerable and stigmatized groups and the use of art psychotherapy services as a form of support. Mariam is also a part time lecturer and has presented in international and regional mental health conferences.



DR. NATALIA GOMEZ

Art Therapist
and Licensed Psychologist



Natalia Gómez-Carlier, PhD, is a transpersonal psychologist and board-certified art therapist with over 25 years of international experience in Bogotá, Chicago, New York, Muscat, and Dubai. She specializes in integrating Western psychology with Indigenous wisdom and cultural perspectives, making her approach both holistic and deeply personalized. Natalia holds a PhD in Integral and Transpersonal Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies, a master's in art therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a psychology degree from Universidad de Los Andes. Her work centers on using the therapeutic process, creativity, and art therapy to foster healing, integration, and personal growth, with a special focus on the intersection of creativity, mental health, and spirituality. As the founder and former president of the Colombian Art Therapy Association, Natalia is a leader in advancing art therapy education and practice. She has trained mental health professionals, led courses, researched and written multiple peer-reviewed publications, and lectured at universities worldwide. Her research and presentations—spanning topics like working with parents, managing anxiety and stress, decolonizing art therapy, and the role of spirituality in psychotherapy—have reached global audiences. Natalia's therapeutic approach is enriched by her own journey of Jungian analysis, exploration of Indigenous therapies, and yoga certification (300 hours, Jivamukti Yoga, India). Fluent in Spanish and English, she is dedicated to supporting children, teens, and adults through transformative, culturally sensitive care and to continue to expand the reach of art therapy and transpersonal psychology worldwide.



DR. SARA POWELL

Art Psychotherapist and Director of ATIC Psychological
& Counselling Center



Sara is from the UK, a Third Culture Kid/Adult who grew up in the Gulf. She holds a PhD in International Psychology, with a specialization in Trauma, from Chicago USA. Sara is a registered psychotherapist (MBACP) with BACP UK, and a registered art psychotherapist with HCPC UK and BAAT UK. Sara holds a MA in art psychotherapy and a qualification in supervision through CPCAB UK. Sara is an experienced psychotherapist with 15 years of clinical experience. She has worked with diverse communities. She is passionate about supporting the mental well-being of women and children. As a mother of three young children, she identified a significant gap in perinatal and postnatal mental health services within the region. This insight inspired her to establish ATIC's Early Intervention and Development services, which have since become a cornerstone of the practice. Her growing focus is on trauma and the integration of non-verbal, bodily, and sensory-based therapeutic approaches, alongside culturally attuned, faith-based interventions that honor clients' spiritual frameworks as part of the healing process. Sara has been involved in various consulting projects with government agencies in Singapore, UAE, and Qatar in the areas of forensic, juvenile and offenders, addiction, eating disorders, and within medical settings and schools. Sara also collaborates with the likes of Cornell Medical School, Qatar, and Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar (VCU-Q). Her involvement includes research, lecturing and training. Sara is a core lecturer on the level 6 diploma 'Creative Therapeutic Practice for Children and Young People' in collaboration with VCU-Q. Sara has authored numerous publications and is the editor of 'Making its Mark: Art Therapy in the Arabian Peninsula', a first for such publication's showcasing the works of pioneering art therapists in the region. Sara has presented at regional and international conferences and serves as a member of the community outreach committee at the Middle East Psychological Association (MEPA). She also served as an invited speaker at the Global Women's Forum in Dubai in 2020. Special Interests: Trauma International Psychology Women's health: including perinatal and postnatal concerns Children and young people: early intervention, development and neurodevelopmental concerns Consultancy Therapeutic Approach: Sara's approach considers a biopsychosocial model of care. Her approach is tailored to the needs of each client. Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Attachment-Based Therapy Mentalization-Based Therapy Trauma-Focused Therapy Culturally Sensitive Therapy



DR. RASSIL GHAZZAOUI

Lead Clinical Psychologist – Complex Psychiatric Disorders,
The Valens Clinic

“Rassil Ghazzaoui is a Lebanese-Canadian Licensed Clinical Psychologist. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Cognitive Science from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and her Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University, New York. Rassil is currently the Senior Clinical Psychologist and Lead Complex Mental Health Disorders at the Valens clinic. Prior to joining the Valens clinic, Ms. Ghazzaoui served as the Director of the Psychology Department at the American Hospital of Dubai (AHD). She also worked at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) in Beirut, Lebanon as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the department of Psychiatry and in the Bariatric Unit in the Surgery department. Ms. Ghazzaoui specializes in Psychosis and eating disorders and has an interest in promoting mental health awareness in the Arab world”



DR. DMITRY CHERNOUKHOV

Deputy Director in Ural Institute of Humanities of Ural
Federal University

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The background is a deep blue with a subtle, glowing network of light blue dots and lines, resembling a molecular or digital structure. A large, semi-transparent light blue circle is positioned in the center-right, containing the number '08' in a white, serif font.

08

CONFERENCE
ABSTRACT'S

REHABILITATION OF CHRONIC SMOKERS: A COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIFACETED APPROACH INTEGRATING BEHAVIOURAL, PHARMACOLOGIC, AND HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

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Smoking cessation, harm reduction, nicotine addiction, e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, snus, heated tobacco, public health, rehabilitation, tobacco control, motivational interviewing

HOW TO CITE

Rehabilitation of Chronic Smokers: A Comprehensive, Multifaceted Approach Integrating Behavioural, Pharmacologic, and Harm Reduction Strategies. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



A NARRATIVELY INFORMED PSYCHOSOCIAL GROUP WORK PROGRAMME FOR PATIENTS IN PRIVATE INPATIENT PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

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KEYWORDS

psychosocial support, group therapy, physical rehabilitation, Tree of Life, narrative therapy, interdisciplinary care

HOW TO CITE

A Narratively Informed Psychosocial Group Work Programmed for Patients in Private Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

The psychosocial team within an acute interdisciplinary unit converged to come up with group work programmed. The physical rehabilitation unit caters to patients recovering from medical conditions that warrant intervention from physicians, cognitive therapists, physical therapists and psychiatrists. In the wake of an influx of diagnoses such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome in the post-covid era, a narratively informed group model, targeting high functioning patients who could harness the strength of community, was formed in August 2021. Theoretically based on Ncube's Tree of Life with influence from Yalom's Curative Factors and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy - seven group sessions were developed using the tree as a metaphor. Session one focused on roots and identity, session two represented the ground, facilitating a present orientation to being in rehabilitation. Session three was about loss and challenges, emphasizing the storms. Session four was about life after hospital represented by branches, session five and six were about developing coping skills in communities which are-the trunk and fruit, and session seven is an overall evaluation. The aim of the group with the seven sessions outlined above was to provide a supportive and therapeutic environment for patients to develop coping skills while in rehabilitation. Additionally, about making sense of their diagnosis and adjusting to limitations. It further aimed to facilitate hope and the capability to reintegrate into community with meaning and hope. Implications for practice are that there is an increasing need for physical rehabilitation as people live longer and face complex disorders that are not remedied in acute hospital settings. Further research is needed to explore the efficacy of the programmed and to standardize the service offering in South Africa. In addition, to navigate the application of the Tree of Life group approach cross-regionally in similar clinical settings.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EATING DISORDERS

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early intervention, eating disorders, anorexia, psychological therapy, emerging adulthood, FREED

HOW TO CITE

Early intervention for young people with eating disorders. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).

ABSTRACT

Eating disorders represent serious mental health conditions that are associated with significant physical, psychosocial, and economic burdens. These disorders frequently emerge during adolescence, a critical period for brain maturation and psychosocial development. Early intervention is essential to maximize the likelihood of recovery. This presentation will outline the development and key findings of the First Episode Rapid Early Intervention for Eating Disorders (FREED) service in the United Kingdom. Evaluations of the FREED model have demonstrated promising outcomes, including reduced wait times, improved treatment engagement, and enhanced clinical recovery compared to standard care pathways. Optimal care necessitates the involvement of skilled, multidisciplinary teams capable of addressing nutritional, physical, and psychological factors through individualized, lifespan-oriented approaches.



SILENT SYMBOLS, SPOKEN STORIES: THEMATIC INSIGHTS FROM AN ART THERAPY PROGRAM WITH MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

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KEYWORDS

Migrant workers, art therapy, trauma-informed care, thematic analysis, trauma, relocation, mental health intervention, migration stress, marginalized populations, community-based programs, resources, psychosocial support systems.

HOW TO CITE

Silent Symbols, Spoken Stories: Thematic Insights from an Art Therapy Program with Migrant Construction Workers. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



NARRATIVE REVIEW OF SPASTICITY MANAGEMENT IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Spasticity, Baclofen pump, Intrathecal, Rhizotomy, outcome

HOW TO CITE

Narrative Review of Spasticity Management in the United Arab Emirates. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN SPEECH THERAPY: BRIDGING COMMUNICATION ACROSS CULTURES

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Cultural competency, linguistic diversity, culturally responsive practice, inclusive care

HOW TO CITE

Cultural Competency in Speech Therapy: Bridging Communication Across Cultures. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



REHABILITATION MEDICINE AS A PRACTICAL APPROACH IN THE TREATMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

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KEYWORDS

Cardiac Rehabilitation, secondary prevention, patient care, functional status, quality of life, exercise, health care advantages

HOW TO CITE

Rehabilitation medicine as a practical approach in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases to reduce mortality, morbidity and improve the quality of life and the quality of health systems. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) represents a cardiology subspecialty that is devoted to the care of cardiac patients, early and long term after an acute event. CR, as a multidisciplinary care pathway, aims at improving both quality of life and prognosis through risk and prognostic stratification, clinical stabilization and optimization of therapy, management of comorbidities, treatment of disability, and the provision of sustained long-term preventive and rehabilitative services. The mission of CR has changed over time. From being centered on the acute phase, health care of cardiac patients is increasingly involving the long-term chronic phase.

Cardiac rehabilitation remains underutilized around the world despite proven benefits in reducing morbidity and mortality, multiple Class I, Level of Evidence: A guideline recommendation, and performance measures supporting its use. Less than one-quarter of eligible patients attend even 1 session of cardiac rehabilitation. However, the degree of this underutilization is not uniform across the world. Cardiac rehabilitation programs are cost-effective for healthcare systems due to their ability to reduce hospital readmissions, improve patient outcomes, and potentially lower long-term healthcare costs. They achieve this by addressing various factors that contribute to cardiovascular disease and its complications, leading to improved quality of life and reduced burden on healthcare resources.

THE ROLE OF DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING IN PREVENTING AND MANAGING POST-TREATMENT BREAST CANCER COMPLICATIONS: AN INTEGRATED PERSPECTIVE FOR REHABILITATORS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS

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Diagnostic Imaging, Post-Treatment, Breast Cancer, Rehabilitators, Psychologists

HOW TO CITE

The Role of Diagnostic Imaging in Preventing and Managing Post-Treatment Breast Cancer Complications: An Integrated Perspective for Rehabilitators and Psychologists. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

This presentation explores the crucial role of diagnostic imaging in the comprehensive management of breast cancer patients' post-treatment, offering an integrated perspective relevant to both rehabilitators and psychologists. For rehabilitators, imaging techniques such as ultrasound, MRI, and lymphoscintigraphy provide invaluable tools for early identification and precise monitoring of complications, including lymphedema, post-radiation fibrosis, scar adhesions, and musculoskeletal dysfunctions resulting from surgery and radiotherapy, thereby directly guiding and optimizing rehabilitation interventions. For psychologists, the session emphasizes the psychological impact of complication-related fears, showing how diagnostic clarity, even when reassuring, can reduce patient anxiety, while also addressing the influence of post-reconstruction imaging on body image, self-perception, and overall psychological well-being. Key aspects include imaging-based assessment of lymphedema, monitoring of post-radiotherapy tissue changes, radiological evaluation of musculoskeletal pain and functional limitations, and the critical importance of a shared language and interdisciplinary communication among radiologists, rehabilitators, and psychologists to ensure truly holistic patient care.

ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY IN THE REHABILITATION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SURVIVORS

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Animal-Assisted Intervention, Therapy Animals, Therapy Partners, Trauma Recovery, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Child Abuse, Rehabilitation, Mental Health

HOW TO CITE

Animal-Assisted Therapy in the Rehabilitation of Violence and Abuse Survivors. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).

ABSTRACT

The abstract highlights the integration of Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) in the rehabilitation of survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse at the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC), the UAE's first licensed non-profit shelter. AAT is a complementary therapeutic approach that supports mental, emotional, social, and cognitive well-being. Survivors of violence often present with PTSD, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, flashbacks, and low self-esteem. Research on human-animal bonding demonstrates that interactions with therapy animals reduce stress, anxiety, and loneliness, while enhancing self-worth, psychological well-being, and emotional stability. Therapy animals—including dogs, cats, horses, birds, turtles, hamsters, and ducks—were integrated into the rehabilitation programs. The human-animal bond facilitated spontaneous communication, comfort, and reduced isolation, especially for clients residing in the shelter. Animals often acted as catalysts in therapy, enhancing emotional regulation, social interaction, mental stimulation, and reducing stress-induced behaviors. Observations of client interactions and their reciprocal responses suggest that Animal-Assisted Therapy fosters emotional regulation, improves social communication skills, reduces symptoms of anxiety and PTSD, and enhances self-esteem and overall psychological well-being. These findings support the use of AAT as an effective complementary intervention within rehabilitation programs, offering a holistic and compassionate approach to the healing and empowerment of survivors of violence and abuse.



PRACTICE-BASED EVIDENCE IN REHABILITATION: EXPLORING AN EMERGING THEME THROUGH A NARRATIVE REVIEW

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Evidence Based Practice, Rehabilitation, Multidisciplinary work

HOW TO CITE

Practice-Based Evidence vs. Evidence-Based Practice: Navigating Clinical Decision-Making in a Global Rehabilitation Context. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

Introduction / Background: Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the gold standard in rehabilitation, yet client-centred relies on practice-based evidence (PBE) — knowledge drawn from experience, reflection, and peer exchange. Sometimes described as “clinical intuition,” PBE can be invaluable when patient needs or contexts fall outside the scope of formal research. Aim / Objectives: To explore how PBE is understood and applied in rehabilitation, and its relationship with EBP. Objectives are to: 1. Review definitions and frameworks for PBE. 2. Investigate its relationship and tensions with EBP. 3. Identify practical examples of PBE in multidisciplinary practice. Methods: This presentation is motivated by early findings from my ongoing study, “Exploring the perceptions and experiences of South African SLTs regarding their use of social media as a tool for accessing clinical knowledge.” To explore this emerging theme further, a narrative review will be conducted with relevant research articles. Articles on PBE, tacit knowledge, and clinical reasoning in rehabilitation will be screened and synthesised thematically. Conclusion / Implications: Preliminary analysis from my primary research suggests that PBE significantly influences how clinicians adapt information from diverse sources when EBP alone is insufficient. Insights from both the literature and these early findings will inform discussion on how PBE can be recognised, refined, and intentionally integrated with EBP to strengthen patient-centred care.

PERIMENOPAUSAL MENTAL HEALTH: DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES AND TREATMENT PATHWAYS

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Women's mental health, Perimenopause, Psychopharmacology, Hormonal therapy

HOW TO CITE

Perimenopausal Mental Health: Diagnostic Challenges and Treatment Pathways. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



LONGEVITY-FOCUSED REHABILITATION: A NEW PARADIGM FOR HEALTHSPAN RECOVERY

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longevity, functional medicine, epigenetics, healthspan medicine, rehabilitation

HOW TO CITE

Longevity-Focused Rehabilitation: A New Paradigm for Healthspan Recovery. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

The current model of rehabilitation in medicine primarily focuses on restoring patients to baseline functional status following injury, illness, or surgical intervention; however, in the era of longevity science, we are presented with the opportunity to design rehabilitation pathways that extend beyond recovery toward regeneration and healthspan extension. This 10-minute presentation introduces a longevity-focused rehabilitation model that integrates evidence-based lifestyle medicine interventions targeting inflammation, mitochondrial function, metabolic flexibility, and neuroplasticity to accelerate recovery while simultaneously reversing key drivers of biological aging. Drawing on insights from epigenetic biomarkers, functional diagnostics, and precision lifestyle protocols, the talk will highlight how rehabilitation can evolve into a proactive, biologically informed process aligned with emerging global health priorities, shifting healthcare from reactive disease treatment to proactive longevity promotion. By embedding personalized, upstream interventions into rehabilitation, clinicians can reduce recurrence risk, enhance recovery speed, and improve resilience at both the cellular and systemic levels. Designed for rehabilitation professionals, physicians, and health system leaders, this presentation will provide practical insights into transforming rehabilitation programs into high-impact drivers of healthspan, empowering patients not only to recover but to emerge biologically stronger and more functionally independent than before.

BRIDGING GAPS IN UNDERSTANDING: PARENTAL AWARENESS OF SENSORY INTEGRATION CHALLENGES AND THE URGENT NEED FOR NEUROAFFIRMING SUPPORT IN ABU DHABI

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Neuroaffirming, sensory integration, parental awareness

HOW TO CITE

Bridging Gaps in Understanding: Parental Awareness of Sensory Integration Challenges and the Urgent Need for Neuroaffirming Support in Abu Dhabi. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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ABSTRACT

In the rapidly evolving landscape of pediatric neurodevelopmental care, sensory integration differences remain widely misunderstood, particularly in the Gulf region where cultural perceptions, educational systems, and healthcare pathways are still catching up with global neurodiversity discourse. For many families in Abu Dhabi, navigating their child's sensory needs is an isolating experience, social stigma, and inconsistent professional guidance. Method and result summary: This study investigates the current level of parental awareness and understanding of sensory integration challenges among parents of neurodivergent children aged 3–8 years in Abu Dhabi. It also explores how families cope, seek help, and interpret their children's behaviours in the absence of widespread neuroaffirming support systems. Using a mixed-methods design, the research draws from both survey data and qualitative interviews with parents across varied socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Preliminary findings reveal that while many parents intuitively recognize sensory-related difficulties, there is limited conceptual understanding of what these behaviours signify. The absence of consistent, affirming language and support has left families reliant on fragmented advice or school-based referrals, often after a child's difficulties have escalated. However, exposure to neuroaffirming and sensory-informed approaches significantly altered parental insight, fostering empathy, acceptance, and proactive caregiving strategies. Conclusion and Implication: The study calls for urgent action: integrating neuroaffirming practices into Abu Dhabi's healthcare, therapy, and education sectors is not just best practice, it is a human necessity. By shifting from a deficit model to one that validates sensory and neurological differences, professionals can empower parents, reduce stigma, and support neurodivergent children in thriving rather than surviving. This presentation offers a roadmap for change one that begins with understanding, centers lived experience and ends with systemic transformation in support of neurodiversity.

PEDIATRIC REHABILITATION: INTEGRATING ART THERAPY, EARLY SCREENING AND BRIDGING MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE FOR RARE GENETIC DISEASES AND AUTISM IN THE GULF

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Early assessment, early intervention, pediatric rehabilitation, art therapy, rare genetic diseases, autism spectrum disorder, GCC

HOW TO CITE

Pediatric Rehabilitation: Integrating Art Therapy, Early Screening and Bridging Multidisciplinary Care for Rare Genetic Diseases and Autism in the Gulf. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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ABSTRACT

Early assessment and timely psychological support are critical to pediatric rehabilitation, particularly for conditions of high prevalence and social impact in Gulf communities such as rare genetic diseases and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), more than 270 genetic diseases have been documented, approximately 60% inherited through autosomal recessive patterns, with birth defects ranking as the fourth leading cause of death (Al-Gazali & Ali, 2010; Christianson et al., 2006). Across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), ASD prevalence continues to rise, with rates reported at 29 per 10,000 in the UAE, 1.4 per 10,000 in Oman, and 1.14% in Qatar (Alrehaili, 2023; Fouad Alshaban et al., 2019). Despite these figures, early screening, timely diagnosis, and culturally adapted interventions remain inconsistent, hindered by fragmented services, stigma, and limited cross-sector collaboration (Hajat et al., 2012). Drawing on clinical practice across Qatar, the UAE, and Singapore, this presentation outlines an integrated rehabilitation model combining early, culturally informed assessment with art therapy and other expressive non-verbal psychotherapeutic approaches. These methods facilitate emotional expression, strengthen ego resilience, and support developmental milestones in children with limited verbal capacity (Slayton et al., 2010). Case studies demonstrate creative strategies adapted to local cultural and religious norms, promote trust, engagement, and family participation. The model emphasizes family inclusion, training for organizations, medical doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals to recognize psychosocial needs utilizing creative methods, integrate therapeutic principles into daily care, and collaborating effectively. Such capacity-building, coupled with coordinated family and community involvement, ensures continuity of support across medical, educational, and social systems. This multidisciplinary and multi-pronged approach bridges the gap between physical and psychological rehabilitation, improving quality of life, resilience, and long-term outcomes for medical and developmentally vulnerable children particularly in the Gulf. Moving forward, aligning these strategies with national health priorities, such as Qatar's National Autism Plan and UAE public health frameworks, while fostering cross-border collaboration with public and private sectors across GCC countries and beyond will strengthen early screening, intervention, treatment effectiveness, sustainability, policy integration, and regional impact.

CHRONIC PAIN AND GENDER: BIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR PERSONALIZED PAIN MEDICINE

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Chronic Pain, Patient centered personalised care, genere medicine

HOW TO CITE

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Managing Chronic Pain in Critically Ill Patients. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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ABSTRACT

Chronic pain is a prevalent and complex complication among critically ill patients, significantly impacting quality of life, functional status, and mental health. Its management is particularly challenging due to the multifaceted nature of pain, which involves biological, psychological, and social dimensions. Traditional approaches focusing solely on pharmacologic interventions often fall short in addressing the diverse needs of this patient population. A multidisciplinary approach, integrating pain specialists, physicians from various disciplines, psychologists, physical therapists, and social workers, has emerged as a cornerstone in the effective management of chronic pain in critically ill and recovery-phase patients. This model emphasizes personalized care, combining pharmacological strategies with psychological therapy, physical rehabilitation, and social support, aiming to reduce pain intensity, improve functional outcomes, and enhance psychological wellbeing. This review highlights the importance and principles of multidisciplinary pain management frameworks specific to the critically ill population. It explores the current evidence supporting integrated interventions, discusses the challenges in implementation, and emphasizes the need for comprehensive assessment tools that capture the multidimensional aspects of pain. The role of advanced pain assessment techniques, non-pharmacologic therapies, and patient-centered goal setting are underscored as critical components of effective treatment. Additionally, this paper advocates early intervention and ongoing reassessment tailored to individual patient trajectories, fostering improved recovery and quality of life. Recognizing the complexity of chronic pain following critical illness, adopting a multidisciplinary, holistic approach is essential for optimal patient outcomes, emphasizing both pain relief and functional rehabilitation within critical care and post-acute settings.

PHYSIOTHERAPY ACROSS THE PERINATAL SPECTRUM

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Prenatal Rehabilitation, Postnatal Physiotherapy, Perinatal Health, Pelvic Floor Recovery, Maternal Wellness

HOW TO CITE

Physiotherapy Across the Perinatal Spectrum. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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ABSTRACT

The perinatal period presents a critical time for a woman's physical health, functional ability, and overall well-being. Physical challenges that demand specialized rehabilitation strategies will arise. Physiotherapy encompasses both prenatal and postnatal phases, during pregnancy, and post-delivery. It plays a vital role in optimizing maternal outcomes by addressing musculoskeletal changes, preventing injury, and facilitating safe recovery after childbirth. Physiotherapy works on restoring pelvic floor and core function, reducing pain, and preventing long-term complications such as diastasis recti and incontinence. This presentation explores evidence-based physiotherapy interventions tailored to the unique demands of pregnancy and the postpartum period, including core and pelvic floor rehabilitation, postural correction, safe exercise prescription, and strategies for pain management. This session will outline evidence-based assessment tools, targeted exercise interventions, and early rehabilitation approaches tailored to each stage of the perinatal journey. Case studies will highlight practical applications in preventing complications such as diastasis recti, pelvic girdle pain, and postpartum incontinence, while promoting functional independence and return to activity. Attendees will gain insight into assessment tools, early intervention techniques, and multidisciplinary collaboration models that support both maternal and neonatal health. Through proactive, individualized care, physiotherapists play a vital role in ensuring strong, safe, and healthy beginnings for both mother and child. By empowering women through targeted rehabilitation, physiotherapists can bridge the gap between pregnancy, recovery, and long-term physical wellness.

INTEGRATING PEAK EXPERIENCES THROUGH ART THERAPY: ANCHORS OF HEALING IN TRAUMA

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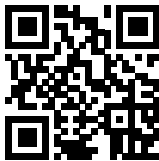
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KEYWORDS

art therapy, art-based research (ABR), integration, interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA), peak experiences, transpersonal psychology, trauma

HOW TO CITE

Integrating Peak Experiences Through Art Therapy: Anchors of Healing in Trauma. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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ABSTRACT

Psychological integration is central to healing yet often overlooked in clinical practice, especially in trauma-informed and culturally diverse contexts. This paper offers insights into defining integration and explores how integrating peak experiences that occur after psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, and trauma-related symptoms, can facilitate psychological healing. These findings are based on a doctoral study that examined the lived experience of integrating peak experiences through art therapy, using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and Arts-Based Research (ABR). In a doctoral study, participants engaged in semi-structured interviews, interwoven with two art therapy sessions to access and integrate embodied memory, emotion, and symbolic material. Of the thirteen participants, five explored peak experiences that occurred after significant psychological pain, trauma, and anxiety. This paper focuses on these five participants and the findings that illustrate how the integration of peak experiences can become essential in dealing with trauma. Findings revealed that the creative process within art therapy catalyzed a movement from emotional fragmentation to coherence, fostering resilience, clarity, and deeper self-awareness. The findings highlight how integration is not merely retrospective meaning-making, but a transformative rehabilitation process that alters one's worldview and strengthens relational and intrapersonal connections. Participants described increased emotional regulation, renewed purpose, and spiritual grounding—outcomes aligned with recovery from depression, anxiety, and trauma. The use of both IPA and ABR methodologies provided access to verbal and non-verbal components of integration, resulting in a practical, culturally informed approach to supporting clients in therapeutic rehabilitation. IPA's idiographic focus and the expressive insights from ABR enable a multidimensional analysis of how peak experiences—often marked by awe, conflict, and ineffability—can be harnessed for growth. This work contributes to innovation in mental health treatment by presenting a model of integration that honors both verbal and non-verbal, personal and collective, cognitive and symbolic dimensions of healing.

AI PSYCHOSIS: WHEN TECHNOLOGY SHAPES DELUSIONAL THINKING

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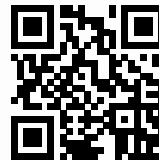
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Artificial Intelligence, Psychosis, Mental Health

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AI Psychosis: When Technology Shapes Delusional Thinking. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



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BEYOND THE STANDARD: CULTURALLY ORIENTED APPROACHES TO TRAUMA AND PTSD AND INTERVENTION

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PTSD, Trauma culturally oriented approaches, EMDR, diagnostic therapy, anxiety and depression

HOW TO CITE

Beyond the Standard: Culturally oriented Approaches to Trauma and PTSD and Intervention. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).

ABSTRACT

In an increasingly multicultural world, the traditional, Western-centric models of trauma diagnosis and intervention often fall short. This presentation explores the latest advancements in trauma treatment, highlighting the critical need for culturally oriented approaches (Co-BEP, Co-EMDR). We will examine how a patient's cultural background, belief system, and social context fundamentally influence the expression and processing of trauma, as well as their response to treatment. This talk provides a comprehensive overview of recent updates in the diagnosis and evidence-based interventions for PTSD and trauma-related disorders. More importantly, it shifts the focus to practical strategies for integrating cultural sensitivity into clinical practice. By moving beyond the standard, we can foster a more inclusive and effective form of care that respects and adapts to the diverse experiences of individuals, ultimately leading to better outcomes for a wider range of patients.



PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL METHODS IN CLINICAL STUDIES AND REHABILITATION

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Psychophysiological methods in clinical studies and rehabilitation. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

The crucial question for medical assessment and, especially, intervention is if the assessment enough specific and sensible and if the intervention is capable to produce a significant improvement in the patient's condition. However, many therapeutic methods have just a little or unknown effectiveness. The gold standard of evidence-based medicine is a large double-blind placebo-controlled study. But, besides the clinical studies organization, it's important to use the most sensitive approach for assessment of patient's condition changes. The neovascularization and other physiological measurements allow us to evaluate even slight differences in the activity of Central or Peripheral Nervous systems, that cannot be detected by behavioural or self-report diagnostic. Moreover, neovascularization is particularly useful for assessment of people with severe mental conditions, which makes verbal report impossible. Objective. We are going to review several valid and reliable ERP paradigms that have been used for evaluation of brain response changes. Furthermore, the emerging approaches will be described. Another useful application of physiological methods is stimulation of nervous system to enhance or suppress the specific neuronal activity. Despite these methods are common practice in many clinics, the last research results provide a great view to improvement the effectiveness of nervous system stimulation methods. We will describe the new approaches for improvement of current methods of brain stimulation.

EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AT ZAYED HIGHER ORGANIZATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION)

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ABSTRACT

Effectiveness of Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs at Zayed Higher Organization for Persons with Disabilities (People of Determination) (An Approach in Light of the Lived Experiences of Beneficiaries with Disabilities) Background This study addresses the effectiveness of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programs implemented at Zayed Higher Organization in Abu Dhabi for persons with disabilities (People of Determination). It explores the extent to which these programs fulfill their intended objectives and contribute to the empowerment and social inclusion of the targeted beneficiaries. Objectives The study aims to: Evaluate the effectiveness of community-based rehabilitation programs in achieving their goals for persons with disabilities. Assess the efficiency of these programs in enhancing social participation and empowerment. Examine the lived experiences of beneficiaries and their families to understand the real impact of the programs. Methodology A qualitative research approach was adopted through in-depth field interviews with people with disabilities (People of Determination) and their families, with a total of 20 interviews for each group. The study also drew on relevant literature and previous research addressing community-based rehabilitation. Results The findings revealed that the programs implemented by Zayed Higher Organization achieved high levels of reintegration, empowerment, and social rehabilitation for people with disabilities. The programs played a crucial and effective role in facilitating the inclusion of people with disabilities into society. Furthermore, their effectiveness significantly contributed to the quality of outcomes, particularly in terms of the integration process. Recommendations The study recommends expanding and updating the rehabilitation operations and programs, incorporating the suggestions provided by beneficiaries during the interviews, and enhancing development and improvement efforts in community-based rehabilitation to address challenges arising from ongoing social changes.

HARM REDUCTION IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

Background The harm reduction paradigm emerged in the 1990s to address injection drug use and was progressively extended to all drug users. This approach has reshaped public health practice, significantly reducing HIV transmission and, more recently, opioid-related overdoses. Methods Through North–South and South–South cooperation, NGOs and patient associations have played a central role in implementing harm reduction strategies. Evidence-based practice and pragmatic policies, including cannabis decriminalization and the introduction of medical cannabis in several countries, have facilitated safer and more controlled use. Results The harm reduction model has demonstrated substantial public health benefits, advancing both individual health outcomes and human rights. Its principles are applicable beyond addictions, with potential relevance in fields such as cardiology, oncology, endocrinology, and neurology. Importantly, the paradigm is now increasingly adopted in countries of the Global South, where prevention has often been neglected in favor of costly technological solutions. Conclusion At a time when health system sustainability is critical, harm reduction offers a balanced, cost-effective, and rights-based approach. The extension of this paradigm beyond addiction medicine may contribute to more equitable and sustainable health development.

EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN: BEYOND SEIZURE CONTROL

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PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY REHABILITATION TEAM MEMBERS TOWARDS RECOVERY-ORIENTED PRACTICES IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

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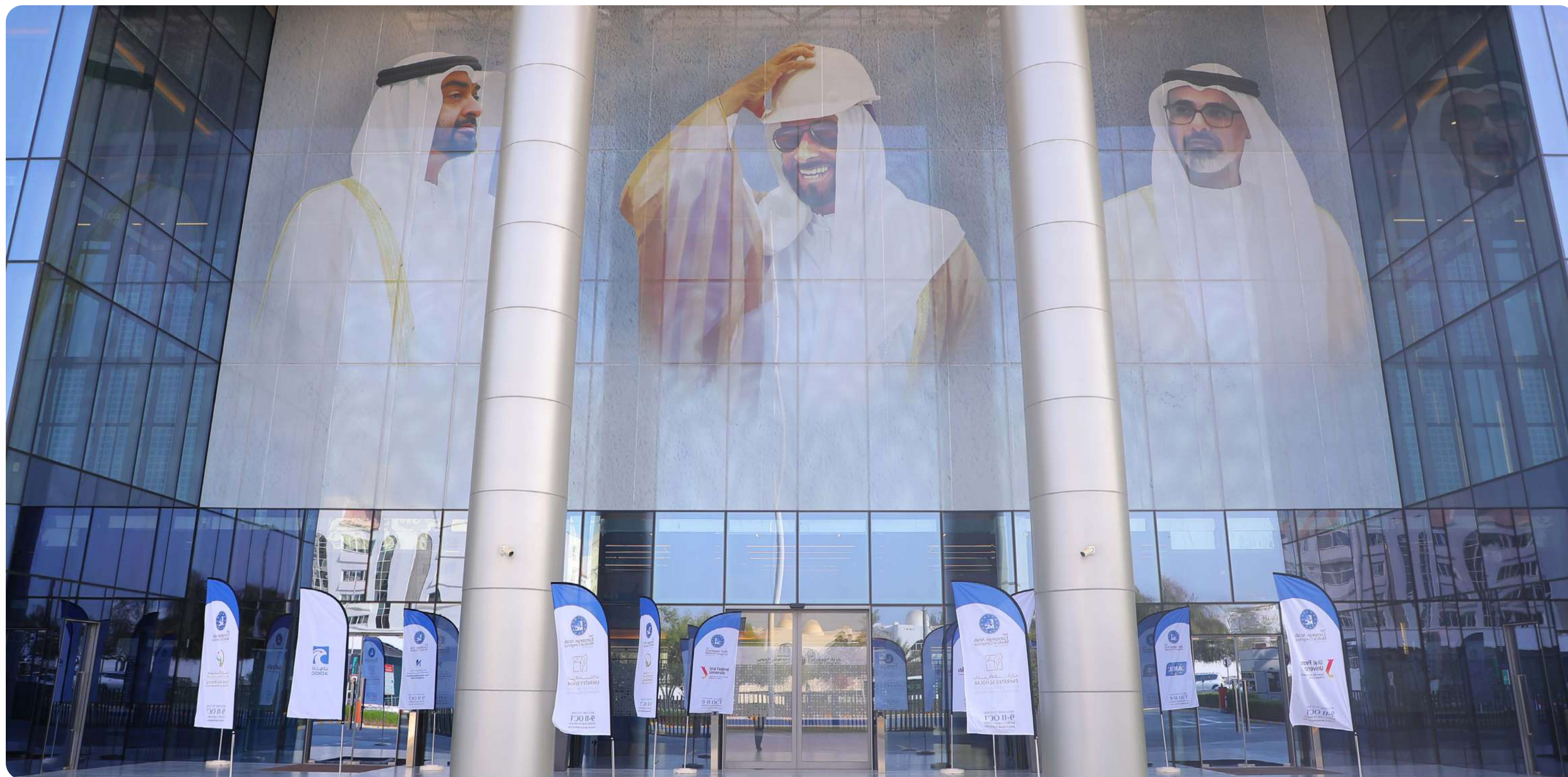
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Perceptions of community rehabilitation team members towards recovery-oriented practices in mental health care. (2025). 2nd European Arab Medical Congress, 1(1).



ABSTRACT

Introduction: Community mental health services are well known to improve continuity of care, improve adherence and prevent rehospitalization for patients with chronic mental illnesses as they are both evidenced based and rehabilitation focused. Provision of services in individual's own living, learning and work environment are known to strengthen families, social networks and communities. **Objectives:** Over two years we have qualitatively assessed the understanding of health care professionals, practices, potential barriers and possible solutions for implementing recovery-oriented practices in mental health care. **Methods:** Semi structured interviews were conducted with 54 health professionals working with users having serious mental illnesses as part of community mental health teams and delivering rehabilitation service to over 1000 service users annually. Qualitative analysis was done for the data. **Results:** 70% mental health staff reported that recovery approaches were largely directed towards resolution of symptoms of mental illnesses and often did not encompass the bio-psycho-social domains of patient's life. 60% health care team members had lesser hope and expectations for users' recovery. **Discussion:** The most common barrier for rehabilitation includes pharmacological focus of treatment, shortage of multidisciplinary teams, limited intersectoral collaboration and treatment approaches seldom assessing person's strengths, needs, abilities and preferences. **Conclusions:** Rehabilitation practices are focused on adaptation of individual and fostering self-efficacy which eventually culminates into regaining independence and community integration. This necessitates health care attitudinal change at policy and strategic level, mobilization of resources, shift of focus to person-centered, strengths-based approaches and respecting users' choices and differences. The model of recovery colleges is cornerstone for establishing rehabilitation practices.



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