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4th Interdisciplinary

World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Transformation - Innovation - Education

April 13-16, 2026

Faculty of Medicine "Ibn Al-Jazzar" - Sousse, Tunisia

Booklet of speakers and organizers

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Prof. MOHAMED BEN DHIAB

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Congress Chair

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Professor of Forensic Medicine since 2013 and Head of the Forensic Medicine Department of Sousse, Former Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs (2018–2024), Former President of the National College of Forensic Medicine (2018–2021) and Director of the Medical Education Training Center of the faculty of medicine of Sousse (2012–2017). Author of over 100 scientific publications, Awarded the Pfizer Award in Medical Pedagogy (2013) and the Sadok Besrouer Excellence Award (2019).



Dr. ADNAN HAMMAD

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Congress Chair

Research, Management & Solutions. In this capacity he oversees global health collaborations and research initiatives and establishes links between researchers and scientists in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region as well as their counterparts in countries with Arab immigrants, such as North America and Europe. Dr. Hammad is the immediate past Senior Director and founder of ACCESS Community Health and Research Center, and Chairman of the National and International Health Research Initiatives. Dr. Hammad is active in academia. He currently serves as an adjunct Clinical Professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, and Public Health Sciences, He is currently serving as the Chair for the 4 th Interdisciplinary World Health Congress in MENA region.



Dr. HASSEN GHANNEM

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Congress Scientific Chair

Dr H assen Ghannem is currently Emeritus Professor of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine Ibn Eljazzar, University of Sousse, Tunisia. He is currently Member of the Africa CDC Advisory Board on NCDs prevention and control in Africa. Graduated with a Master's degree in Community Health from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montreal, Canada, he was Former Professor of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse and Head of the Department of Epidemiology at University Hospital Farhat Hached, Sousse. He was also Senior Advisor for the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) in Geneva.



Dr. BASIM DUBAYBO

Congress Scientific Chair

Dr. Basim A. Dubaybo is Vice Dean for faculty affairs at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

He received his medical education and residency training in internal medicine at American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. He is currently Professor of Medicine at Wayne State University. Dr. Dubaybo received training in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. Basim moved to Detroit in 1987 to join the faculty of Wayne State University School of Medicine and the affiliated Detroit Veterans Affairs Medical Center to become a professor of medicine in 1999. He assumed several leadership positions, including interim chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University's School of Medicine, director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program at Wayne State University's School of Medicine, director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at Providence Hospital, chief of staff of the John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and assistant dean for Veterans Affairs at Wayne State University. Basim is an active member of several professional societies and organizations including ACCESS, Michigan Society for Medical Research, American Thoracic Society, and European Respiratory Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and American College of Physicians. He is the immediate past president of the National Arab American Medical Association, an organization of healthcare providers with 27 chapters across North America. He has more than 40 publications in scientific journals and medical textbooks.



Dr. IMED CHOUCHE

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

MD, Professor of Medical Intensive Care, Faculty of Medicine of Sousse and Farhat Hached University Hospital, Sousse
Vice-Dean of Faculty's Affairs President of Medical Education committee Director of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) department Head of the Medical Intensive Care section Coordinator of postgraduate training programs Member of the Doctoral School Steering Committee (PhD Program Committee for Health Sciences)



Dr. ALI KHAN

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UNMC

Dr. Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH, MBA, is a global health security leader, tenured epidemiologist, and former Assistant Surgeon General (retired) of the U.S. Public Health Service. He is currently the Dean, Richard Holland Presidential Chair, and Tenured Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Nebraska, where he achieved a 4-fold increase in extramural research funding and a 240% increase in student enrollment. Formerly the Director of the CDC's preparedness office, he co-founded the U.S. biodefense program and led or consulted on over 25 international outbreaks, including Ebola, SARS, and Anthrax Bioterrorism. Dr. Khan also serves on the WHO Steering Committee for Global Outbreak Preparedness and Response the board of rare disease drug developer, Intrabio Inc.



Dr. ABLA MEHIO SIBAI

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AUB

Abla Mehio Sibai is Professor of Epidemiology and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Trained in cardiovascular disease epidemiology and social demography, she holds degrees from AUB and a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her extensive research focuses on aging, health, and wellbeing in contexts of conflict and sociopolitical instability, with over 200 published articles. She co-founded Lebanon's Center for Studies on Aging and AUB's University for Seniors, and serves on international advisory bodies, including the WHO Science Council. Her awards include the 2020 L'Oréal U NESCO For Women in Science Award.



Jane Meza

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UNMC

Dr. Meza is Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Senior International Officer at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she leads global engagement initiatives spanning education abroad, international partnerships, and services for international students and scholars. She collaborates with faculty and staff to expand partnerships and promote student and faculty exchanges worldwide. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Biostatistics, Senior Associate Dean of the College of Public Health, and Co-Director of the Biostatistics Shared Resource for the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. Dr. Meza has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications in biostatistics research.



Dr. LAURA MAGANA

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ASPPH

Dr. Laura Magaña is President and CEO of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and Founding President of the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH). With more than 35 years of experience in higher education, she has held senior leadership roles in Mexico and internationally, including Dean of the School of Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. She has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications on learning environments, educational technology, and public health education. Under her leadership, ASPPH has expanded its global reach and advanced transformative initiatives in Framing the Future 2030, workforce development, data modernization, leadership development, climate and health, healthy longevity, and artificial intelligence in academia.



Dr. JOHN ZERVOS

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Henry Ford

John Zervos is the founding Executive Director of the Henry Ford Health Global Health Initiative (GHI). Through this role, he also serves as Associate Director and co-leads Zero Suicide International. John's work focuses on establishing and sustaining mutually beneficial international and domestic partnerships with ministries of health, hospitals, and universities, and securing funding to support global activities. John has led the strategic growth of the initiative from a \$75,000 gift in 2014 into a division with a multi-million-dollar annual budget and activities across the globe. During this period, GHI has secured more than \$75 million in grants and donations and has extended Henry Ford Health's commitment to corporate social responsibility globally. The work of the initiative has been published in more than 100 peer-reviewed journals, presented at over 100 conferences, and featured extensively in local and national media. During the COVID-19 pandemic, John played a key public health emergency leadership role across Henry Ford Health and the City of Detroit, supporting the rapid expansion of testing, vaccine clinical trial operations, and community-based vaccination efforts. In recognition of his leadership during this period, he was named Crain's Detroit Business' 2021 Rising Star in Healthcare. John received his JD from Wayne State University in 2012, after earning his bachelor's degree from New York University in 2008, and serves on numerous boards and committees, including Global Ties Detroit and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's HOPE Fund.



Dr. SAOUSSEN LAYOUNI

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Dr Saoussen Layouni is a specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse. She serves as Deputy Vice-Dean for ICT and elected member of the Scientific Council. Her work focuses on digital health and artificial intelligence applied to healthcare. Holding advanced certifications in medical informatics, AI in health, and innovative pedagogy, she leads clinical research projects, coordinates academic programs, and actively contributes to international educational and research initiatives. She is also a member (IT Coordinator) of the 4th Interdisciplinary World Health Congress on Health Research and Education in MENA.



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Dr. HELMI BEN SAAD

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse Prof. Helmi BEN SAAD (MD, PhD), Professor of Physiology and Functional Explorations - Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia. Invited speaker at numerous international congresses. Author of 340 scientific articles in indexed, high-impact journals. Potential reviewer for more than 100 indexed, high-impact journals; (reviewer of 1000 manuscripts). Editor or Associate Editor of several journals, including: BMC Sports Medicine, Medicine and Rehabilitation; Libyan Journal of Medicine; La Tunisie Médicale; New Asian Journal of Medicine. Recipient of the Sadok BESROUR Award (Université de Montréal, Canada) for excellence in medical research (2021). In 2025: ranked among the top 2% of scientists worldwide.



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Dr. USAMA MOSSALAM

Henry Ford

Dr. Usamah Mossallam, MD, MBA graduated from the State University of New York Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn. He went on to a combined internal medicine/emergency medicine residency at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware. He was the chief resident for both the categorical and combined residency programs in his fifth and final year. He is board certified in both emergency medicine and internal medicine. After completing his residency in 1999, Dr. Mossallam joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital where he soon became director of the combined residency programs in emergency medicine/internal medicine and emergency medicine/internal medicine/critical care medicine, as well as the associate residency director of the categorical emergency medicine residency. In early 2006, Dr. Mossallam left Henry Ford Health System and accepted the position of Chairman of Emergency Medicine and associate Chief Medical Officer at the International Medical Center in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he commissioned a new emergency department alongside the commissioning of the International Medical Center hospital. Dr. Mossallam rejoined Henry Ford Health System in late 2008 as the service chief/medical director and division head of the Fairlane Emergency Department within Henry Ford Health System. In 2011, Dr. Mossallam accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer – associate at Henry Ford Hospital. He created the utilization management program and the internal physician

advisory service during his tenure as CMO. In January 2015, he was promoted to Vice President and Medical Director of Henry Ford Health international. He leads the system international activities that include hospital build and development, Global health initiatives and international patient services/medical tourism. Dr. Mossallam is also the executive medical director of acute care at home for HFH.



Dr. SIHEM HMISSA BELHAJ SALAH

Faculty of Medicine, University of Sousse

Sihem HmissaBelhaj Salahcompleted her medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine of Souss e, Tunisia, and qualified in Pathological Anatomy in 1999. She coordinated the Cancer Registry at the Tunisian Center of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and joined the academic staff in Sousse in 2001. She later directed the Higher School of Health and led national reforms in medical education and pathology residency training. She currently heads the Research Laboratory LR21ES03 “Oncogenesis and Tumor Progression,” the Pathology Department at CHU Sahloul, and the Doctoral School in Sousse. She has authored 83 indexed publications (H-index: 16).

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Dr. MOUHANAD HAMMAMI

County Health

Mouhanad Hammami is the president and CEO of Global Health Consultants, a consulting firm that addresses healthcare and wellness locally and globally with a focus on complete wellness, equity and social justice. Dr. Hammami previously served as Chief Health Strategist for Wayne County in Michigan, catering for the health and wellbeing of 1.2 million residents in the most populous county in Michigan. Prior to that he served as the senior vice president for Safety Net Transformation, Community Benefits, Health and Well-Being at Trinity Health. In this role, he led the strategy to improve health for individuals and improve the underlying social determinants of health in communities served. He also led work for Trinity Health's community- based delivery models and public health initiatives and partnered closely with state and national experts to integrate health care delivery with public health activities. Prior to his position with Trinity Health, Dr. Hammami served as director of the Wayne County Michigan Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness. There he oversaw all health, wellness and human services for the 13th largest county in the nation. Before that, Hammami was chief of Health Operations and county health officer for the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services. Hammami also served as the executive director of the National Arab American Medical Association NAAMA from 2006 to 2009 and then elected as its national president in 2011. A graduate of Aleppo University School of Medicine, Syria, Hammami

completed his postdoctoral research in pediatrics at the Newborn Center of the University of Tennessee in Memphis, and then accepted a faculty appointment at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan, and a research position at the Detroit Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics. He then received his master's in health services administration from the University of Michigan. Hammami has been the recipient of several recognitions including the American Medical Association Foundation Excellence in Medicine and Leadership Award for his public health advocacy and community work.

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Dr. NEILA FATHALLAH

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Dr. Neila Fathallah is a medical Professor in Clinical Pharmacology. A prominent academic and hospital practitioner, she plays a pivotal role in advancing pharmacological research and medical education in Tunisia. Her research, which is widely cited in international medical literature, focuses on the safety and efficacy of therapeutic interventions. Her core areas are pharmacogenetics, pharmacovigilance and clinical toxicology. She currently serves as the Vice-Dean of Student Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse (University of Sousse). In this strategic leadership capacity, she oversees the academic curriculum, student governance, and the professional development of the next generation of medical practitioners.

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Dr. MONA MAKKI

ACCESS

Mona Makki, Director of ACCESS Community Health and Research Center, has fearlessly advocated against crime and domestic violence for over two decades. As the Director of ACCESS CHRC, she oversees over 70 programs in healthcare, behavioral health, and public health divisions. These programs include a medical center with infectious disease specialty, a community mental health facility, and various prevention programs. In addition to her work at ACCESS, Mona serves on a multitude of community boards, including Michigan Opioid Advisory Commission, Corewell Health East Board, Michigan School of Psychology Board of Trustees, and more. Mona received her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2004.

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Dr. NADIA GHARIANI

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Nadia GHARIANI, MD Associate Professor of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine of Sousse & Farhat Hached University Hospital, Sousse President of the Master's and Continuing Education Certificates (CEC) Committee, for Continuing Professional Development. Coordinator of the Professional Master's in Aesthetic Dermatology, Cosmetology, and Lasers at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse.



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Dr. MAOUA MAHER

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Short biography : Professor Maher Maoua is Vice-Dean and Director of Studies at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, and Head of Occupational Medicine at Sahloul University Hospital, Tunisia. A former Vice-Dean of ICT and an occupational health specialist, he previously directed the LR19SP03 research laboratory, focusing on preventing non-communicable workplace diseases. Beyond his clinical and academic leadership, Professor Maoua leverages expertise in healthcare artificial intelligence, data science, and digital medical pedagogy. He actively participates in national projects that integrate AI into higher education and medical research.



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Dr. MAHA BEN FREDJ

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Pr. Maha Ben Fredj is a Nuclear Medicine Physician who balances clinical practice with a passion for digital health. She currently serves as the Vice Dean of ICT at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse and leads the "Metabolic Biophysics and Applied Pharmacology" research lab. Her work focuses on bridging the gap between medical technology and patient care, both through advancing metabolic research and modernizing medical education through technology.



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Dr. LOGHMARI AHMED

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Urologist | Sexologist | Researcher Board-certified urologist and clinical sexologist at Sahloul Hospital (Sousse, Tunisia). Assistant Professor at Ibn El Jazzar Medical School and Assistant Vice Dean of Research. Specializes in urological surgery, andrology, and sexual medicine. Holder of a Medical Doctorate with highest honors and multiple advanced certifications in urodynamics and penile implants, Graduated in Edourology From Sorbone University. Active researcher and leader in Tunisian urological and Sexual medicine societies.



Dr. AHLEM MTIRAOUI

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Ahlem MTIRAOUI is a Full Professor of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia. Her research and clinical expertise focus on suicidology, the protection of vulnerable populations, and mental health within academic and youth environments. Beyond her clinical practice, she is dedicated to developing comprehensive screening protocols and preventive intervention strategies to strengthen psychological support systems and promote mental well-being across both university and clinical settings.



Dr. WEJDENE MANSOUR

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Pr Wejdene Mansour is an Associate Professor of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al Jazzar of Sousse, Tunisia. She holds a PhD in Biological Sciences and Biotechnology from the University of Monastir,

Tunisia. Her research focuses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with particular emphasis on a comprehensive One Health approach integrating human, animal, and environmental health dimensions. Her work addresses both the epidemiological and molecular aspects of AMR. Within her research group, she leads efforts to develop and harmonize guidelines and methodological protocols for AMR surveillance in a One Health framework. These guidelines are designed to be practical, standardized, comparable, and cost-effective, ensuring their applicability in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) settings while maintaining scientific robustness. The group's overarching objective is to contribute to global AMR surveillance strategies by generating high-quality data on antimicrobial resistance profiles and the detection of resistance genes in clinical and animal isolates, as well as in environmental bacteria from soil and aquatic ecosystems. Through molecular characterization, genetic mapping, and ecological analysis of resistance determinants, the team aims to better understand the transmission dynamics of AMR across interconnected ecosystems. Beyond surveillance, the research is progressively expanding toward solution-oriented approaches to combat AMR. This includes exploring preventive and mitigation strategies, supporting evidence-based policy development, strengthening stewardship frameworks, and investigating innovative, ecologically sustainable interventions to limit the spread of resistance in environmental reservoirs. By bridging surveillance data with translational and policy-relevant actions, her work seeks to move from documenting AMR toward actively contributing to sustainable solutions adapted to local and global contexts. She has published several papers in international conferences and journals (Citation scholar.google (2026-02-20) Citations: 1572 h-index: 24 i10-index: 29. Articles in peer-reviewed journals: 54). She is a partner in several European research projects (COST action: ENOVAT, JPI-AMR-Aquatic pollutants: PAIRWISE, JPI-AMR- Harissa: ENVIRE, EDAR-ICARS: CARMA).



Dr. RIM GHAMMAM

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Dr. Rim Ghammam is an Associate Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine Ibn El Jazzar, University of Sousse, Tunisia. Specializing in epidemiology and public health, she is an active researcher at the University Hospital Farhat Hached. Her extensive work focuses on non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention, health promotion, and the evaluation of community-based interventions. Dr. Ghammam has contributed to numerous high-impact studies addressing lifestyle risk factors, including obesity, hypertension, and tobacco use, particularly among adolescents and healthcare professionals. Her expertise extends to health education and the validation of clinical assessment tools for Arabic-speaking populations. Professionally, she is recognized for her commitment to advancing public health policies and improving healthcare quality through rigorous scientific research and interdisciplinary collaboration.



Dr. AMBROISE WONKAM

Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Ambroise Wonkam is a Professor of Genetic Medicine and the Director of the McKusick-Nathans Institute and Department of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, USA. He also serves as the Director of GeneMAP (Genetic Medicine of African Populations) and is the immediate past Deputy Dean for Research at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Wonkam completed his MD training at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé I (Cameroon). He pursued a thesis in Medical Sciences (Cell Biology) at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and earned a PhD in Human Genetics from the University of Cape Town (South Africa). He also received advanced training as a medical geneticist at the University of Geneva, one of the most reputable centers for genetic medicine, and has practiced genetic medicine in European, African and American contexts. With over 250 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Wonkam's research focuses on genetic and genomic variation in African populations, particularly in three areas: Genomic Modifiers of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), Genetics of Hearing Impairment, and Ethical and Educational Issues in Human Genetics. Over the past decade, he has successfully led numerous NIH- and Wellcome Trust-funded projects conducting research in several African countries, including Tanzania, Cameroon, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Mali, Sudan, Rwanda, and Ghana.



Dr. JIHAD MAKHOUL

AUB

Dr. Jihad Makhoul professor and chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health at the American University of Beirut where she teaches in the Graduate Public Health Program. She has led research examining the social and structural determinants of well-being among war-affected populations in Lebanon, including internally displaced persons, impoverished communities, child laborers, and refugees, using community-engaged approaches and qualitative research methodologies. Her current work focuses on applied research ethics in the MENA and the commercial determinants of health in times of war and crisis, with particular attention to the arms industry and the influence of commercial interests on academic and humanitarian work.



Dr. JEAN CLAUDE MBANYA

University of Yaounde

Jean Claude Mbanya is Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon. He is also Honorary Professor of Global Health at UCL, UK. He is Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and also fellow of the Cameroon, Africa and The World Academy of Sciences. As President of the International Diabetes Federation (2009 - 2012), he championed the convening of the first ever United Nations High Level Summit on non- communicable diseases held in 2011. He was the 2004 recipient of the American Diabetes Association Harold Rifkin Award and conferred the degree of Doctor philosophiae honoris causa by the University of Oslo in 2011.



Dr. SALIM ADIB

AUB

Prof. Salim Adib is a medically-trained epidemiologist (USJ-1984), who obtained a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) in 1991 at the University of Michigan (Ann-Arbor, USA). He has been involved in various academic activities, research, community service and public consultations in the USA (1986-93) and Kuwait (1995-2002). Between 2010 and 2012, he was the Manager of the Department of Public Health of the Emirate of Abu- Dhabi (UAE). In 2013, he served as a Professional International Expert for the Non- Communicable Diseases Department, WHO-East Mediterranean Regional Office (Cairo). He was the International Epidemiological Association Council Member for the Middle-East and North Africa from 2014 to 2021, and is now the Chair of the Lebanese Epidemiological Association which he co-founded in 1993. Prof. Adib has been on the Executive Council of the Association of Francophone Epidemiologists (ADELF) since 2017. He currently chairs the Committee on Subspecialties in the Arab Board for Community Medicine, an accreditation entity administered by the League of Arab States. Since 2013, Salim Adib a full-time Professor of Public Health Practice at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. In 2024, Prof. Adib has been listed in the Stanford assessment within the top 2% researchers on impact indicators.



Dr. SORAYA SEEDAT

Stellenbosch University

Soraya Seedat is a psychiatrist and Professor of Psychiatry and Executive Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University (Cape Town, South Africa). She also directs the South African Medical Research Unit on the Genomics of Brain Disorders. She is a member of Africa CDC's Advisory Committee for Non-Communicable Diseases, Injuries and Mental Health and on the Steering Committee of the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme.



Dr. IMAN NUWAYHID

AUB

Iman Nuwayhid is a Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the American University of Beirut, where he served as dean of its Faculty of Health Sciences between 2008 and 2020. He is co-editor of the landmark book on "Public Health in the Arab World" (Cambridge University Press, 2012). He served as a member of the WHO-EMRO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2021) and the Scientific Advisory Group for the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity (2025). He is a PI on the NIH-funded Global Environmental and Occupational Health Research and Training Hub for the MENA Region (GEOHealth-MENA).



Dr. NAEEM DALAL

Zambia National Public Health

Dr. Naeem Dalal is a distinguished Public Health Specialist and the National Focal Specialist for NCDs, Injuries, and Mental Health at the Zambia National Public Health Institute. A leading architect of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) integration in Africa, he serves as a High-Level Advisor to the Africa CDC and a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO). With over a decade of clinical and policy expertise, Dr. Dalal has been instrumental in shaping multisectoral frameworks for youth resilience and emergency health responses. His work focuses on transforming health systems through data-driven surveillance and scalable mental health primary care models.



Dr. RIMA HABIB

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AUB

Rima R. Habib is a professor of environmental and occupational health, and the former chair of the Department of Environmental Health at FHS (2015-2021). She has led research on environmental and work-related exposures and the health of displaced, refugee, and migrant populations. She served as chair/co-chair of the Technical Committee on Gender and Work in the International Ergonomics Association for 9 years between 2009 and 2018. Habib was awarded the Occupational Health and Safety Section's International Award of the American Public Health Association in November 2017; and was elected a fellow of the renowned Collegium Ramazzini in 2017. She co-leads the NIH-funded Global Environmental and Occupational Health Research and Training Hub for the MENA Region (GEOHealth-MENA) which incorporates comprehensive research on Syrian refugee agricultural workers in the Bekaa region of Lebanon, with a focus on their climate change-linked work exposures to heat stress and pesticides, accounting for social stressors. Habib has led and published research articles focusing on climate change and health including "Impacts of Climate Change and Heat Stress on Farmworkers' Health" (Frontiers in Public Health 2022). In her research, focused on marginalized communities and workers in conflict settings, Habib used an intersectional approach and a gender lens to further understand the interplay between environmental and social stressors and their impacts on populations' health outcomes.



Dr. ADELARD KAKUNZE

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Africa CDC

Dr. Adelard Kakunze is Senior Technical Officer for Non-Communicable Diseases, Injuries and Mental Health (NCDIMH) at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). A physician trained at the University of Burundi with a Master of Public Health from Peking University, he brings over a decade of clinical and continental public health leadership experience. Since joining Africa CDC in 2018, he has spearheaded the development and implementation of the Africa CDC NCDIMH Strategy, launched the continental flagship such as the Mental Health Leadership Programme, the SPARK-NCDs programme to strengthen governance, surveillance, workforce capacity, and the integration of NCDs, Injuries and mental health into health systems, emergency preparedness, and primary health care at Member States level.



Dr. ALINE GERMANI

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AUB

Aline Germani is the Director of the Center for Public Health Practice at the Faculty of Health Sciences and an Instructor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the American University of Beirut since 2006. Prior to joining AUB, Aline held for 10 years several positions in international projects providing technical assistance to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. Aline's areas of expertise are in public health ethics, health systems performance, human-centered design, transformative learning, innovation for public health, and development of sustainable university-community partnerships. Aline is the co-founder and co-coordinator of the Humanitarian Engineering Initiative at AUB.



Dr. KAUSHIK RAMAIYA

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ShreeHinduMandal - Hospital

Dr Kaushik Ramaiya is a Member of the Board of World Diabetes Foundation and Hon. General Secretary of Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA), Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCDA) and East African Diabetes Study Group (EADSG) and President of East African NCD Alliance (EANCDA). Dr Ramaiya also chairs the NCD Advisory Committee at Africa CDC NCD Unit. Dr Kaushik Ramaiya did his schooling in Dar es Salaam and then received his basic medical training at the University of Bombay, India (1981) and completed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine at the University of Dar es Salaam (1986- 1989). His post-masters training was in University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. He was appointed Hon Professor of Medicine & Global Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in November, 2018. In March 2023, he was appointed Honorary Professor of Medicine & Global Health at University College of London (UCL) in the Institute for Global Health. At present, Dr Ramaiya is working with children who have Type 1 diabetes, gestational diabetes, metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular complications of antiretroviral drugs in HIV/AIDS and Diabetes/TB interaction. Together with NIMRI (Muhimbili) and UCL, he is working on CD NCD Integration and is overseeing metformin intervention in HIV patients with IGT (META Trial). He has also participated actively with Ministry of Health (MoH) and President's Office Regional & Local Government (PORALG) to implement Diabetes / NCD program in Zonal, Regional, District Hospitals & Health Centers all over the country in Tanzania. He has published more than 130 peer reviewed journal articles. Dr Ramaiya is the CEO & Consultant Physician at Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Dr. JOUMANA KALOT

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AUB

Joumana Kalot, MPH, is an Instructor of Public Health Practice at the Center for Public Health Practice and an affiliate with the Department of Health Promotion & Community Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut AUB . With over twenty years of experience in strategic planning, resource mobilization, and capacity building, Joumana has built a distinguished career in public health. Her areas of expertise include HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, drug prevention, NGO governance, humanitarian issues, and health behavior communication, with a particular focus on health workforce development and project management. In recent years, Joumana has led the development of a series of self-paced e-courses on topics such as child protection, juvenile justice, mental health, and social and behavior change. She has managed and overseen numerous Social and Behavior Change Communication SBCC and Health Promotion projects in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the broader region, collaborating with key organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA. Joumana has played a pivotal role in designing and coordinating training programs in complex emergency settings, focusing on areas such as women’s empowerment, youth health, reproductive health, communication, and NGO management, as well as training of trainers. Additionally, Joumana co-led initiatives targeting internally displaced persons IDPs during the war in Lebanon, including community kitchens and various relief efforts aimed at supporting vulnerable populations. She also serves as the activity director for the capacity-building program for patient advocacy groups, implemented by the Continuing Medical Education office at AUB Medical Center. She is a member of the Secretariat for the 2022 SBCC World Summit and remains actively involved with the SBCC Global Alliance. Joumana holds a Master’s degree in Public Health MPH from AU B



Dr. MARY AMUYUNZU-NYAMONGO

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African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD)

MARY AMUYUNZU-NYAMONGO, PhD Mary is the Founder Director of the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) and has worked in the field of health policy, advocacy, research and programming for over 36 years. She has worked for Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Amref Health Africa, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and Population Council. She serves on various international committees including Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) and NCDI Poverty Network Steering Committee. Mary is the chair of the NCD Alliance and is a co-Chair of the NCD Intersectoral Consultative Committee (ICC) of Kenya. She also serves as member of the East African NCD Alliance Board and the Africa CDC NCD Advisory Board. Mary is a Member of the University of Nairobi Council and a member of Health Benefits and Tariffs Advisory Panel (HBTAP) as part of the Social Health Authority (SHA) of Kenya. She is an Adjunct Faculty Member of Strathmore University, Nairobi. She has published on gender, NCDs, NTDs, child health, GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and poverty. She holds a PhD (Social Anthropology), University of Cambridge, UK (1994) and a BA (Anthropology), University of Nairobi (1989).



Dr. JESSICA SMITH

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WSU

Dr. Jessica Smith is a Doctor of Nursing Practice–prepared Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nursing Instructor at Wayne State University College of Nursing in Detroit, Michigan. With over 15 years of combined academic and advanced clinical practice experience, she integrates frontline acute-care expertise into competency-based nursing education and simulation-focused learning environments. In her faculty role, Dr. Smith teaches undergraduate and graduate nursing students in clinical and assessment-based courses, overseeing senior-level clinical education, evaluating clinical reasoning, and guiding students in medication management, documentation, and patient assessment techniques. Her teaching emphasizes the integration of pathophysiology, pharmacology, and assessment to prepare learners for real-world decision-making. Dr. Smith maintains an active clinical practice across multiple high-acuity settings. She currently serves as a Nurse Practitioner for the Michigan Department of Corrections at Women’s Huron Valley Prison, providing chronic and urgent medical care, and practices Emergency Medicine in a local Hospital System. Her prior clinical experience includes infectious disease management and forensic nursing as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Her scholarly interests focus on clinical reasoning, patient safety, and outcomes in complex patient populations. She has published research examining predictors of readmission among patients with heart failure and their caregivers and remains engaged in professional organizations including the American Nurses Association, Emergency Nurses Association, Michigan Nurse Practitioner Association, and the International Association of Forensic Nurses. Dr. Smith earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Detroit Mercy and her Master of Science (Acute Care Nurse Practitioner) and Nursing Education certification from Wayne State University. She continues to contribute to curriculum development, student mentorship, and professional service initiatives supporting nursing education and clinical excellence

Dr. TAIWO LATEEF SHEIKH

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Ahmadu Bello University

Professor Taiwo Lateef Sheikh is a distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. A Fellow and Chief Examiner at the West African College of Physicians, an International Faculty Member at Harvard Medical School Faculty of Global Mental Health and External Examiner at the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. He contributed to mental health policy and legislative reforms in Nigeria and across Africa through development of Nigeria’s Mental Health Policies (2013 and 2023), the National Suicide Prevention Framework (2023), the landmark National Mental Health Act (2021)—Nigeria’s first modern mental health legislation, Africa CDC strategic plan for NCDs, Injuries and mental health, mental health strategic plan for ECOWAS and many others. He is the founder and President of Biological Psychiatry Society in Nigeria, convener of the Nigeria Suicide Prevention Advocacy Working Group, a member of Africa CDC High-Level Advisory Committee on NCDs, Mental Health, and Injuries and the Principal Investigator for Nigeria in multi-country research on genetics of depression in Africa. He has led and co-led research work in various aspects of mental health. He is former columnist with Nigerian Vanguard newspaper, has authored many peer-reviewed publications, presented at scientific conferences, and published widely in national and international media. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation Award and the Nigeria Physician of the Year Award (2023), in recognition of his exemplary contributions to mental health and public service.



Dr. HANAN BALKHY

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WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

Dr Hanan Balkhy was appointed WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean by the WHO Executive Board in January 2024. She took office on 1 February 2024.

Dr Balkhy has set 5 priorities for her tenure as Regional Director: make health care more accessible to all, especially hard-to-reach populations; expand country capacities to tackle emergency health demands of the climate crisis, pandemics, conflicts and other disasters; strengthen public health for disease prevention and health promotion; expand partnerships for financing, and to share knowledge and skills; and strengthen WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and country office capacities to boost cooperation and better influence global health.

Dr Balkhy was previously Assistant Director-General for Antimicrobial Resistance at WHO headquarters. Prior to this, she was Executive Director for Infection Prevention and Control, Ministry of National Guard, Saudi Arabia. She led the Gulf Cooperation Council Centre for Infection Control and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial Resistance, Saudi Arabia.

A graduate of King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia, Dr Balkhy completed her paediatric residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, United States of America. She later completed a paediatric infectious diseases fellowship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Case Western Reserve University, USA.



Dr. CAROL LABOR

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Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Practitioner

Dr. Carol Labor Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Practitioner Dr. Carol Labor is a globally recognized mental health leader, policy advisor, and innovator in gender-responsive psychosocial support systems. Dr. Labor is the Senior Adviser on Mental Health and Technical Lead, where she leads initiatives that bridge MHPSS coordination, collaboration and capacity building; inter-agency collaboration, and global partnerships. She is also the Vice-Chair for Africa CDC's High-Level Committee on Non-Communicable Disease (NCDIMH); and Founder of the Women's Wellness Institute, she specializes in advancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) workforce development, trauma-informed care, women's health integration, and community-centered healing programs. Her work spans public health, education, emergency response, and government systems, with a focus on creating scalable, culturally grounded models that strengthen wellbeing for women, girls, and marginalized communities. A respected gender-centered mental health expert, facilitator and curriculum architect, she has developed more than two dozen comprehensive training programs—ranging from executive function and somatic healing to threat assessment, community mental health worker certification, and integrative MHPSS for public health professionals. Known for her visionary leadership, Dr. Labor's career integrates neuroscience, feminist theory, trauma healing, organizational psychology, and public-sector innovation. She is committed to transforming systems so they honor dignity, equity, and collective mental health care and support before, during, and after crisis.



Dr. SALLY VILLASENOR

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WSU

Dr. Sally Villaseñor is a board-certified Nurse Practitioner and a National League for Nurses Certified Educator. With 30 years experience—spanning critical care, emergency department, and urgent care clinics as a clinician—she believes that the compassion, respect, and advocacy we provide our patients must flow equally among interprofessional colleagues. In her role on the clinical track at Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan), Dr. Villaseñor teaches courses such as pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. Dr. Villaseñor brings professional rigor and heartfelt dedication to every aspect of her work—always striving to empower colleagues to care for patients and for each other.



Dr. JORGE BATISTA DA ROCHA

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European Bioinformatics Institute

Dr Jorge Batista da Rocha is the Ensembl Outreach Project Leader since September 2024. He has experience in bioinformatics training development and capacity building for genomics applications. He is a keen trainer, and enjoys developing training formats that bridge technical barriers and empower participants in their research. He is striving to create a world where genomics guided innovations are equitable and available to all.



Dr. LINDA JABER

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WSU

Dr. Linda Jaber is a Tenured Professor at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Jaber's research program evaluated the effects of chronic dosing, age, and obesity on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of hypoglycemic agents. Her studies of Arab Americans provided the first prevalence estimates of diabetes, pre-diabetes, and the metabolic syndrome as well as the characterization of the metabolic defects underlying the progression to diabetes, the association between Vitamin D and insulin resistance, and the racial differences in sensitivity and specificity of glycated hemoglobin in identifying diabetes and pre-diabetes in this population. Dr. Jaber has also demonstrated the effectiveness of a culturally adapted diabetes prevention model in this ethnic group.



Dr. MOHAMAD ZAHIR

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Johns Hopkins University

Dr Mohamed Zahir Alimohamed, BSc, MSc, PhD Dr. Mohamed Zahir Alimohamed is a Molecular Geneticist, Biomedical Scientist, and Genetic Counseling Practitioner with a deep commitment to advancing genomic medicine and genetic counseling in Africa. He holds a BSc in Biotechnology from Manipal University (India), an MSc in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from the University of Groningen (The Netherlands), and a PhD in Medical Genetics from the Department of Genetics at the University Medical Center Groningen. His doctoral and postdoctoral research focused on the use of next-generation sequencing (NGS) for the diagnosis of genetic diseases, including cardiomyopathies, spinocerebellar ataxia, cancers, and leukemias. He later expanded his expertise to gene therapy applications, including CRISPR-based strategies for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Dr. Zahir is currently a Lecturer and Research Scientist at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), where he teaches molecular biology and human genetics, supervises research projects, and co-leads the development of genetic diagnostic pipelines. He is affiliated with the Sickle Cell Programme at MUHAS as a Research Fellow and has contributed significantly to curative and diagnostic innovations for SCD, pharmacogenomics research in African populations, antimicrobial resistance surveillance, and the identification of rare genetic diseases in Tanzania. A trained genetic counselor, Dr. Zahir is a co-founder of the African Genetic Counseling Association (AGCA), promoting the growth of clinical genetic counseling services and training across the continent. He also serves as Secretary General of the Tanzania Human Genetics Organization (THGO), which he co-founded in 2017 to strengthen national capacity in genomics. He is the Chair of the Young Investigators Forum (YIF) of the African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG), and Training Workgroup Lead of the Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative (GGMC), where he helps coordinate educational programs and capacity-building initiatives in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Zahir is also a Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow (Class of 2025) under the African Leadership Institute, reflecting his growing role as a thought leader and advocate for equitable and ethical genomics in Africa. He has completed his postdoctoral training through the Glocal Fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and MUHAS, and continues to lead efforts to integrate genomic research into health systems across Africa.



Dr. ALINE SAAD

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WSU

Aline Saad is a clinical associate professor of pharmacy and serves as the Director of Faculty Development and Coordinator of Interprofessional Education (IPE) for Pharmacy Practice at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS). She leads projects related to interprofessional (IP) education including the Interprofessional Team Visit program, IP Medication Safety offerings, IP pain management events, IP clinical rotations, and IP student-run free Community Homeless Interprofessional Program (CHIP). She is the Chair of the EACPHS IPE Committee. At the MI-AHEC, she delivers the AHEC scholars' program preparing healthcare providers to care for underserved rural and urban populations.



Dr. RYM BEN KHALIFA

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Institut Pasteur de Tunis

Dr. Rym Benkhalifa is a neurophysiologist and cellular electrophysiologist at the Pasteur Institute of Tunis (IPT). Her research explores ion channels in degenerative diseases and natural peptides as therapeutic modulators, where she has published several articles and supervised several thesis and master's. As a former member of IPT's Biomedical Ethics Committee (2013–2024), she co-authored the institute's Code of Conduct and teaches bioethics for medicine and biotechnology students. Since 2013, she has led biosafety and biosecurity projects, currently chairing the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and she has assumed responsibility for managing the BSL3 "Rodolphe Mérieux" laboratory (2023-2025). Additionally, she facilitates health management training for the University of Washington, delivering online courses to enhance global health professional skills.



Dr. PAUL KILGORE

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WSU

Dr. Paul E. Kilgore is a physician-scientist and Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. As Director of Research for the department and Co-Director of the WSU Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases, he leads initiatives to advance pharmaceutical and clinical research while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across health sciences. Dr. Kilgore holds additional appointments as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Wayne State University's School of Medicine and as a Senior Investigator with the Global Health Initiative at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. With extensive expertise in infectious diseases, epidemiology, and global health, Dr. Kilgore has established himself as a leading authority in viral disease investigation and surveillance. His research portfolio encompasses vaccine development, infectious disease epidemiology, and public health interventions, with particular focus on viral pathogens and their impact on vulnerable populations. Dr. Kilgore serves in several prominent editorial roles, including as Specialty Chief Editor for *Frontiers in Influenza* and on the editorial boards of *Smart Health*, *Infectious Diseases and Therapy*, and *Clinical and Experimental Vaccine Research*. As a Specialty Chief Editor for *Frontiers in Virology's* Viral Disease Investigation section, Dr. Kilgore brings his comprehensive expertise in clinical virology, epidemiology, and public health to guide the journal's scientific direction. His leadership in this role helps advance the understanding of viral pathogens and supports the development of evidence-based approaches to viral disease prevention and control.



Dr. BOCHRA NOURHENE

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Bochra Nourhène SAGUEM, M.D. Psychiatrist, CBT psychotherapist, Music Therapist, at the Psychiatry Department, Farhat Hached Hospital, Sousse, Tunisia Associate professor in psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine of Sousse Interested in mood disorders, sleep disorders, stigma of mental illness, and mental health of health care professionals



Dr. CYNTHIA ARFKEN

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WSU

Dr. Arfken is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan. As an epidemiologist, her research expertise and grant funding have been in alcohol and drug use, especially emerging trends, along with new treatment options. She currently serves on three editorial boards and recently stepped down from the editorial board of the Journal of Muslim Mental Health. She teaches psychiatry residents addiction psychiatry, research designs, and biostatistics through short courses and one-on-one collaborations.



Dr. SIHEM BEN FREDJ

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Dr. Sihem Ben Fredj is an Associate Professor of Preventive and Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, University of Sousse, Tunisia. Specializing in epidemiology and healthcare quality, her work focuses on non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and the advancement of evidence-based public health strategies. She carries out her research and clinical duties within the Department of Preventive Medicine and the LR19SP03 Research Laboratory at the University Hospital Farhat Hached in Sousse, Tunisia.



Dr. VIJAYA ARUN KUMAR

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WSU

Dr. Vijaya Arun Kumar, MD, MPH, serves as Professor and Director of Research, Harper University Hospital in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Wayne State University. As Founder and Co-Director of the Global Health Research Collaborative GHRC, Dr. Kumar has transformed how research capacity is built in low- and middle-income countries through comprehensive digital mentorship platforms. Over the past decade, Dr. Kumar has developed and refined online mentorship models that have engaged more than 55 Wayne State University faculty members with researchers from 23 countries worldwide. Under his leadership, GHRC has evolved from a small pilot program to an internationally recognized platform, growing from 34 participants in 2020 to 215 applicants in 2024. The program's success is evidenced by 72 completed capstone projects, each leading to research implementations in participants' home countries, and numerous presentations at prestigious international conferences including the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and Society for Academic Emergency Medicine meetings. Dr. Kumar's expertise in mentorship extends beyond program development to active practice. He has personally mentored over 100 medical students, residents, fellows, and international researchers, with many achieving significant academic and professional milestones including national conference presentations, research awards, and successful career advancement in emergency medicine and global health. His mentorship approach emphasizes cultural competency, sustainable capacity building, and the development of local research leadership. His research portfolio spans cardiovascular emergency medicine, global health interventions, and health systems strengthening, with over 40 peer-reviewed publications in prestigious journals including *Annals of Emergency Medicine* and *The Lancet*. He exemplifies the integration of clinical excellence with transformative international impact, making him uniquely positioned to discuss the evolution, challenges, and future directions of online mentorship in global health research standards.



Dr. FATMA BEN FREDJ

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Curriculum Vitae Name and first name: Ben Fredj Ismail Fatma Professor of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital since 2018 Graduated in Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology in 2011 from the Faculty of Medicine in Sousse Head of Internal Medicine Service at Sahlool, Sousse, Tunisia since March 2023 Active member of the Tunisian Society of Internal Medicine since 2004 and of the Association for Medical-Social Protection of Elderly People in Sousse since 2011 Vice President of the Tunisian Society for the Promotion of Geriatrics and Gerontology since June 2025



Dr. PHILLIP LEVY

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WSU

Dr. Phillip Levy is a nationally recognized expert in Cardiovascular and Population Health. As Associate Vice President at Wayne State University and Director of Wayne Mobile Health Unit program, he has led multiple large scale community-based healthcare initiatives, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination, cardiometabolic screening and remote care management, and maternal health services – reaching over 100,000 individuals and across more than 5500 events since launch in April 2020. A fellow of multiple professional societies including the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, Dr. Levy serves on numerous national advisory panels and has been a long term grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health. Through his role as Principal Investigator of major federally funded grants including ACHIEVE GREATER which is part of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities’ Health Excellence Action Network and LEAP HTN, which is part of the American Heart Association’s Health Equity Research Network, he champions prevention of heart disease and stroke through risk factor mitigation.



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Dr. MOHAMED BOUSSARSAR

Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Mohamed Boussarsar is a full Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, University of Sousse, Tunisia, and Head of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Farhat Hached University Hospital. His clinical and research interests focus on acute respiratory failure, with a particular emphasis on the optimization of non-invasive respiratory support (NIRS) and invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV). His work integrates a frugality-driven approach, aiming to adapt evidence-based practices and clinical guidelines to the realities of low- and middle-income countries. Professor Boussarsar has conducted numerous studies to refine diagnostic strategies, predict outcomes, and improve interventions in critical care. He coordinates a long-standing NIRS master program, covering acute and chronic respiratory support, and organizes two prominent annual conferences: @-VAC (mechanical ventilation) and ICCPC (respiratory diseases). He has also led biomedical engineering innovations during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the development of ventilators and HFNC devices. In 2023, he launched Tunisia’s first post-graduate course on AI applied to healthcare, promoting AI-driven precision medicine and translational research. Professor Boussarsar is an active member of several national and international scientific societies and serves as a reviewer and editorial board member for leading journals in intensive care and pulmonology. He founded the first Medical Artificial Intelligence Association in Tunisia (MAiA).



Dr. NAWAR SHARA

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MedStar Health and Georgetown University

Dr. Nawar Shara is a transformational leader advancing healthcare through AI and data science. With over 20 years of experience across academia, government, and industry, she pioneered disease-agnostic approaches that unlock the full power of Electronic Health Records for clinical and translational research. She leads ~\$20M in federally funded research with NIH, ARPA-H and PCORI and serves as Chief of AI at MedStar Health Research Institute and Georgetown University Medical Center. A global thought leader, advisor, and prolific scholar with 160+ publications, Dr. Shara builds high-impact collaborations, mentors future leaders, and drives AI-enabled innovation to improve outcomes, equity, and health system performance.



Dr. LATIFA LASSOUED

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology Senior Consultant in Reproductive Medicine Coordinator of OB/GYNE teaching/learning activities Simulation Center Director (CESIME) Member of the Doctoral School Steering Committee in Health Sciences Consultant in Medical Education Curriculum Designer and Developer Former Vice Dean of Quality and Medical Education Former Program Coordinator Member of the National Committee of Medical Education Elected member of the International Francophone Society of Medical Education – SIFEM



Dr. ROBERT MALINOWSKI

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MSU

Dr. Robert Malinowski is Director of Assessment at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, where he works with faculty and leaders to build practical, learner-centered assessment systems. He leads the Student Competence Committee and is especially interested in how to use multiple sources of performance data to support fair, holistic decisions about student progression and professional development. He translates complex data into tools that are useful for educators and administrators. His work focuses on assessment, competence committee practices, and helping institutions move from data collection to meaningful decision-making processes.



Dr. LILIA CHENITI BELCADHI

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Sousse University

Dr. Lilia Cheniti Belcadhi Associate professor and Researcher of Computer Sciences at the Higher Institute of Computer Sciences and Communication Technologies, Sousse University, Tunisia, and a graduate of Braunschweig University in Germany. Her PhD was realized in co-supervision by Hannover University in Germany. She had two awards: First National Prize for Academic Excellence (Foreign Degrees) of the Tunisian President and a Graduate Merit Award of the of Braunschweig University, Germany. Her research focuses on AI in education, educational technologies and the personalization of learning, Digital Health Education. Actively engaged in various international e-learning projects, she has authored numerous Journal and publications, book chapters and co-authored several online courses, including Tunisia's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in computer science on the FUN platform. She is currently the coordinator of the Pedagogical Innovation and Digital Education Unit. She is a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of the Francophone Universities Agency (AUF) and was elected President of the AUF Committee of Scientific and Socio-Economic Experts for the North Africa Region. Additionally, she represents her university in the UNESCO UNITWIN Network on Open Education and was elected Vice President for Higher Education within the first Francophone University Network for Pedagogical Innovation, Teacher Training, and Educational Sciences RUFIFESE. Since February 2026, Dr. Cheniti is UNESCO chair on Open Education for Innovative, Intelligent and Inclusive Teaching and Learning.



Dr. MARY KAY SMITH

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MSU

Dr. Smith is an Associate Professor and Executive Director of the interdisciplinary simulation center (Learning and Assessment Center-LAC) at Michigan State University. Dr. Smith is an esteemed Fellow in the Society for Simulation (SSH) Academy and previous Chair of Accreditation for SSH. In her current role, she provides oversight for teaching, assessment and research activities for the Colleges of Nursing, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, residency programs, healthcare clinicians and critical access hospitals throughout the State of Michigan. She has integrated multiple simulation methodologies including immersive human patients, standardized patients, in situ, hybrid, web-based and virtual reality (including software development) in academic and institutional settings. She facilitates multiple professional development programs and is a global consultant related to simulation program development and accreditation. She also works with packaging and medical device industry partners using simulation for research and development. Dr. Smith earned her BSN at Saginaw Valley State University; MSN-Ed and doctorate in Higher Adult and Lifelong Education Administration at Michigan State University. Her research is focused on integration of simulation in healthcare professional education, interprofessional education in healthcare, and administration of simulation programs.



Mr. HICHEM ROMDHANI

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University of Sousse

Hichem Romdhani is Head of the International Relations Office at the University of Sousse (Tunisia), specializing in international cooperation and European project management. He has coordinated and contributed to numerous Erasmus+ capacity-building projects, including WEMAG, WE4LEAD, PACTUM, HEALING, FG2P, MSSE, DIRASA, EDUGAME, FINTECHBA, and MEDHELA. He has also been involved in ENI CBC MED Programme initiatives such as MED-QUAD and Horizon Europe projects including GAPS. Recently, he became Project Manager and University Coordinator of the MSCA LABWISE project, the first Marie SkłodowskaCurie Actions project coordinated by the University of Sousse, reinforcing its role in international research collaboration.



Dr. FARHA ABBASI

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MSU

Dr Abbasi is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and a leader in mental health for minorities and newcomers. She is the founding director of the Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference. In 2025, the Seventeenth conference was held in Detroit, Michigan. She is also the Director of the Muslim Mental Health Consortium at Michigan State University. Dr. Abbasi has received numerous awards for her community service and mental health promotion. Dr. Abbasi was an honoree of the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, the American Psychiatric Foundation Award for Promoting Minority Mental Health, and the Globie Award winner, Office of International Students Services. Her recent awards include the American Psychiatric Association Assembly Award for Courage in Profile. Crain's Detroit 2024 Health Heros Award. She has served on many boards and committees, including the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities of the American Psychiatric Association. Secretary Becerra recently named her one of the top 15 women in the nation on the front lines, celebrating women's faith leaders. She currently chairs the Mayor of Lansing, Michigan's Mental Health Task Force. She serves as Director for American Psychiatric Association Foundation.



Dr. AHMED ABDELGHANI

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Farhat Hached University Hospital, Sousse, Tunisia Expert in sleep disorders and non invasive ventilation Professor in Pulmonology and Allergology at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia Former head of Medicine Department at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia Former president of the national college of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery Vice president of the Tunisian Society of Sleep Medicine Co-director of the Research Laboratory LR14ES05: Interactions of the cardiopulmonary system



Dr. JED MAGAN

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MSU

Dr. Jed Magen is Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan State University. He did his residency and fellowships at the University of Michigan and a Master of Science degree in Health Care Management at the University of Texas Dallas School of Management. He is board certified in general and in child and adolescent psychiatry. He is a past president of the American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry. He was a member of the Residency Review Committee for Psychiatry of the ACGME and is a director of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He is an expert in the area of funding of graduate medical education and has published on this and on neuropsychiatric outcomes of tropical diseases in children in Africa.



Dr. ISMAIL DERGAA

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University of Manouba

Dr. Ismail Dergaa is an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Applied to Physical Activity at the University of Manouba, Tunisia. He holds a PhD in Biological Sciences and is currently pursuing a second PhD in Social Sciences alongside a postgraduate certificate in AI Applied to Health. A prolific researcher in sports medicine and exercise physiology, he has authored over 180 peer-reviewed publications, accumulating more than 5,500 citations and an h-index of 36. Furthermore, he serves as the Editor-in-Chief for both the New Asian Journal of Medicine and the Tunisian Journal of Sports Science and Medicine, and is also an editor for many Frontiers journals, including Frontiers in Medicine, Frontiers in Physiology, and Frontiers in Sports and Active Living.



Dr. HASSAN FEHMI

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HenryFord

Dr. Hassan Fehmi, is currently the Service Chief of Nephrology & Hypertension at the Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Born and raised in Lebanon, he received his Medical Education at the Baghdad University College of Medicine and completed Residency Training in Internal Medicine at the Michigan State University Program. After finishing a fellowship in Nephrology & Hypertension at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago Dr. Fehmi moved to Detroit to join the faculty of Henry Ford Hospital as a Senior Staff Physician in the Department of Medicine. His academic interests and work include Home Dialysis Modalities, the Mineral and Bone Disorders in Chronic Kidney Disease, Telemedicine and Connected Health, and the application of the Lean methodologies in healthcare. Dr. Fehmi serves on several committees and boards within and outside the Henry Ford Health System and is involved in various initiatives ranging from scientific and research projects, to Diversity in the workplace and community outreach. He is a member of the Board of Directors at Eversight International, the Medical Advisory Board of Greenfield Health Systems, the Advisory Board of the Michigan National Kidney Foundation, and he chairs the Henry Ford Middle Eastern Employees Resource Group. Dr. Fehmi is actively engaged in several professional societies and organizations, he is a Fellow of the National Kidney Foundation, and a Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology. As a longtime member of the National Arab American Medical Association NAAMA , He served in different positions; a former Chapter President, a National Vice President, a former chair of the Liaison Committee for Arab America, the Scientific Committee Chair, and the organization's former CME Director. He also chaired and co-chaired several NAAMA national and international conferences and Symposia. Dr. Fehmi has been involved on numerous past occasions and in various capacities with the ACCESS Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities, and with Global Health Research Management & Solutions both nationally and internationally. Dr Fehmi is a podcaster, his podcast "Arab American Café" is highly ranked, attracting worldwide audience.



Dr. ABDLARHIM TAHA

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Student at Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Abdulrahim Taha is a fourth-year medical student at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia. Originally from Gaza, Palestine, he is actively engaged in both academic and student leadership activities. He serves as a member of the Higher Administrative Board of the Palestinian Students' Union in Tunisia, President of the Medical School Sports Club, and President of the Library Committee at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse. He is also a member of the Tunisian Organization of Young Doctors. Abdulrahim is dedicated to academic excellence, aspiring to become a distinguished physician while proudly representing Palestine abroad. He is passionate about bodybuilding, fitness, and promoting student support and solidarity.



Dr. HASSAN BENCHEQROUN

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NAAMA

Dr Hassan Bencheqroun is a board-certified pulmonary and critical care physician, AI in healthcare leader, assistant professor in California, and visiting professor at the University of Mohammed 6th School of Medicine in Casablanca. Originally from Morocco, he serves as associate director at TeleICU-us and medical director and strategy lead at IQVIA, supporting global clinical trials design, deployment and AI-enabled operations. He founded Medical AI Academy and hosts The AI-Ready Doctor podcast, simplifying AI adoption for clinicians across education, research, and bedside workflows. He is multilingual in English, Arabic, French, and Spanish, and vice-president of the San Diego Chapter of the Arab American Medical Association.



Dr. JIHED ANOUN

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Dr. Jihed Anoun Associate Professor of Internal Medicine Certified in Geriatric Medicine Faculty of Medicine of Sousse Coordinator of the Certificate of Complementary Education (CEC) in Oncogeriatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse Senior consultant at the Department of Internal Medicine, Sahloul University Hospital, Sousse, Tunisia Executive Board Member, Tunisian Society of Internal Medicine Chair, Communication and Multimedia Committee Actively involved in academic teaching, clinical training, and medical research, with special interests in internal medicine, geriatrics, and medical education.

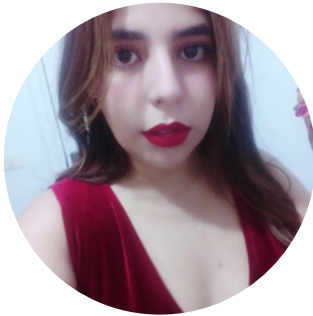


Dr. ASMA ZORGATI

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Asma Zorgati is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Sousse, Faculty of Medicine Ibn El Jazzar, Tunisia. A specialist in emergency medicine, she is a Consultant at the Emergency Department of Sahloul in Sousse. She is the Vice Dean of International Cooperation at her Faculty since 2021. A former Vice President of the Tunisian Society of Emergency Medicine, she currently co-coordinates certificates in Medical Simulation, Emergency Traumatology, and Traditional Chinese Medicine. An active researcher with numerous publications, her work focuses on cardiovascular diseases, pain management, medical simulation, and health technologies.



Dr. ABIR ROMDHANI

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PHD Student

Abir Romdhani is a dedicated PhD student specializing in healthcare sciences, with a strong focus on research and the integration of advanced technologies in the healthcare sector. Passionate about addressing critical issues in healthcare, Abir is committed to advancing knowledge and innovation to improve patient outcomes and system efficiencies. Her research interests encompass a wide range of topics, including the ethical and societal implications of healthcare technologies, as well as the development of strategies to address systemic challenges such as workplace safety and equity. In the past years, Abir has conducted studies on different topics such as “sexual harassment among students”, one of the most sensitive yet vital topics in the social and health settings. Currently, she is actively working on her first publication, building on her previous research. Her work reflects her dedication to fostering safer and more inclusive environments within the university and the healthcare industry. With a keen eye for detail and a strong analytical mindset, she strives to contribute meaningful insights to the field. Abir’s academic journey is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a deep commitment to creating impactful change. She is an emerging scholar whose work promises to bridge gaps between research, technology, and practical healthcare solutions. As she continues to develop her expertise, Abir aims to become a leading voice in shaping the future of healthcare sciences on an international scale.



Dr. IQBAL AHMAD

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UNMC

Dr. Iqbal Ahmad is a professor in the department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Nebraska, USA. He is a developmental neurobiologist-trained at the Yale School of Medicine-interested in disease modeling and regenerative medicine for the degenerative blinding diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Dr. Ahmad, as an associate dean, directs the UNMC office of postdoctoral education and research where he leads the annual mandatory workshop for the postdocs on responsible conduct of research (RCR).



Dr. KATIE WILLET

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UNMC

Katie Willet, MD is an associate professor for the Department of Emergency Medicine. She is the Health Security Clinical Fellowship Program Director and takes part in development of disaster preparedness and biopreparedness regionally and with the Global Center for Health Security.



Dr. MATTHEW RIZZO

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UNMC

Dr. Rizzo is Reynolds Professor and Chair of Neurological Sciences, Chief Physician for Neurological Services, Director of the Mind & Brain Health Laboratories, and founding Director of the Great Plains IDEa-Clinical and Translational Research Network, building infrastructure and workforce to address regional and global health priorities. A behavioral neurologist and cognitive neuroscientist, he leads translational science initiatives that advance inclusive, science-driven care through Neuroergonomics research integrating medicine, neuroscience, engineering, and data analytics to detect early functional decline from real-world data. His work applies AI to guide clinical trials and discovery, strengthen health equity, and improve care through digital biomarkers and learning health systems.



Dr. JOHN LOWE

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UNMC

John J. Lowe is the Director of the Global Center for Health Security, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Security Training and Education, and Professor of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He is a virologist and environmental exposure scientist with extensive experience in infectious disease risk assessment, infection control, and health emergency preparedness. Dr. Lowe has worked across the United States, Africa, Asia, and Europe in research, education, and emergency response. He is a Co-Principal Investigator of the U.S. National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center and has led major initiatives related to emerging pathogens, including Ebola virus disease and COVID-19. His work focuses on strengthening health security, surveillance, and response systems globally.



Dr. VICTORIA WADMAN

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UNMC

Dr. Victoria Wadman is an emergency medicine physician with dual fellowship training in Emergency Medical Services and Health Security. As the inaugural Health Security Fellow at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, she helped shape one of the nation's first programs integrating clinical medicine, public health, emergency management, and high-consequence infectious disease preparedness. Her work spans operational planning, coalition engagement, and simulation-based education, with a focus on strengthening health system resilience and interdisciplinary response capacity. Dr. Wadman has contributed to national preparedness initiatives, international biocontainment collaborations, and the development of emerging frameworks for task-shifting and crisis response. She now applies her clinical and systems-level expertise to advancing the field of health security and supporting the next generation of physicians entering this rapidly evolving discipline.



Dr. JASON LANGENFELD

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UNMC

Jason Langenfeld, MD is a board-certified emergency physician and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at University of Nebraska Medical Center where he serves as Emergency Medicine Residency Program Director and Director of Simulation. He was previously EM Vice Chair for Education at Creighton University, as well as serving as a USAF physician and educator. He has directed simulation and education in regional, national, and international forums, including work as a subject matter expert and in curriculum development. Professional interests include resident and student teaching, team training and dynamics, and education and readiness through simulation.



Dr. ALI GHASSANI

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AMEL Association

Dr. Ali Ghassani, Medical Degree (MD) with a Master Public Health from American University of Beirut. Former Hospitalist and ER Physician at Bellevue Medical Center, Lebanon. Former Head of Medical Activities at Medicines without borders (MSF) in Lebanon. Former Medical Coordinator at Amel Association Lebanon. Currently he is Family Physician at one of Amel Primary health care center, He is Lecturer of The Epidemiology and Biostatistics course at Lebanese International University (LIU). He is Co-leading the Community Research Center at Amel Association since 2018. He is interested in different research topics, mainly in improving medical practice at Primary Health Care Centers and Empowering community research.



Dr. KEN RESNICOW

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UNM & UOM

Ken Resnicow is Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and the Irwin Rosenstock Professor Emeritas of Health Behavior and Health Education at University of Michigan School of Public Health. His work has focused on designing and evaluating behavior change programs for a wide range of health behaviors including smoking cessation, cancer treatment and survivorship, genetic testing, COVID-19 vaccination, cancer screening, genetic testing, firearm and car safety, weight control, diet and physical activity, effective parenting, medical adherence, organ donation, substance use, youth violence and risk behaviors and accrual into clinical trials. Much of his work has involved ethnic/racial and underserved populations particularly African Americans, Native Alaskans, Latinx/Hispanic, and Middle Eastern North Africans. Much of his work is based on Motivational Interviewing and is influenced by Chaos Theory and Self-Determination Theory. He has published over 440 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has served on numerous national and global advisory including from 2019 to 2023, the National Council for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities NIH-NIMHD. In recent years, his work has increasingly entailed novel behavioral tailoring and the incorporation of e-Health technology to enhance the impact of health messages. Examples include; an SMS-based smoking cessation program for Middle Eastern and North African adults Yallah Quit!, a tailored messaging system to reduce COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, a tailored web-based intervention to encourage update of cancer genetic testing, a violence prevention App for high risk youth, and a dyadic support smoking cessation App for pregnant smokers in Romania. He has also worked on several studies using community health workers, including current work in faith-based organizations domestically, and South Africa and Brazil, globally. He has collaborated with researchers in over 25 countries including; South Africa, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Portugal, Romania, Israel, Qatar, Morocco, Turkey, Finland, Tunisia, Ukraine, and the Netherlands and has trained over 1000 health professionals in Motivational Interviewing in both academic and health care delivery settings.

Dr. DAVID BISHAI

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University of Hong Kong



Professor David Bishai is Clinical Professor of the School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong. Prior to joining HKU, Professor Bishai had served as Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for 27 years and served in the Maryland Department of Health as a local health officer in 2021. A leading health economist, his research focuses on the performance and financing of global public health activities, primary healthcare, vaccines, and health disparities. He is the author of three books and more than 270 peer-reviewed scientific publications. His award-winning courses on systems thinking and health economics have reached over 60,000 students. He is a Past President of the International Health Economics Association and the 2021 winner of the Sharmanov Prize in Primary Health Care. Professor Bishai maintains certification by both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard in Philosophy and Physics, his Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Los Angeles, his Medical Doctorate from the University of California at San Diego, and his Doctor of Philosophy from the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. HANAN ABDUL RAHIM

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Qatar University

Professor Hanan F. Abdul Rahim is Professor of Public Health (Epidemiology) and Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Qatar University in Doha, Qatar. Since assuming the deanship in 2020, she has guided the College through academic expansion and strategic alignment with national health workforce priorities. Her leadership has included overseeing the accreditation and reaccreditation of academic programs in the health sciences, launching new degrees, and spearheading regional capacity-building collaborations that position the College as a leading center for public health education in the region. Internationally, Professor Abdul Rahim is recognized for her contributions to public health workforce education and development. She serves as a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Evidence-Based Implementation in Global Health, a member of the WHO Public Health and Emergency Workforce Roadmap Steering Committee, and a member of the Technical Advisory Group on Competency-Based Education for strengthening the Public Health and Emergency Workforce. She also sits on advisory boards for several national and regional public health education and training bodies. Her academic leadership at Qatar University spans more than 15 years. She played foundational roles in establishing the country's first Bachelor of Science in Public Health (2012) and Master of Public Health (2015) programs. She previously served as Associate Director of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (2008–2017) at Qatar University. Between 2003–2006, she was an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University. Professor Abdul Rahim's research sits at the intersection of public health and social science. Her scholarly work spans maternal and child health, noncommunicable diseases, mental health, social determinants, and population health surveillance. She has a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Oslo, Norway (2003) and a M.Sc. in Biological Sciences from Illinois State University (1994).



Dr. DIANA MADDAH

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Qatar University

Dr. Diana Maddah is an Assistant Professor of Public Health at Qatar University and a specialist in public health preparedness and humanitarian health. With over 12 years of field experience, she has supported emergency response operations globally, including with the UK Emergency Medical Teams. Her research focuses on preparedness planning, community engagement, and the use of artificial intelligence in humanitarian contexts. An accredited gender equity trainer, she has led projects supporting women, refugees, and vulnerable populations. In 2025, she was nominated to Buckingham Palace in recognition of her impactful humanitarian work and contributions to saving lives.



Dr. ASHISH JOSHI

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University of Memphis

Dr. Ashish Joshi is the Dean and Distinguished University Professor of the University of Memphis School of Public Health. He is an innovator, entrepreneur, educator, researcher, administrator, mentor and a public health diplomat. He is a leading international authority in Public Health Innovation, a population health informatics researcher, and applied health resilience frameworks. He is also the author of first textbook "Population Health Informatics: Driving Evidence-based solutions into practice". and has developed one of the first models of public health education in high schools. Dr. Joshi is founder of the public health diplomacy lab bringing together globally a wide range of stakeholders advancing good health and well-being of all. He also chairs Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Technology and Public Health Advisory Group, elected Chair of the ASPPH Responsible and Ethical use of AI in the Public Health Taskforce and is member of the ASPPH Board. He is a Global architect of the internationally recognized SMAART™ Model that aims to address social, economic and health issues towards building sustainable cities and communities. Dr. Joshi has secured nearly \$25 million in research grants and contracts and published more than 150 research papers in high quality peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Joshi's commitment to public health has been well recognized through several awards including CUNY SPH Legacy Award and the Distinguished Service Award by NYC Test and Trace Corps program for his extraordinary COVID-19 work in New York City and Memphis City Council. Dr. Joshi is widely travelled to more than 35 countries and brings a breadth of expertise through his lived public health experience.



Dr. KRISTIN AJROUCH

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University of Michigan

Kristine J. Ajrouch, PhD is Research Professor in the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan where she co-directs the Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease (MCCFAD). Her research has focused, for over twenty-five years, on Middle Eastern and Arab populations in the U.S and Arab World. Her areas of research include ethnic identity and immigrant adaptation; social relations and aging; Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia health disparities. Dr. Ajrouch's current work is funded by the National Institute of Aging where she investigates social and behavioral aspects of Alzheimer's disease (AD)



Dr. GEORGINA AOUN NOUAIME

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ILMAUSA

Assistant Professor at T.Chan Umass Medical School. Hospitalist at “Hospital At Home” at Umass. Board of Internal Medicine, 2001 MBA, 2015 MPH, 2023 Disaster Medicine Fellow 2023. Global Health Leader with Harvard Medical School Disaster medicine fellow at BI Medical Center Research Fellow at HMS [Harvard Medical School] ILMA-USA [international Lebanese medical association] President Interests: Global health, especially around disasters and stressed communities in the US, and around the globe. Access to medical care including, home care. Healthcare disaster readiness and preparedness.



Dr. ABDULLATIF HUSSEINI

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Birzeit University

Abdullatif Hussein is a professor of public health at Birzeit University. He was the university's vice president for community affairs, and he is currently the director of the Institute of Community and Public Health and the MPH program at Birzeit University.

His research interests are rooted in improving the population's health by identifying the various determinants of health and targeting modifiable risk factors through evidence-based interventions. Although his research focus has been on non-communicable diseases and their risk factors, especially diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, nutrition, and smoking, he occasionally works on infectious diseases, including brucellosis and hepatitis. His work spans epidemiology, program evaluation, and capacity building in public health. He is a co-founder of the MPH program at Birzeit University and a principal founder of the MPH program at Qatar University. Hussein has authored over seventy scholarly articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and reports. Recently, he published two policy papers on public health and the war on Gaza.



Dr. SABRI BELGACEM

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WHO

Presently vice chair of the Tunisian association for defending the right to health and free-lance consultant in public health, health systems and health economics. Former state minister for migration and social inclusion and former director of health system strengthening at WHO EMRO. Served as public health physician for about 16 years at various levels of Tunisian health system and as WHO staff for two decades. Got his MD from the faculty of medicine of Tunis, his MPA in public health and public administration from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and his MA in economics from Boston University.



Dr. MAY DARWISH YASSINE

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MPHI

Dr. May Darwish is chief program officer at Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). In her role, she serves as member of the MPHI Senior Leadership team, she oversees MPHI's program centers and shares in setting strategic direction for the Institute. Dr. Darwish-Yassine specializes in chronic disease epidemiology, with focus on applied outcome research and evaluation. Her 25+ year's tenure at MPHI was marked by her leadership of evidence-based public health planning, evaluating public/private partnerships, and initiating population-based cancer surveillance and research studies. Her prior experience includes serving on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston as executive director of research, programs, and initiatives in the college of Nursing and Health Sciences. Dr. Yassine received her Ph.D. in Epidemiologic Science from the University of Michigan (UM) in Ann Arbor, where she also completed her post-doctoral training in diabetes research. She received a master's in epidemiology and a bachelor's in environmental health from the American University of Beirut.



Dr. RENEE CANADY

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MPHI

Renée Branch Canady, Chief Executive Officer Michigan Public Health Institute Dr. Renée Branch Canady serves as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MPHI, a public health institute comprised of process and subject matter experts with a shared vision of a just world that is healthier for all. Dr. Canady is author of the highly acclaimed book, "Room at the Table: A Leader's Guide to Advancing Health Equity and Justice." In this well-received book, Canady elevates the leadership opportunity to leverage difference and justice as assets, pushing leaders to become change agents within health/public health and other fields. Prior to joining MPHI, Dr. Canady served as Health Officer and Director of the Ingham County Health Department, located in Lansing, Michigan. In that role she oversaw the county's statutory responsibility to protect and promote the health of county residents and lead the development of innovative and nationally known public health interventions. Dr. Canady has held faculty and administrative positions at Michigan State University in the College of Nursing where she developed a research trajectory in maternal health and pregnancy outcomes. Previously an assistant professor in the C.S. Mott Department of Public Health, and now in an adjunct appointment, Dr. Canady developed and chaired core courses in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. Dr. Canady is recognized as a national thought leader and sought after speaker. She is a passionate and relationship driven leader who battles forces that damage relationships whether interpersonally or systemically. She has published and presented broadly on these topics and her passion for this work is evident in her personal, academic, and professional life. While serving on numerous national boards, review panels, and advisory groups, Dr. Canady has been highly influential in broadening the discussion of working across difference for the health of all. Canady earned her PhD in Medical Sociology from Michigan State University, a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University and bachelor's degree in public health nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Dr. TERESA LEAO

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ASPHER

Medical doctor, specialist in Public Health. She has a Master's and a Ph.D. in Public Health. She is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine and coordinator of the Health and Policies LAB from ITR at the Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto. She has worked as a medical resident in a Public Health Unit, as an expert in the Portuguese National Health Council, and as a consultant in the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development. Her research mostly focuses on health policies and social and commercial determinants of health.



Dr. NAIEMA TALIEP

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SAMRC-UNISA

Naiema Taliep holds a PhD in Research Psychology and is an associate professor at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa (UNISA), and at the SAMRC-UNISA Violence, Injuries and Social Asymmetries Research Unit. She is recognised for her expertise in community-based participatory action research and community engagement. Her work focuses on child and youth violence prevention, safety and peace promotion, and programme development and evaluation. She serves as Chair of the ISHS Scientific Review Committee and is Principal Investigator on numerous studies, including a survey-based mobile application to monitor community safety and peace.



Dr. GHOUWA ISMAIL

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SAMRC-UNISA

Ghouwa Ismail holds a PhD in Research Psychology, is a senior researcher, and is registered as a research psychologist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, based at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences at the University of South Africa. Her research focuses on violence as a key driver of South Africa's burden of disease, with particular emphasis on the measurement and prevention of child and youth violence. She is recognised for her contributions to instrument development and child safety interventions. She serves as Managing Editor of Social and Health Sciences Journal, sits on editorial boards, and serves on national research ethics and funding review committees.



Dr. SENECA JAMES

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SAMRC-UNISA

Seneca James has an MA in Research Psychology and is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa (UNISA). Her research interests include community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods, programme monitoring and evaluation, violence prevention research, and the promotion of community safety and well-being. Her work places a strong emphasis on building and sustaining networks and coalitions, as well as strengthening organisational capacity within community-based and multisectoral initiatives to support sustainable social change.



Dr. NICOLE RINQUEST

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SAMRC-UNISA

Nicole has an MA in Research Psychology and is currently a research intern at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences (ISHS), University of South Africa, based in Cape Town. Her research interests include community engagement, child development, youth violence prevention, and programme monitoring and evaluation. Her work is informed by a commitment to socially responsive research and evidence-based approaches to strengthening community and youth-focused interventions.



Dr. NAJUWA ARENDSE

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SAMRC-UNISA

Najawa Arendse is a programme manager at the Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa (UNISA), and at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC-UNISA) Violence, Injuries and Social Asymmetries Research Unit. Her specific research interests include injury mortality surveillance, child pedestrian safety, and suicidal behaviour. She has extensive experience in programme development, community-engaged research, and promotion of human behaviour and performance. She is currently registered as a PhD candidate at the Unisa.



Dr. HANEEN TAWEEL

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Scholars Without Borders

Driven by a passion for advancing health equity through evidence-based research, Haneen Taweel is a public health researcher whose work spans both qualitative and quantitative studies, from exploring dietary patterns and their determinants to clinical nutrition intervention and participatory action research. With a Master's in Public Health and Epidemiology and a Bachelor's in Nutrition and Dietetics, she brings a distinctive, multi-method research lens to her work. Taweel has led quantitative research including dietary patterns among diverse populations, exploring links between nutrition and noncommunicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and One Health interactions. Her clinical research includes a nutrition intervention tailored for chronic kidney disease patients undergoing hemodialysis. In addition, Taweel has conducted systematic reviews and engaged in participatory action research with young people with disabilities, ensuring research is inclusive, community-rooted, and contextually relevant. Her scholarly journey, from nutrition and dietetics to public health and epidemiology, has shaped her unique approach, blending rigorous statistical analyses with qualitative, community-driven insights. Her passion for this field is rooted in a drive to address health disparities and empower marginalized communities through research-informed interventions.



Dr. JIAB SULEIMAN

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Scholars Without Borders

Jiab Suleiman, M.S., D.O. is a U.S.-trained, board-certified orthopedic surgeon with over 20 years of experience and a decades-long commitment to humanitarian and medical relief work in Palestine. For many years, he has participated in numerous medical missions to Gaza, providing critical orthopedic care to patients in highly challenging and resource-limited settings. Dr. Suleiman earned his medical degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency at St. John Oakland Hospital in affiliation with Michigan State University. Alongside his clinical work, he has been published extensively and continues to serve vulnerable communities through ongoing medical relief efforts.



Dr. YASMINE ATTIA

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Qatar University

Yasmine Attia holds a BSc in Nutrition Sciences and is currently pursuing an MSc in Nutrition Sciences, with a growing interest in public health and humanitarian work. For the past two years, she has worked as a Research Assistant in the Department of Public Health, supporting multidisciplinary projects through literature reviews, data organization, stakeholder coordination, and preparation of research materials and reports. Her work focuses on applying evidence to real-world challenges, strengthening research-to-practice translation, and contributing to initiatives that improve health outcomes and service delivery.



Dr. SALIM ZARU

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UPA

Saleem Zaru is the Executive Director of United Palestinian Appeal (UPA) in Washington, DC and has led the organization for 15 years. He leads staff across five areas of operation (Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt) and has provided strategic leadership in the expansion of UPA's capacity to meet the growing relief and development needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian communities. Saleem brings 35 years of executive experience in both the non-profit and private sectors. Prior to joining UPA, Saleem was a practicing architect, city planner and university professor who co-founded the first homebuilding and mortgage financing company in Palestine.



Dr. BRUCE GROGAN

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UNMC

As the Director of the Office of Global Engagement, I oversee the daily operation of the office as well as have responsibility for strategic planning including the development of partnerships with international institutions. I have worked in over 50 countries during my 40-plus years as a development professional and have worked with a variety of public and private institutions including the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the Governor of California and COUNTERPART International. I received graduate degrees from Yale University and a BA from Middlebury College and have been working at UNMC since 2010.



Dr. DANIAH NUSEIBEH

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UPA

Daniah Nuseibeh is the Donor Relations Manager at the United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), where she oversees donor stewardship, organizational fiscal sponsorship partnerships, and fundraising operations. She works closely with supporters to strengthen relationships, ensure transparency, and advance UPA's mission of providing educational, health and wellness, community development, outreach, and humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and displaced Gazans in Egypt.



Dr. DINA AYNA

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UPA

Dr. Dinah Ayna is a clinical psychologist, mental health consultant with United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), and faculty at the Department of Psychiatry at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in Beirut (AUBMC). Dr. Ayna coordinates the mental health response at the AUBMC for children and families receiving care through the Ghassan Abu Sitta Children's Fund. Dr. Ayna has volunteered with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon through NISCVT for over 30 years and has been involved in mental health programming in Gaza since 2018. Clinically, she specializes in treating severe problems of emotion dysregulation and promoting staff wellbeing and burnout prevention.



Dr. ANGELA VASA

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UNMC

Angela Vasa, MSN, RN Director of Emergency Preparedness and Special Pathogen Programs at Nebraska Medicine, providing leadership for high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) preparedness and response. With over two decades of clinical experience spanning geriatrics, trauma critical care, solid organ transplant, and HCIDs, she has served on the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit since 2009, including direct care during the 2015 Ebola response, early SARS-CoV-2 quarantine operations, and 2024 Lassa fever response. Her work focuses on strengthening health system readiness through workforce development, infection prevention and control, and readiness assessment. She leads national and international initiatives advancing coordinated, scalable preparedness strategies to improve resilience, equity, and outcomes during emergencies.



Dr. IHSSANE BENZAARATE

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Chouaib Doukkali University

Ihssane Benzaarate is a PhD candidate in Molecular Bacteriology at Institut Pasteur du Maroc and Chouaib Doukkali University, specializing in antimicrobial resistance surveillance and bacterial genomics. She holds a Master's degree in Health Sciences from Aix-Marseille University and Hassan II University, and a Bachelor's in Health Sciences from Hassan II University. Her research focuses on the molecular characterization of resistance and virulence in pathogenic bacteria, with hands-on expertise in whole-genome sequencing Illumina and Nanopore, molecular biology, and bioinformatics analysis using platforms like Galaxy, Pathogenwatch, and CARD. She has taught microbiology at the university level and actively trains students in laboratory techniques including PCR, antibiograms, sequencing, and genomic data analysis. Ihssane has co-supervised several research internships and regularly participates in scientific outreach and public health education. Her recent work includes the first report in Morocco of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains co-harboring blaNDM and blaVIM/blaIMP, as well as studies evaluating biofilm formation and antibiotic interactions. She received the 1st prize at the 2022 Pasteur Bicentennial for her work on quaternary ammonium compounds and ciprofloxacin against biofilms.



Dr. SHANE QUINONEZ

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University of Michigan

Shane C. Quinonez, MD is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan and serves as Interim Director of Global REACH. A pediatric geneticist by training, Dr. Quinonez leads international collaborations across South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa focused on strengthening genetic services, newborn screening, and rare disease care in low- and middle-income countries. His work integrates capacity-building, workforce training, and digital health innovation to expand equitable access to genomic medicine. He also serves as Associate Program Director for the Pediatrics Residency Program and directs multiple initiatives at the intersection of global health, education, and translational research.



Dr. REBECCA MALOUIN

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MSU

Dr. Rebecca A. Malouin is Associate Dean for Global Health and Director of the Global Health Institute in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University (MSU). A professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Dr. Malouin has devoted her career to advancing global health education, research, and practice through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative program development. She led the development of both undergraduate and graduate academic programs at Michigan State University. Dr. Malouin earned her Ph.D. and M.P.H. in International Health from Johns Hopkins University and an M.S. in Epidemiology from Michigan State University.



Dr. HUSAIN SALAH

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Henry Ford

Graduated from Damascus University school of medicine in 1980, and completed about 2 years of general surgery training in Syria. Completed pathology training at Western reserve care system in Ohio USA and 1990, followed by fellowship and cytopathology at University of Pennsylvania in 1991.

Also successfully earned a master of business administration MBA from the University of Tennessee in 2003

Dr. Saleh had started his practice at the University of Florida, Jacksonville, 1991-1993, and then transferred to Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University in Michigan, 1993-2019, where he was the chief of pathology at Sinai Grace Hospital from 2001- 2019.

Currently works at Henry Ford Health since 2019, where he serves as the chief of pathology at Wyandotte Hospital

Dr. Saleh was Assistant Professor of pathology at University of Florida. He became associate Professor in 2000 and then full Professor in 2010 at Wayne State University school of medicine.

Dr. Saleh contributed to teaching of medical students, and residents and pathology at the University of Florida and Detroit Medical Center. He was the gastrointestinal pathophysiology course Director, second-year medical student, at Wayne State University school of medicine. 2003-2010

Dr. Saleh had many national and international presentations and pathology, particularly in cytopathology and fine-needle aspiration. He participated and presented at conferences of American Society of cytopathology, American Society of clinical pathologists, and IAP-Arab division. He organized and presented several workshops in the annual meetings of these societies. He is also a member of these societies. Dr. Soller also was on the review board for several medical journals including diagnostic cytopathology, and gastrointestinal and liver diseases journal.

Dr. Saleh has over 50 peer- reviewed articles in cytopathology and GI pathology among others

published in various medical journals such as Acta cytologica and diagnostic cytopathology. Dr is married and has had 4 children and 10 grandchildren. He currently lives in Michigan, USA

Dr. JIEWEN WU

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University of Hong Kong

Jiewen Wu is a PhD student at the School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong. Her research focuses on global health partnerships and health workforce capacity building. Simultaneously, she serves as an Assistant Research Fellow at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). Her professional expertise includes the surveillance and risk assessment of global infectious diseases and providing technical support for China's global public health aid initiatives.



Dr. AMIRA ZAIRI

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Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

Amira Zairi, Ph D is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse, Tunisia, and Head of the Department of Basic Sciences A. Her research expertise spans biochemistry, phytotherapy, and biological risk management, with a particular interest in bridging fundamental biochemical research with translational and applied biomedical sciences. She has authored numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and is actively involved in research supervision, academic leadership, and international scientific collaboration.