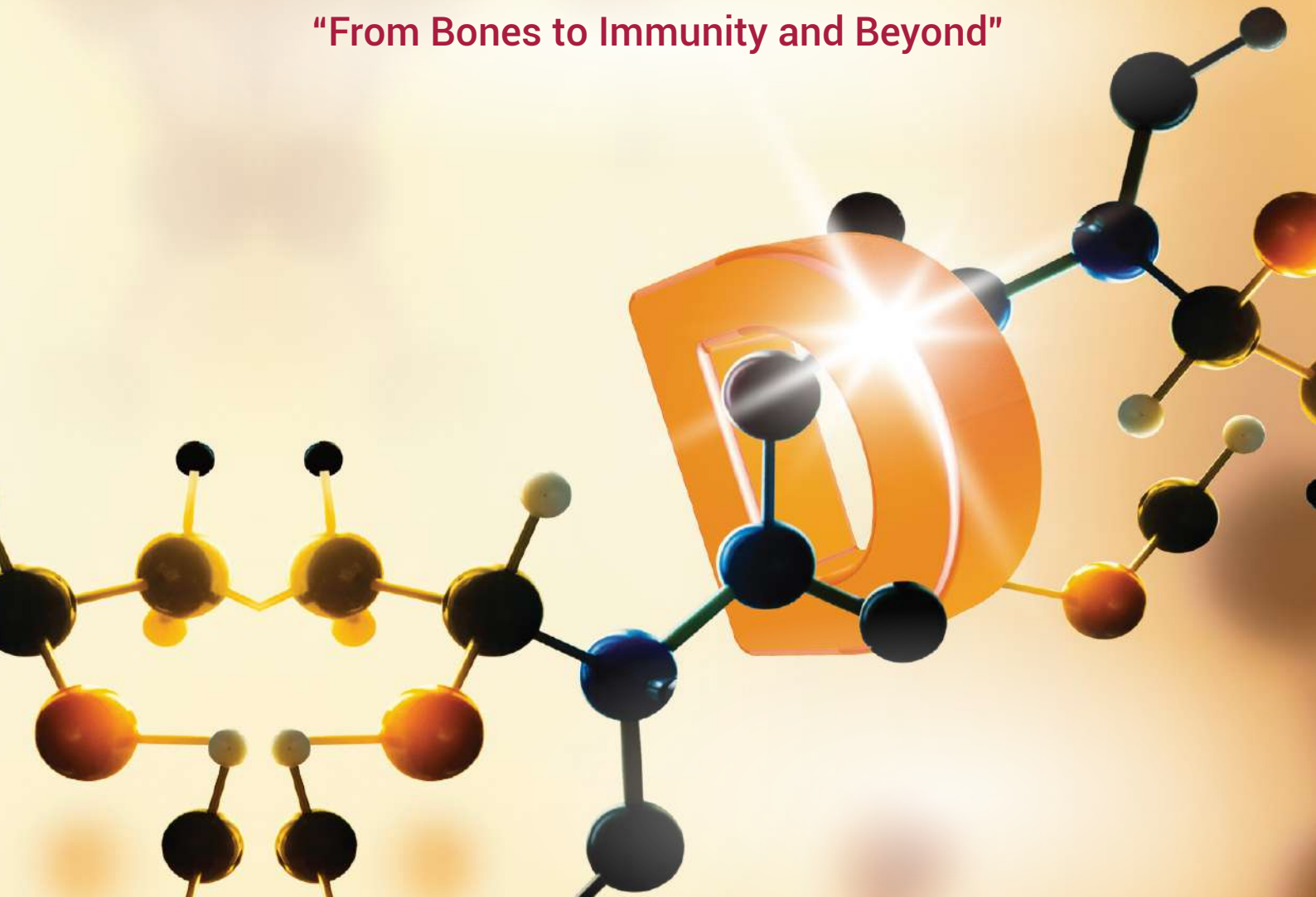


9TH ABU DHABI ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY AND HUMAN HEALTH

 7-8 October, 2022

 VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE
Abu Dhabi, UAE

“From Bones to Immunity and Beyond”



Organized by



CONFERENCE BOOK

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Welcome Message

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the scientific and organizing committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to “9th Abu Dhabi Annual International Conference on Vitamin D Deficiency and Human Health” to be held on 7-8 October, 2022 as a Virtual Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE This event shall be focused on the theme “From Bones to Immunity and Beyond”.

During this extraordinary scientific gathering, we will learn about the latest advances in research and clinical practice of vitamin D and its impact on human health throughout the life cycle.

The forum will bring experts from all over the world representing their Scientific Societies thus allowing the healthy exchanging of academic knowledge and expertise and teaching us their experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic which fortunately has not prevented us from organizing this wonderful scientific encounter in virtual mode that will provide a meaningful educational experience for all who attend.

Despite the numerous studies about the association between vitamin D and different health outcomes, there are still controversies defining the adequate vitamin D status, daily intake and the potential adverse health consequences of its deficiency. To date, there are various reports signifying vitamin D deficiency impact in autoimmune processes, several cancers, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, metabolic syndrome, neurological disorders, & pregnancy complications; however conclusive evidence about a causal relationship is still missing.

The program will include state of the art lectures on recent updates in the early detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vitamin D deficiency and its role to human health. Prominent national and international speakers and leading experts from various specialties will provide comprehensive, up-to-date, research-based answers to the most frequent questions that arise at patient's bedside in everyday practice.

We believe the conference will be an important meeting point to inspire and connect leaders, decision makers, doctors, scientists, technologists, public servants and academics to enhance the awareness, quality and safety practices to understand and prevent vitamin D deficiency of our population.

We are sure that your participation at this unique event will be an excellent opportunity to exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices, foster clinical collaborations and discuss current issues with many professionals in the field from all over world.

We are sure that the meeting will be unforgettable one and the program will enrich all participants' knowledge and enhance clinical care.

I wish you a very successful and fruitful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yassin', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Dr. Yassin El Shahat

Conference Chairman

Head of Organizing committee

Consultant Nephrology / Chief Medical Officer,
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Welcome Message

Dear Colleagues,

It is with pride and pleasure that we welcome you to the 9th Abu Dhabi Annual International Conference on Vitamin D Deficiency and Human Health with the theme "From Bones to Immunity and Beyond" which will be held this year on 7-8th October 2022 as a Virtual Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

On behalf of the scientific committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our guests speakers and participants from the UAE, the GCC Countries and all over the world. The Abu Dhabi International Conference on Vitamin D Deficiency and Human Health is 9 years old and due to the contribution made by all of you it has established itself as one of most premiere scientific events in the entire Region.

The program will feature some of the world-class renowned speakers and leading Vitamin D experts and scientists whose work had been well recognized and had to significant advancement to Science and clinical practice. One of the unique features of this conference is multidisciplinary approach to screening, detection and treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency, panel discussion after each session to facilitate cross interaction and enhance participation. As we continue to recover from the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had this year designated a comprehensive session to highlight the latest research pertaining to SARS-CoV-2 and Vitamin D. Several research findings had demonstrated the protective role of Vitamin D in viral respiratory infections and recent investigations had concurred such results for COVID-19 infections. The agenda will also include an extensive range of topics with key note lectures, plenary sessions, expert review and discussions of all the relevant issues pertaining to vitamin D including Vitamin D Testing, Supplementation, Fortification and Toxicity, The Role of Vitamin D in Cardiovascular Diseases, Vitamin D and Women's Health, Vitamin D and Metabolic Diseases, Vitamin D in Bone Health and Osteoporosis, Vitamin D Deficiency and Neurological Disorders, Vitamin D in Genetic Diseases and Cancer, Vitamin D in Neonates, Children and Adolescence, Vitamin D and Obesity. It also will discuss Updates from randomized clinical trials RCTs in Vitamin D, and provide recommendations and guidelines to conduct additional studies

We are confident that this conference will be a genuinely interactive platform to enhance knowledge and gain insight into the latest advancement in this critical field of research as an important part in healthcare to establish global practices for early detection and prevention of Vitamin D Deficiency.

We wish you a very productive and successful conference.

Sincere regards,

Dr. Fatme Al Anouti

Chair, Scientific Committee
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and
Clinical Chemistry, College of Natural and
Health Sciences, Zayed University
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Organizing Committee



Dr. Yassin El Shahat
Conference Chairman
Head of Organizing Committee
Consultant Nephrology/
Chief Medical Officer,
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Fatme Al Anouti
Chair, Scientific Committee
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and
Clinical Chemistry, College of Natural and
Health Sciences, Zayed University
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Khaled Afify
General Manager
Mena Conference
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Medhat Elsabbahy
Head of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Division
Arab Federation of Psychiatrists
Head of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation
Dept., BSP, SKMC, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Local Scientific Committee



Dr. Fatme Al Anouti
Chair, Scientific Committee
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and
Clinical Chemistry, College of Natural and
Health Sciences, Zayed University
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Samer Ellahham
Cardiovascular Consultant,
Cleveland Clinic - Abu Dhabi,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Yousef Al Saadi
Director of Conformity Affairs Department,
Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology,
UAE



Dr. Medhat Elsabbahy
Head of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Division
Arab Federation of Psychiatrists
Head of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation
Dept., BSP, SKMC, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Laila Abdel Wareth
Chief of Clinical Pathology,
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Institute
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi,
Abu Dhabi, UAE




Dr. Adil Sajwani
Specialist Family Physician
Fakeeh University Hospital
Dubai, UAE



International Advisory Board



Prof. William B. Grant
Head International Advisory Board
Director, Sunlight,
Nutrition and Health Research Center,
San Francisco, California, USA




Prof. Dr. John H. White
Joseph Morley Drake/Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Physiology, McGill University,
Quebec, Canada




Dr. Kalliopi D. Kotsa
Assistant Professor in Endocrinology –
Diabetes Medical School,
Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece




Dr. Spyridon "Spiros" Nikolaos Karras
Endocrinologist, Senior Researcher,
Unit of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism,
First Dept. of Internal Medicine,
AHEPA University Hospital,
Thessaloniki, Greece




Prof. Dr. Salvatore Minisola
Professor of Internal Medicine,
Dept. of Internal Medicine & Medical Disciplines
"Sapienza", Rome University, Italy





Dr. Petar Seferovic
MD, PhD, FESC, FACC
Chair of Internal Medicine,
University of Belgrade. School of Medicine,
Professor and Head, Heart Failure Center,
Belgrade University Medical Center, President,
Heart Failure Society of Serbia




Prof. Dr. Elias Castanas
Professor of Experimental Endocrinology,
University of Crete, Greece




Prof. Dr. Pawel Pludowski
Professor, Department of Biochemistry
Radioimmunology and Experimental Medicine,
Children's Memorial Health Institute,
Warsaw, Poland


Conference Objectives

- Define the mechanism of Vitamin D metabolism
- Discuss the serious global problem of Vitamin D deficiency
- Diagnose Vitamin D deficiency/insufficiency
- List the indications for testing of Vitamin D
- Describe the commonly used methods for measurement of Vitamin D
- Demonstrate complications of Vitamin D deficiency
- Evaluate the correlation of multiple diseases and Vitamin D deficiency
- Describe testing and treatment of Vitamin D deficiency
- Explain recommendations for intake

Highlighted Topics Include:

- Vitamin D and COVID-19: The Evidence for Prevention & Treatment of Coronavirus infections
- The Status of Vitamin D in Juveniles
- The Classical Role of Vitamin D
- The Non-Classical Role of Vitamin D
- The Role of Vitamin D in Respiratory Infections
- The Importance of Vitamin D in Allergic Diagnosis
- The Role of Vitamin D in Cardiovascular Diseases
- The Genomic Aspects of Vitamin D
- The Molecular Aspects of Vitamin D
- Vitamin D and Diabetes
- Vitamin D and Lungs
- Vitamin D and Skin Diseases
- Vitamin D Supplements & Treatment
- Vitamin D and Cancer
- Vitamin D and Neurological Disorders
- Vitamin D Toxicity
- Vitamin D in Rickets, and Osteoporosis
- Vitamin D in Women's Health
- Vitamin D and Autoimmune Diseases
- Vitamin D and Genetics
- Vitamin D in Mothers and Neonates
- Vitamin D and Human Reproduction
- Vitamin D Molecular Biology
- Vitamin D Metabolomics
- Vitamin D Physiology and Biochemistry
- Vitamin D Immunology
- Vitamin D Epidemiology
- Public Health Nutrition
- Nutritional Disorders and Treatment
- Vitamin D & Nutrition in Pediatrics
- Current Research in Nutrition & Food Sciences
- Role of Nutrition in Disease Prevention
- Vitamin D Deficiency A World wide Problem with Health Consequence
- Vitamin D Deficiency Insufficiency and Supplementation
- Vitamin D Assays in Clinical Laboratory: Past, Present & Future Challenges

Why to attend?

All healthcare professionals, clinicians, scientists, researchers, technologists, nutritionists, nurses, professors, pharmacists, to improve the general health status of the population should attend this conference. Abu Dhabi Annual International Conference on Vitamin D Deficiency and Human Health. This conference comprise of many leading keynote speakers and session speakers who have already confirmed their participation. Many more international researchers and scientists and professors will be delivering their speeches on the research topics of advancements/current developments about role of Vitamin D deficiency & nutrition in human health.

International Speakers



Dr. Andrija Janicijevic
Global Medical Affairs Manager at
Roche Diagnostics International AG
Zug, Switzerland



Dr. Hala Darwish
Associate Professor
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA



Dr. Kalliopi D. Kotsa
Assistant Professor in Endocrinology
Diabetes Medical School,
Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece



Dr. Michael Levine
Chief Emeritus, Endo & Diabetes,
Children's Hosp of Philadelphia, USA



Dr. Mohammed S. Razzaque
Professor of Pathology,
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
at Erie, Pennsylvania (USA)



Dr. Petar Seferovic
Academician Professor
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Professor, University of Belgrade Faculty of
Medicine and Heart Failure Center,
President, Heart Failure Society of Serbia
Vice President, European Society of Cardiology
Belgrade, Serbia



Prof. Dr. Salvatore Minisola
Professor of Internal Medicine,
Dept. of Internal Medicine & Medical Disciplines
"Sapienza", Rome University, Italy



Dr. Spyridon "Spiros" Nikolaos Karras
Endocrinologist, Senior Researcher,
Unit of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism,
First Dept. of Internal Medicine,
AHEPA University Hospital,
Thessaloniki, Greece



Mr. Atef Idriss
BioSafety Expert, Food Scientist,
Industrialist, Beirut, Lebanon



Mr. Mark Doumit
BA from the American University
of Beirut in Psychology
MA from New York University in Psychology
Research Assistant in the Psychiatry
Department at the American University of
Beirut Medical Center, Beirut Lebanon



Prof. Dr. John H. White
Joseph Morley Drake/Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Physiology, McGill University,
Quebec, Canada



Prof. Dr. Sunil J. Wimalawansa
Professor of Medicine,
Endocrinology & Nutrition;
Director, Cardio-Metabolic &
Endocrine Institute, New Jersey, USA



International Speakers



Prof. Peter Kviety
Adjunct Appointment, Scientist,
King Faisal Specialist Hospital &
Research Center, Riyadh



Prof. William B. Grant
Head International Advisory Board
Director, Sunlight,
Nutrition and Health Research Center,
San Francisco, California, USA



Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa
Associate Professor, Head of the
Endocrinology Unit, Head of the Andrology
& Cryopreservation Unit, Department of
Laboratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
University of Debrecen Nagyerdei, Hungary



National Speakers



Dr. Amar Ahmad
Biostatistician / Research Scientist,
Public Health Research Center,
NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Arvind Jain
Anatomic & Clinical Pathologist
Yas Clinic Khalifa City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Fatme Al Anouti
Chair, Scientific Committee
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and
Clinical Chemistry, College of Natural and
Health Sciences, Zayed University
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Gianina Elena Statache
Rheumatologist, Department of
Rheumatology Reem Hospital
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Hadiah M. Azzam Kayasseh
Specialist Internal Medicine,
Dr. Kayasseh Medical Clinic,
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Kinda Khalaf
Associate Chair of Biomedical Engineering,
Khalifa University, UAE



Dr. Mohd Azzam Kayasseh
Hepatogastroenterologist,
Founding President of Microbiome
Innovation Centre/
Clinical Researcher Holistic
Microbiome Project,
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Nahida Nayaz Ahmed
Chair of Behavioral Health Council
SEHA, Maqta Health Center
AHS - SEHA, UAE



National Speakers



Dr. Nigel Umar Beejay
Consultant Physician,
Gastroenterologist Hepatologist,
King's College Hospital London,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Shakur Abdulle
Associate Director & Senior Research Scientist,
Public Health Research Center,
New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Tamer Metwally
Chief Medical Officer
Reem Neuroscience Centre, UAE



Dr. Yousef Al Saadi
Director of Conformity Affairs Department,
Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology,
UAE



Scientific Agenda

DAY 1: Friday, October 7, 2022 (GST / UAE Time)

| Time/GST | Topic | Speaker |
|--|---|---|
| 11:00-11:05 | Welcome & Introduction | Master of Ceremony |
| 11:05-11:10 | Verses from the Holy Quran | |
| 11:10-11:20 | Opening Speech | Dr. Fatme Al Anouti, UAE & Dr. Yassin El Shahat, UAE |
| 11:20-12:00 | KEYNOTE: Vitamin D and Immunity: Current State of the Field | Prof. Dr. John H. White, CAN |
| SESSION 1: VIT D & Immunity Moderator: Dr. Gianina Elena Statache, UAE | | |
| 12:00-12:15 | The role of Vitamin D in respiratory infection | Prof. Peter Kvietys, KSA |
| 12:15-12:30 | The Relation between Self-Tolerance and Vitamin D through Regulatory T cells (Tregs) | Dr. Gianina Elena Statache, UAE |
| 12:30-12:45 | Panel Discussion | |
| 12:45-13:00 | Exhibition Visit Online Networking Poster Viewing | |
| SESSION 2: Infection & Vitamin D: COVID-19 & Beyond Moderator: Dr. Amar Ahmad, UAE | | |
| 13:00-13:45 | KEYNOTE: Vitamin D doses and blood levels necessary to optimize the immune system to fight against infections, including COVID-19 | Prof. Dr. Sunil J. Wimalawansa, USA |
| 13:45-14:00 | Prevalence Vitamin-D Deficiency in GCC Countries & COVID-19 Mortality over 24 Months | Dr. Amar Ahmad, UAE |
| 14:00-14:15 | Panel Discussion | |
| 14:15-14:30 | Exhibition Visit Online Networking Poster Viewing | |
| 14:30-15:15 | SYMPOSIUM: Roche Vitamin D and Bone Turnover Markers in Osteoporosis Management | Dr. Andrija Janicjevic , Switzerland |
| SESSION 3: VIT D and The Brain Moderator: Dr. Tamer Metwally, UAE | | |
| 15:15-15:30 | Vitamin D and Mental Health is there a Link? | Dr. Tamer Metwally, UAE |
| 15:30-15:45 | Role of Vitamin D in Neuronal Development and Cognition | Dr. Hala Darwish, USA & Mr. Mark Doumit, LBN |
| 15:45-16:00 | Panel Discussion | |
| 16:00-16:15 | Exhibition Visit Online Networking Poster Viewing | |
| SESSION 4: Vit D Research in Clinical Settings Moderator: Dr. Fatme Al Anouti, UAE | | |
| 16:15-16:30 | Vitamin D and Pregnancy Outcomes: A critical update of available studies | Dr. Spyridon Karras, GRC |
| 16:30-16:45 | Reconsidering the Role of Vitamin D in the Cardiovascular Continuum from Prevention to Treatment | Dr. Petar Seferovic, SRB |
| 16:45-17:00 | Pharmacology and Clinical Effects of Calcifediol | Dr. Salvatore Minisola, ITA |
| 17:00-17:15 | Clinical Relevance of Interactions between Vitamin D and Magnesium | Dr. Mohammed S. Razzaque, USA |
| 17:15-17:30 | The effect of Vitamin D substitution in Greek elderly prediabetic patients in Glucose Metabolism and Anxiety Indices | Dr. Kalliopi D. Kotsa, GRC |
| 17:30-17:45 | Supporting Mental Health with Vitamin D | Dr. Nahida Nayaz Ahmed, UAE |
| 17:45-18:00 | Panel Discussion | |
| 18:00 | End of Day 1 | |

Scientific Agenda

DAY 2: Saturday, October 8, 2022 (GST / UAE Time)

| Time/GST | Topic | Speaker |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 11:00-11:10 | Welcome & Introduction | Master of Ceremony |
| 11:10-11:40 | KEYNOTE: Reducing incidence and mortality rates in the UAE and related Countries by raising 25OHD to 30 ng/ml | Prof. William B. Grant, USA |
| SESSION 5: VIT D.. from Food to Energy Metabolism Moderator: Dr. Shakur Abdulle, UAE | | |
| 11:40-11:55 | Obesity and Vitamin D Deficiency In Clinical Setting in the UAE | Dr. Hadiyah M. Azzam Kayasseh, UAE |
| 11:55-12:10 | Associations Between Vitamin D, Body Mass Index and Body Fat Composition among Emirati Population | Dr. Shakur Abdulle, UAE |
| 12:10-12:25 | Updates in Vitamin D Fortification in the Context of Quality Assurance | Dr. Yousef Al Saadi, UAE |
| 12:25-12:40 | Vit D Fortification and Safety Case Study | Mr. Atef Idriss, LBN |
| 12:40-13:00 | Panel Discussion | |
| 13:00-14:00 | Exhibition Visit Online Networking Poster Viewing | |
| SESSION 6: Therapeutic Applications for VIT D Moderator: Dr. Kinda Khalaf, UAE | | |
| 14:00-14:15 | Vitamin D and Microbiome | Dr. Mohd Azzam Kayasseh, UAE |
| 14:15-14:30 | Vitamin D in Gastrointestinal Health | Dr. Nigel Umar Beejay, UAE |
| 14:30-14:45 | Methodological Challenges of 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D Determination in the Routine Laboratory | Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa |
| 14:45-15:00 | Genetic Variants in the Vitamin D Metabolism Pathway & Severity of COVID-19 | Dr. Fatme Al Anouti, UAE |
| 15:00-15:15 | A closer look into the Biomechanics of Bone Metabolism in the context of Vitamin D | Dr. Kinda Khalaf, UAE |
| 15:15-15:30 | Defects in Vitamin D metabolism: Emphasis on Stones and Bones | Dr. Michael Levine, USA |
| 15:30-15:45 | Vitamin D Measurement: Debates, Difficulties & Developments | Dr. Arvind Jain, UAE |
| 15:45-16:00 | Panel Discussion | |
| 16:00 | Closing Remarks | |

General Information

9TH ABU DHABI ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY AND HUMAN HEALTH

"From Bones to Immunity and Beyond"

CME Accreditation

This Conference Accredited by the European
Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME)
for **15 CME Credit Hours** (ECMECs)

DAY 1, Friday 07/10/2022 is Accredited for 8 CME Hours

DAY 2, Saturday 08/10/2022 is Accredited for 7 CME Hours

Certificate of Attendance

- Certificates can be downloaded at MENA Conference website (www.menaconference.com) 14 days post conference. A notification with the link & instructions on how it can be downloaded will be sent to your registered email address.
- All delegates are requested to complete the online evaluation prior to downloading their certificates as a mandatory requirement from the accreditation body.
- Each medical specialist should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity

**9TH ABU DHABI ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY
AND HUMAN HEALTH**

**SPEAKERS'
BIOGRAPHY**

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Andrija Janicijevic
Global Medical Affairs Manager at
Roche Diagnostics International AG
Zug, Switzerland



Andrija Janicijevic, MD joined Global Medical Affairs at Roche Diagnostics in 2022 as Medical Affairs Lead Internal Medicine / Clinical Chemistry. This role covers the reagent portfolio in Clinical Chemistry & Endocrinology, and contributes to the development and implementation of the medical strategy in the respective disease areas. With 15 years of in-vitro diagnostics experience, Andrija brings to Global Medical Affairs his expertise in medical education and evidence generation activities. Andrija obtained his degree at the Medical School of Belgrade University, Serbia in 2004, where he also undertook internship and State Exam.



Dr. Hala Darwish
Associate Professor
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA



Dr. Hala Darwish is a researcher in the fields of nursing science and cognitive neuroscience. She is an Associate Professor at the school of nursing and a member of the Concussion Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her research focuses on cognitive impairment and rehabilitation after neurocognitive disorders, such as traumatic brain injury and multiple sclerosis. She is proficient in basic science, translational, and clinical research. She has ongoing research projects investigating vitamin D, cognitive function, and cognitive fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis. Before joining the University of Michigan, Dr. Darwish was an associate professor at the Hariri School of Nursing, a clinical associate at the Department of Psychiatry and Managing Director of the Abou Haidar Neuroscience Institute and Nehme and Therese Tohme Multiple Sclerosis Center and academic associate at the faculty of medicine department of Anatomy, cell biology and physiology (neuroscience) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She received her undergraduate nursing degree and a teaching diploma in special education from the American University of Beirut. She completed her master's as an acute care nurse practitioner and a doctorate in bio-behavioral nursing with a neuroscience concentration at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, followed by a post-doctorate fellowship at the University of Illinois in Chicago. She was the recipient of the research award in nursing by the International Organization of MS Nurses in 2017. She was also the NIH training and individual research grants recipient and has presented her work at national and international forums. Dr. Darwish is a member of the Nursing Honor Society - Sigma Theta Tau and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and other international and national professional organizations. She has authored several research papers and reviews about the topic.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Kalliopi D. Kotsa
Assistant Professor in Endocrinology
Diabetes Medical School,
Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece



Professor Kalliopi Kotsa graduated with distinction from the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1991 and the University of Sheffield in 1996 (M Med Sci Endocrinology - Genetics of Autoimmune Thyroid Disease). She completed her PhD in 2004 (Vitamin D and Glucose Metabolism). She is an Assistant Professor in Endocrinology-Diabetes since October 2013, Head of the Division of Endocrinology-Diabetes, 1st Dept of Internal Medicine in Aristotle University, involved in clinical research, undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. She has participated in several clinical and experimental studies as principal or sub-investigator and has several publications in peer-review medical journals. Her research is currently focused on: 1. The role of calciotropic hormones in glucose metabolism 2. Genetic and epigenetic interactions on complex disease pathogenesis 3. The interaction of vitamin D metabolites with indexes that reflect vitamin D status. She is currently a member of the Educational Committee of the Hellenic Endocrine Society and she has been involved in the formation of national guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of Vitamin D Deficiency



Dr. Michael Levine
Chief Emeritus, Endo & Diabetes,
Children's Hosp of Philadelphia, USA



Dr. Michael A. Levine is Chief Emeritus of Endocrinology and Diabetes and Director of the Center for Bone Health at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Levine holds the Lester Baker Endowed Chair and is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Levine received his M.D. from Drexel University College of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was a Clinical Associate and Fellow in Endocrinology and Genetics at the National Institutes of Health from 1979 to 1982.

His research interests focus on the genetic basis of endocrine signaling defects. His primary clinical interests are endocrine diseases that affect bone and mineral metabolism, particularly osteoporosis, primary hyperparathyroidism, and hypoparathyroidism. Dr. Levine has an active laboratory research program that complements and extends his clinical studies. His approach is to apply molecular and genetic tools to analyze the basis of altered hormone action, particularly in G protein-coupled signal transduction systems that affect growth and development. He has identified the molecular basis of several inherited disorders of mineral metabolism, including familial hypoparathyroidism, pseudohypoparathyroidism, and the McCune Albright syndrome. His research interests now extend to the molecular basis for embryological development of the parathyroid glands and genetic modifiers of vitamin D action.

Dr. Levine has published over 400 manuscripts, chapters and reviews. He is a former Associate Editor of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, and has recently completed a term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pediatric Endocrine Society.

He is a member of numerous professional societies, including the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, American Society for Clinical Investigation, Association of American Physicians, and the American Pediatric Society. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics and a Master of the American College of Endocrinology (MACE). He is an elected member of the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars. A brief list of Dr. Levine's awards and honors includes the Young Investigator Award, American Federation for Clinical Research, Eastern Section; The Fuller Albright Award from The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research; the March of Dimes Basil O'Connor Research Scholar Award; the Distinguished Endocrinology Award from the American College of Endocrinology; and the Frederic C. Bartter Award from the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research. In 2020, Dr. Levine received the International Award from the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology. Dr. Levine has been named as One of America's Best Doctors since 2005.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Mohammed S. Razzaque

Professor of Pathology,
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Erie,
Pennsylvania (USA)



Dr. Razzaque is currently a Professor of Pathology at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Erie, Pennsylvania (USA). He obtained a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in pathology from Nagasaki University (Japan) and also holds a degree in medicine (MBBS). Dr. Razzaque is a visiting professor of Department of Oral Health Policy & Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts (USA), University of Antwerp (Belgium), and an honorary professor at University of Rwanda College of Medicine & Health Sciences, Kigali (Rwanda). Dr. Razzaque has published more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific articles, in the highest impact journals, including in "Cancer Cell," "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)," "Journal of Cell Biology," "FASEB Journal," "Journal of Biological Chemistry," "Nature Review Endocrinology," "Developmental Cell," "American Journal of Pathology" and "Trends in Molecular Medicine." He edited five books and has written more than 15 book chapters. His research interest is to understand the effects of nutrients on health, and his clinical interest is renal pathology. Dr. Razzaque is a recipient of an R01 grant as a principal investigator from the National Institute of Health (NIH) of USA.



Dr. Petar Seferovic

Academician Professor, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Professor, University of Belgrade Faculty of Medicine and Heart Failure Center,
President, Heart Failure Society of Serbia
Vice President, European Society of Cardiology, Belgrade, Serbia



- Vice-president, European Society of Cardiology (2020-2022)
- President, Heart failure Association of the ESC (2018-2020)
- Co-Editor for Eastern Europe, European Heart Journal
- Academician, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Professor, University of Belgrade Faculty of Medicine and Heart Failure Center, University Medical Center, Belgrade
- President, Heart Failure Society of Serbia

After completing his training and fellowship at Belgrade University School of Medicine and Kings College Hospital in London, UK, he spent two years as a Visiting assistant professor in Methodist Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA. Starting in the mid-90's, he dedicated his clinical and research activity to chronic and acute heart failure.

Prof. Seferovic has a long standing experience in the ESC/HFA and devoted the last three decades of his professional life to promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

In the mandate of 2018-2020, he was a President of Heart Failure Association of the ESC, tracing new avenues for its further development. Subsequently, he committed his energy and ideas to the three ECS/HFA megaprojects: HFA Atlas (first edition completed in 2021, second edition ongoing, to be completed in 2023), ESC/HFA Quality of Care Centres (the project started in June 2021 in 9 European countries, the pilot phase will last until 2024) and ESC Textbook on heart failure (256 authors, 6 editors, 1100 pages, Publisher Oxford University press, to be published in September 2022).

As a Vice-President of the ESC during the mandate 2020-22, he was in charge of connecting ESC and eighteen National Cardiac Societies of South-Eastern Europe and succeeded to keep a close contact and the best image of the ESC, in the harsh environment of COVID 19 pandemic. He acted as the Co-Chair of the European Heart Agency, in pursuing Agency activities and projects. In addition, he was appointed a European Heart Journal Co-editor for Eastern Europe and organized ten Joint sessions of the EHJ and relevant National Cardiac Societies. Furthermore, he was elected to the Heart Failure Hall of Fame of the Heart Failure Society of America in July 2021.

Prof. Seferović has coauthored a total of more than 600 publications, h-index 66, including multiple papers in peer-reviewed international journals. He has a total citation of 37254 (Google Scholar) /57172 (Scopus). He presented more than 300 lectures at international conferences.

Speakers' Biography



Prof. Dr. Salvatore Minisola

Professor of Internal Medicine,
Dept. of Internal Medicine & Medical Disciplines
"Sapienza", Rome University, Italy



He is a full-time professor of Internal Medicine at the Department of Internal Medicine and Medical Disciplines, "Sapienza", University of Rome in Italy. Prof. Dr. Salvatore was the president of the Italian Society of Osteoporosis, Mineral Metabolism and Skeletal Diseases (SIOMMMS), A MEMBER OF THE Professional Practice Committee of American Society of Bone and Mineral Research, a member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Society of Internal Medicine. He is currently an Associated Editor of Journal of Endocrinological Investigation; Senior Editor of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports; L' Endocrinologo. Member of Editorial Board of Calcified Tissue International and Bone Research. Has authored and co-authored more than 270 articles in international peer-reviewed journals and written several reviews and book chapters. H-index: 49 and reviewed more than 50 journals.



Dr. Spyridon "Spiros" Nikolaos Karras

Endocrinologist, Senior Researcher,
Unit of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism,
First Dept. of Internal Medicine, AHEPA University Hospital,
Thessaloniki, Greece



Spyridon Karras was born in Thessaloniki. He graduated from the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He acquired his specialization in Endocrinology in 2010. His PhD thesis (completed in 2015), focused on the pleiotropic effects of vitamin D during pregnancy. This research endeavor led to the development of several international collaborations on the field of vitamin D research worldwide and was the initial basis for the foundation of the Mediterranean Vitamin D experts meeting. He has published more than 100 full papers in peer-reviewed international journals, with the vast majority relating to extra skeletal vitamin D actions. He is regular reviewer in more than 70 international journals and lecturer in national and international meetings on the field. He is also member of the Editorial board of scientific peer-reviewed journals. His current position is as a Senior Researcher in the Unit of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, First Department of Internal Medicine, AHEPA University Hospital, Thessaloniki, with teaching, research and clinical activities.

Speakers' Biography



Mr. Atef Idriss

BioSafety Expert, Food Scientist,
Industrialist, Beirut, Lebanon



Atef Idriss is the President / CEO of MEFOSA SARL (Middle East North Africa Food Safety Associates) and sits at the board of several companies and Holding entities.

MEFOSA, established in 2005, is a leading edge company that provides consultation, research services, project management, technology transfer, traceability audits, ICT and E-Commerce solution in Food Safety, Sustainability, Security and Defense.

Atef has vast experience in the food industry in the Arab region. He started his career more than 40 years ago in Technical Services, at Trivalley Growers Ca. USA and built up his career to Chairman/CEO of Conserves Moderns Chtaura Sal. He is board member of Widriss Holdings, and is the Founding President of SLFI (Syndicate of Food Industries), LAMA (Association of Marketing and Advertising), LAFST (Association of Food Scientists and Technologists). He is a member of IUoFST & chair of its A&RC (auditing and risk committee) and MENAFoST facilitator. He is an IAFP active member, a Professional Member IFT, and past president of LASFT, past VP of LAND (Association of Nutrition and Development).

Atef worked as a consultant with UNIDO, WHO, ESCWA, ILO and he served as a board member of ELCIM and as an MD of AGRIPOLE; he consulted with several EUROMED programs (including APP and ADP) and USAID projects. He and MEFOSA are EBRD accredited consultants.

Atef taught and introduced new courses (in TQM, GSM, & SchM, etc...) at several Lebanese universities including (USJ, USEK /Universite Saint Esprit Kaslik, GU among others) for the benefit of updating academia on private sector needs. He also served as advisory board member of several other university, faculties and institutions (BAU/FS, AUB/FAFS, LAU/IFB). He is a ServSafe certified trainer of the National Restaurant Association.

Atef started his education in Agricultural Sciences at the American University of Beirut, he also holds a BSc degree in Food Sciences from the University of California- Davis , and has completed several advanced Food Marketing, Quality, Safety, Security, and Defense courses in major US and EU institutions.

Atef CSR includes Al-Wafic NGO (for Economic Development and Investment); Al-Wafic provides the MENA region with advanced solutions that can service agro-economic sustainability using simple market access tools and techniques. He also launched Agripole NGO (accelerator, incubator, & business development center) for SME's addressing KBBE (Knowledge Based Bio-Economy) development issues in the Arab region.

Atef is married to Lina Yashruti, father to Aya, Omar, & Zein. He is a Lebanese - Canadian national.



Mr. Mark Doumit

BA from the American University of Beirut in Psychology
MA from New York University in Psychology
Research Assistant in the Psychiatry
Department at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut Lebanon



- BA from the American University of Beirut in Psychology
- MA from New York University in Psychology
- Research Assistant in the Psychiatry Department at the American University of Beirut Medical Center

Currently a PhD Candidate in Biomedical Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon conducting research on the effect of vitamin D deficiency and supplementation on the brain in adult mice.

Speakers' Biography



Prof. Dr. John H. White

Joseph Morley Drake/Professor and Chair,
Dept. of Physiology, McGill University,
Quebec, Canada



Dr White obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1987 from Harvard University. He has been at McGill University in Montreal since 1991, where he is now Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology. His postdoctoral training introduced him to the field of nuclear receptors, which include receptors for steroid hormones and vitamin D. His lab has been studying vitamin D biology for 20 years, with a focus on its so-called "non-classical" actions, in particular its capacity to control cell proliferation and differentiation and to regulate immune system function. His lab was the first to use large-scale gene expression profiling studies to identify vitamin D target genes. Over the last several years, this work has led to fundamental insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying the cancer-preventive actions of vitamin D. It also uncovered a central role of vitamin D in stimulating antimicrobial innate immunity in humans, and several of his group's laboratory findings have now been borne out by the results of human clinical trials.



Prof. Dr. Sunil J. Wimalawansa

Professor of Medicine,
Endocrinology & Nutrition;
Director, Cardio-Metabolic & Endocrine Institute,
New Jersey, USA



Professor of Medicine, Clinical Endocrinologist, and a Scientist with more than 35 years' experience managing specialty centers and programs, delivering lectures, overseeing drug development and clinical trials, and successfully providing long-term strategic vision. Experienced medical educator. Social Entrepreneur with expertise in founding, managing, and sustaining global social ventures in Asia. Lean Six-Sigma, Green Belt Executive, Rutgers University Business School, New Jersey, USA. Flexible and open



Prof. Peter Kviety

Adjunct Appointment, Scientist,
King Faisal Specialist Hospital &
Research Center, Riyadh



He has Phd from Michigan State University in 1979. Kviety held faculty positions in the United States and University of South Alabama and LSUSCH- Shreveport. Subsequently, he headed the program in vascular biology at the Lawson Research Institute in London, Ontario Canada. He is currently a professor of Physiology at the College of Medicine at Alfaisal University with an adjunct appointment at the king Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. Kviety has served on the editorial boards of American Journal of Physiology (associate editor), Microcirculation, Pathophysiology, Journal and Critical Care Medicine and the journal of Clinical Biochemistry and Nutrition. His major research focus on the role of the vasculature, particularly the endothelium, in the inflammatory response. He has received peer-reviewed funding from National Agencies: current funding in generously provided by KACST. He lists over 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals, more than 30 books chapters and 5 books (authorized or edited)
Adjunct Appointment, Scientist, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center

Speakers' Biography



Prof. William B. Grant

Head International Advisory Board Director,
Sunlight, Nutrition and Health Research Center,
San Francisco, California, USA



After he obtained a PhD physics, William B. Grant had a 30-year career in developing and using laser remote-sensing systems to measure atmospheric constituents and study atmospheric chemistry and dynamics. He turned to health studies in 1997 with the publication of the first paper linking diet to risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. After seeing the Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the United States, 1950-94 in 1999, he turned his attention to studying the roles of solar UVB exposure and vitamin D in reducing risk of cancer. Upon retirement from NASA in 2004, he founded Sunlight, Nutrition and Health Research Center to continue his research regarding the roles of diet and UVB/vitamin D in reducing risk of various diseases. His main research topics relate to vitamin D and health outcomes via ecological studies, reviews, and determining systematic errors regarding epidemiological studies. To date, he has over 260 publications, including letters to the editor, regarding vitamin D listed at pubmed.gov.



Dr. Harjit Pal Bhattoa

Associate Professor, Head of the Endocrinology Unit,
Head of the Andrology & Cryopreservation Unit,
Department of Laboratory Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine University of Debrecen Nagyerdei, Hungary



After he obtained a PhD physics, William B. Grant had a 30-year career in developing and using laser remote-sensing systems to measure atmospheric constituents and study atmospheric chemistry and dynamics. He turned to health studies in 1997 with the publication of the first paper linking diet to risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. After seeing the Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the United States, 1950-94 in 1999, he turned his attention to studying the roles of solar UVB exposure and vitamin D in reducing risk of cancer. Upon retirement from NASA in 2004, he founded Sunlight, Nutrition and Health Research Center to continue his research regarding the roles of diet and UVB/vitamin D in reducing risk of various diseases. His main research topics relate to vitamin D and health outcomes via ecological studies, reviews, and determining systematic errors regarding epidemiological studies. To date, he has over 260 publications, including letters to the editor, regarding vitamin D listed at pubmed.gov.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Amar Ahmad

Biostatistician / Research Scientist,
Public Health Research Center,
NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE



Amar Ahmad was awarded a Ph.D. in Statistics by the University of Munich (Ludwig Maximilian University) in 2007. This follows a German Diplom (equivalent to having earned both U.S. Bachelor's and Master's degrees) in Statistics in 2003 by the University of Munich (Ludwig Maximilian University) in Germany. He is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society in the UK. He has worked as a biostatistician for the last two decades. Ahmad worked as a research assistant at the University of Munich in 2003. In 2007, He worked on the statistical analysis of clinical trial methodology at Bayer Pharmaceuticals in Berlin-Germany. Ahmad moved to London University in 2009 to work at the Institute of Cancer Research and later in 2010 at Queen Mary University of London. In November 2019, he started working as a Research Scientist at New York University Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. His publication "Trends in the lifetime risk of developing cancer in Great Britain: comparison of risk for those born from 1930 to 1960. Ahmad et al. (2015). Br J Cancer" was selected as the paper of the year in Cancer Prevention by The Scottish Cancer Prevention Network. In 2010, Ahmad awarded his colleagues the Jeremy Jass Prize for Research Excellence in Pathology.



Dr. Arvind Jain

Anatomic & Clinical Pathologist
Yas Clinic Khalifa City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Arvind Jain has completed his 'M.D. (Pathology)' from Shivaji University, Maharashtra, India in 2002. In addition to his clinical degrees, he has obtained a 'Diploma in Hospital and Healthcare Management' and 'Diploma in Medicolegal Sciences' from India. Dr. Jain is also 'Certified Six Sigma Green Belt' and has earned his 'MBA from Torrens University, Australia' with High Distinction in all subjects and was awarded topper & best student award among all the students in UAE and Bahrain.

He is an excellent pathologist commanding in-depth subject knowledge and astute administrative skills with over 18 years of experience in various subspecialties of 'Laboratory Medicine and Pathology'. He has a wide experience of establishing world class laboratories across the subcontinent and in the UAE. He is an active member in various scientific societies and is 'Editorial and Reviewer Board Member' of some of the prestigious scientific journals in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Jain worked in renowned private hospitals and multinational reference laboratory as 'Head of Department and Consultant Pathologist' in Mumbai, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka; before moving to the UAE in 2008. Prior to joining SKMC, he worked at Imperial College London Diabetes Centre under Mubadala Healthcare, as 'Laboratory Director and Anatomical and Clinical Pathologist' overseeing their centre's diagnostic services both in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain.

Areas of Interest:

- Aspiration Cytology of Breast, Lymph nodes, Thyroid, & Salivary glands.
- Gynaecological Cytopathology both Conventional & Liquid Based Cytology (LBC).
- Anatomic Pathology of all systems with special interest in Dermatopathology.
- Hematopathology & Clinical Biochemistry.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Fatme Al Anouti

Chair, Scientific Committee
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry,
College of Natural and Health Sciences, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Fatme Al Anouti is an Associate Professor at Zayed University Department of Natural Science and Public Health, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. She is the Assistant Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences. She holds a PhD degree in Clinical Biochemistry and M.Sc in Clinical Chemistry and another in medical Microbiology and Immunology. Her current research looks into the biochemical and genetic basis of Vitamin D Deficiency among UAE nationals. Her most recent work with other researchers had resulted in the publication of clinical guidelines for vitamin D within the UAE. She has been awarded the Abu Dhabi Medical Distinction Award for research contributions in public health field pertaining to vitamin D studies within the UAE. She has numerous publications and presentations at international and national conferences and is a member of many professional organizations like the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, Vitamin D council and the UAE Genetic Diseases Association.



Dr. Gianina Elena Statache

Rheumatologist,
Department of Rheumatology Reem Hospital
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr Gianina has worked as Consultant Rheumatologist in the UK before moving to UAE.

She has completed 2 fellowships in Rheumatology at the Academic Medical Centre, Amsterdam and University of Glasgow, Institute of Infection, Immunity and inflammation, United Kingdom. She has special interest in early arthritis, bone health as well as osteoporosis and patient education

She has developed a Fracture Liaison Service and is currently part of the Abu Dhabi's Department of Health Task force, that recently published the first UAE guidelines in the diagnosis of osteoporosis Dr Gianina is also an associate lecturer at Khalifa University School of Medicine. Out of clinic time, Dr. Gianina is hosting patient education groups trying to raise awareness on autoimmune disorder and improve patient knowledge on their disease



Dr. Hadiyah M. Azzam Kayiaseh

Specialist Internal Medicine,
Dr. Kayasseh Medical Clinic, Dubai, UAE



Dr. Hadiyah M. Azzam Kayiaseh is a Specialist in Internal Medicine. Dr. Hadiyah Kayiaseh is the Administrative Director at Dr. Kayasseh Medical Clinic. She also worked in Garhoud Private Hospital. She is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London and a certificate holder of the Arab Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Kayiaseh is appointed as General Secretary of Emirates Osteoporosis Society.

Dr. Kayiaseh's expertise focuses on education about osteoporosis and diabetes, prevention and treatment, addressing the importance of male osteoporosis, management of insulin resistance syndrome and effective strategies for blood pressure control in addition to weight management programmes.

Dr. Kayiaseh has gained over 10 years of clinical experience in the UAE and the Levant region. She has received Young Clinician AMAGE Award at the Young Clinicians Programme (UEGW 2009). Dr. Hadiyah has participated actively in many international and local conferences, in addition to playing an important role in arranging and conducting educational awareness programmes.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Kinda Khalaf
Associate Chair of Biomedical Engineering,
Khalifa University, UAE



Prior to joining Khalifa University, Dr. Kinda Khalaf held faculty appointments in Engineering and Medicine at the University of Miami (USA), the American University of Beirut (Lebanon), where she held the first joint appointment between the faculties of Engineering and Medicine, and the American University of Sharjah (UAE). Dr. Khalaf is on the list of International Who is Who of Professionals. She has been awarded the LAMME Scholarship, the Woman of Engineering Award for outstanding Academic Achievement multiple times, the Presidential Fellowship Award, the prestigious National Merit Scholar, the University of Miami College of Engineering Teaching Award, and the Khalifa University Faculty Excellence award.

Dr. Khalaf has been conducting research in the areas of orthopedic biomechanics, computational biomechanics, and biomedical devices and biomaterials. She has also co-established an interdisciplinary education research group at Khalifa University focusing on implementing curricular innovative pedagogies and the design of quantitative assessment instruments in engineering education. Her research record is reflected in various national and international research grants, collaborations & awards, numerous journal publications, multidisciplinary lectures, and conference proceedings.

Dr. Khalaf is currently the secretary of the UAE branch of the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (IEEE, EMBS), a founding member of the IEEE education chapter in the UAE (IEEE EDUCON), a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), American Society of Biomechanics (ASB), American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), Tau Beta Pi (Honorary Engineering Society), Pi Tau Sigma (Honorary Mechanical Engineering Society), Alpha Eta Mu Beta (Honorary Biomedical Engineering Society), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the International Institute of Women Engineers (IIWE).



Dr. Mohd Azzam Kayasseh
Hepatogastroenterologist,
Founding President of Microbiome Innovation Centre/
Clinical Researcher Holistic Microbiome Project,
Dubai, UAE



- CEO/Medical Director, Dr. Kayasseh Medical Clinic
- Medical Director, Dr. Kayasseh Liver Center
- Founding President of Dubai Endoscopic Forum
- Endoscopic Principal Researcher (Dubai Classification of BE project and Dubai Biopsy Protocol)
- WEO Regional Councilor (Middle East & Africa) ENDO 2020
- Scientific Committee Member and Clinical Researcher (UAE Genetic Disease Association)
- Founding President of Microbiome Innovation Center
- Clinical Principal Researcher (UAE Microbiome Project)
- Clinical Principal Researcher (Syrian Microbiome Project)

Dr. Kayasseh thesis was "Endoscopic Treatment on Bleeding Ulcers by Local Injection", University of COTE D'AZUR (Nice Sophia Antipolis University, Medical College, France 1993). Dr. Kayasseh has been serving his patients in United Arab Emirates since 1979.

He started his dream of Liver Transplantation Care Program by applying Pre and Post Liver Transplantation Care in Dubai since 2010 and now he is the Medical Director of this program which is affiliated with the International Liver Centers. He has been succeeded in a couple of cases that achieved a new happy, healthy and wealthy life. Dr. Kayasseh mission is to provide a unique medical service which offers superior care of a human being while achieving a standard of accurate diagnosis, maintenance of care and follow up of treatment to retain the highest quality of life as his Patients are his Life and his Truth. With his wealth of experience, Dr. Kayasseh delivers a quality practice for his patients in diagnostic therapeutic digestive endoscopy. Dr. Kayasseh is actively involved in WEO education and training activities locally, regionally and internationally. Dr. Kayasseh presently working on education awareness and clinical researching in Risk Stratification Module and Microbiome Medicine.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Nahida Nayaz Ahmed
Chair of Behavioral Health Council
SEHA, Maqta Health Center
AHS - SEHA, UAE



Dr. Nahida Nayaz Ahmed is an American Board-certified Consultant Psychiatrist with key leadership roles in Mental Health. Besides being the Chair of Psychiatry at AHS, she is also the Chair of Behavioural Health council at SEHA, and the clinical lead for the Mental Health Taskforce at the Department of Health. She is a staunch advocate for integrating psychiatry in Primary care and rehabilitation of Mentally ill patients in the community.

Dr. Ahmed trained at Tufts University-affiliated, St Elizabeth Medical Centre for Residency, & Harvard University-affiliated, Cambridge Health Alliance for Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Fellowship. She has since returned to her home country and has been on the front line for mental health reforms across the emirate of Abu Dhabi. She spearheaded pilot in telepsychiatry to serve remote areas of the UAE and built resources for employee's mental health. She played a key role in establishing a mental health support helpline for Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Ahmed has been active in teaching and mentoring young physicians and medical students. She is an adjunct associate professor at the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, UAE University, and Adjunct Clinical Senior Lecturer at Khalifa University. She is notable speaker and delivered talks on various regional and international platforms. She is an avid reader, travel enthusiast, mother to three exceptional children, and spouse to a distinguished Transplant Nephrologist, Dr. Mohamed Alseiari.



Dr. Nigel Umar Beejay
Consultant Physician,
Gastroenterologist Hepatologist,
King's College Hospital London,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Nigel Beejay is a Consultant Physician in General Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy at Kings College Hospital London in the UAE. Dr. Beejay has over 15 years' experience in healthcare in the UK and USA and over 9 yrs in the UAE with extensive knowledge of operations and revenue cycle management, billing, coding and electronic health records. Dr Beejay was formerly Chairman of the Health Information Management Committee at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SEHA), a tertiary 571 bed, teaching hospital managed by Cleveland Clinic in Abu Dhabi from 2009 until 2014. Dr. Beejay received his medical training in Cambridge University, Boston University, University of London and University of Toronto. Dr. Beejay completed the prestigious Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy/Endoscopic Oncology Fellowship at the Wellesley Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto between 2000 to 2002.

Dr. Beejay is a world expert in video capsule endoscopy and has written articles and books in this subject. Dr. Beejay also has considerable expertise Upper and Lower endoscopy, Heartburn and acid related diseases, Obesity management with intragastric balloons and medications, Functional bowel diseases (irritable bowel syndrome, bloating, food intolerances, constipation), Fatty Liver Disease, Celiac and Food sensitivities, Cancer screening, and Barrett's esophagus.

Dr. Beejay also holds Postgraduate Diploma in Hypnosis, University College London, United Kingdom, a Master of Arts in Social and Political Sciences from King's College, Cambridge University, United Kingdom, a Certificate in Biomedical Informatics from Oregon Health and Sciences University, Portland, United States, and is a Certified Physician Executive of the American College Physician Executives, United States.

Dr. Beejay is the Chairman of the annually held Abu Dhabi Hepatology Conference held since 2013. Dr. Beejay has been the Chairman of Arab Health Gastroenterology Conference in 2017 and 2018. Dr Beejay regularly teaches and trains in gastroenterology, endoscopy and in healthcare informatics in Europe and the Gulf Region. Dr. Beejay is a faculty member on the National Endoscopy Training Program at St George's Hospital NHS Trust, London.

Dr. Beejay is a member of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), and the Canadian Society of Gastroenterology (CAG), and British Medical Association.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Shakur Abdulle

Associate Director & Senior Research Scientist,
Public Health Research Center,
New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Associate Director & Senior Research Scientist, Public Health Research Center
A well experienced senior scientist with proven record of publications in peer reviewed international journals



Dr. Tamer Metwally

Chief Medical Officer
Reem Neuroscience Centre, UAE



Dr. Tamer Metwally is a Consultant Psychiatry at Reem Hospital who specializes in the fields of Psychiatric Disorders such as Mood and Anxiety Disorder, illnesses caused by various psychological traumas such as PTSD, Personality Issues, Stress, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Psychotic Illness such as Schizophrenia, and Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. He holds a higher specialist training certificate from the General Medicine Council and has working experience as a lecturer at the University of Liverpool School of Medicine. Dr. Metwally's experience revolves around the General Adult Psychiatry field and Adult ADHD, where he practices evidence-based medicine and develops unique approaches for each patient.

In Addition to the aforementioned, Dr. Tamer has obtained a diploma in Addiction Therapy and worked with Priory Healthcare Hospital in London. He is also a peer reviewer for international research journals for Psychiatry and has acquired extensive experience within key environments on an international, national and regional basis.

Dr. Metwally is passionate about patient care and achieving the best results while keeping his patients at the heart of his approach.



Dr. Yousef Al Saadi

Director of Conformity Affairs Department,
Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology,
UAE



Dr. Yousef Alsaadi is the First Emirati Certified Food Scientist (CFS) and has a Doctorate degree in Food Science from Food Science Institute, Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, United States (USA). He is holding the Food Policies Section Manager at Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He has more than 24 years of experience in food science and food safety. His major research interests are rapid methods and automation in food microbiology and food safety. In addition to new emerging issues and trends in food safety. He is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), the Society for Applied Microbiology (SFAM), the International Food Safety & Quality Network (IFSQN), and the Association for Talent Development (ATD).

Poster Presentation

2. **Dr. Abdelgadir Elamin Eltom** - Hypothyroidism and 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Correlation study
3. **Dr. Abdullah Al Lawati** - Prescription Patterns of Analgesic Drugs in the Management of Pain Among Palliative Care Patients at a Tertiary Hospital in Oman: A Retrospective Observational Study
4. **Dr. Anuradha Nair** - The Role of Vitamin D in Immune-mediated Diseases and Covid-19
5. **Dr. Grisilda Vidya & Dr. Pooja Shivappa** - Maternal Vitamin D Deficiency Leads to Decreased Cord Blood Neutrophil Phagocytic Index and Superoxide Dismutase Gene Expression in Neonates
6. **Dr. Linah Hatim Abdulrahim** - Vitamin D Deficiency and Insufficiency Among University Students: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and the Association Between Vitamin D Deficiency and Episodes of Respiratory Tract Infections
7. **Dr. Mariam Mubarak Alkarbi** - Sun Protection Knowledge and Practices in the Context of Vitamin D Deficiency Among Females within the United Arab Emirates: Heliophobia and Safe Sun versus Sensible Sun Exposure
8. **Dr. Marios Anemoulis & Dr. Vasilios Kachtsidis** - Maternal and Neonatal Vitamin D Binding Protein Polymorphisms and 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Cutoffs as Determinants of Neonatal Birth Anthropometry
9. **Dr. Rana Chandrika Yelisetty** - Vitamin D levels in children of Al Ain, UAE
10. **Dr. Salsabeel Balla** - Vitamin D Level in Patients with Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis
11. **Dr. Sara Nasser Almashjari** - Vitamin D Effects on Depression Among Adults in The United Arab Emirates
13. **Dr. Vinit Mehrotra** - Risk for Vitamin D deficiency related to lifestyle among professional medical communities
14. **Dr. Anna Bobokhidze** - Mass Media Campaign as the most effective public health intervention to improve the status of vitamin D in the population of the United Arab Emirates

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