



# Wonca

EAST MEDITERRANEAN

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Esteemed Members and Colleagues,

It is with great humility and a profound sense of responsibility that I address you today as the newly appointed President of the EMR. As I step into this role, I am deeply honored by the trust and confidence bestowed upon me by this esteemed community.

The EMR stands at a pivotal juncture, facing multifaceted challenges and boundless opportunities in the realm of healthcare. With this privilege comes an unwavering commitment to serve the collective interests of our members, patients, and the broader healthcare ecosystem.

My foremost pledge is to foster a culture of collaboration and innovation, one that champions inclusivity and embraces the diverse perspectives that enrich our field. Together, we will navigate the complexities of modern healthcare, harnessing technology, data-driven insights, and the collective expertise of our members to advance the quality and accessibility of care across the EMR region.

I recognize the importance of upholding the highest standards of ethical practice and integrity in all our endeavors. Transparency, accountability, and a steadfast dedication to excellence will remain the cornerstones of our actions as we navigate the evolving landscape of healthcare delivery.

Empowering our healthcare professionals, promoting education, and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of both providers and patients will be at the forefront of our agenda. By nurturing a supportive environment that values innovation and continuous learning, we will strive to elevate healthcare standards and outcomes within our region.

I am keenly aware that the challenges ahead demand resilience, adaptability, and a forward-thinking approach. Rest assured, I am fully committed to working tirelessly alongside each of you, leveraging our collective strengths to address these challenges and forge a path towards a brighter, healthier future for all.

In the spirit of unity and collaboration, I extend my hand to each member of our esteemed community. Your insights, dedication, and unwavering commitment to healthcare excellence will be instrumental as we embark on this transformative journey together.

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as your President and am eager to collaborate with each of you in pursuit of our shared vision for healthcare in the EMR region.

With utmost sincerity and anticipation,

**Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi**  
**President WONCA EMR**

## With the esteemed presence of Professor Tagreed Farhat

With the esteemed presence of Professor Tagreed Farhat, President of the Egyptian Association of Family Medicine, the Specialized Union of Health System Development Associations, in collaboration with the National Alliance, the General Union of Civil Associations and Institutions, and the Regional Union of Associations in Giza Governorate, convened a conference under the banner of the "Participate and Descend - Egypt Matters" initiative, on Saturday, December 2023, 2, at the Regional Union Hall in Giza.

Throughout the conference, a profound emphasis was placed on the pivotal role of civil society in realizing the Health 2030 strategy. Attendees deeply acknowledged and appreciated President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's unwavering support for the Comprehensive Health Insurance Program and his insightful vision for the future of healthcare in Egypt. This encompasses the adoption of innovative approaches to tackle issues and obstacles that were previously formidable due to the diverse socio-economic conditions prevalent in Egyptian society. Numerous initiatives were deliberated upon, underscoring the imperative role of civil societies in fortifying these initiatives through community education, active participation, and mobilization.



## Global Family 5 Star Award



Suha Hamshari stands as a pioneering figure in the field of family medicine in the Middle East, having earned recognition for her remarkable contributions. As the first family physician in the EMRO region, her journey is marked by dedication and innovation. Her receipt of the prestigious Global Family 5 Star Award in the EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Region Office) underscores her outstanding impact on primary care.

In Palestine, she has been instrumental in advancing the field of family medicine, by contributing to the growth of the first Family Medicine residency on the West Bank, expanding the exposure of all medical students to family medicine and enhancing their clinical experience in the discipline. Her pivotal role as a founding member of in initiating the Palestinian Association of Family Medicine has created opportunities for continuing education, training supervisors for students and residents, improving quality of patient care, and networking between colleagues in the West Bank, Gaza and globally. This speaks volumes about her leadership and vision in developing comprehensive family focused primary care in her community and the region. This is in spite of the ongoing political and safety challenges in the area.

Presently, as an Assistant Professor at An Najah National University, she continues to impart knowledge and inspire future generations of healthcare professionals. Additionally, her leadership as the Head of the Palestinian Association of Family Medicine and the An Najah Medical Clinics underscores her commitment to enhancing healthcare delivery and accessibility in the region and beyond.

Beyond her regional endeavors, She extends her influence on a broader scale by representing the EMRO region in the Working party on Women party and the Equity Committee. This role highlights her advocacy for gender equality and inclusivity in healthcare policies and practices.

In sum, Suha Hamshari's journey epitomizes excellence, leadership, and dedication in advancing family medicine both locally and globally. Her tireless efforts continue to shape the regional landscape of healthcare, and will leave an indelible mark on the profession and the communities she serves.



## The Bahrain Family Physicians Association

The Bahrain Family Physicians Association (BFPA) is helping in the efforts made to upgrade the Primary Health Care Services in Bahrain. The Kingdom of Bahrain is a pioneer country in the region for the provision of Primary Health Care Services. Such has been accredited and recognized internationally and Bahrain Primary Health Centers was awarded the Diamond-Level accreditation by the Canadian Accreditation body. Such made Manama the first capital in the region to earn such a distinction. The BFPA has organized during the past few months the following activities:

- Health insurance
- Updates in Diabetes Mellitus
- Participated in the Primary Healthcare Centers Conference and Exhibition that was held in early February 2024
- Organized social gathering for its members.
- Participated in the Kuwait and Qatar Family Medicine conferences.
- Following the election of a new Executive Council of Al Razi Young Doctors' Movement Group of the WONCA Emr, a strategic plan has been instigated to achieve the goals of promoting awareness around an integral part of Family Medicine on a global scale by being a pillar and a main frontline in providing healthcare services. Dr Yusuf Altahoo was nominated to be The Bahrain representative in the Alrazi group.



## The Syrian Association of Family Medicine

The Syrian Association of Family Medicine works to help activation the role of family doctors to be the cornerstone of the health system in Syria and to achieve universal health coverage.

The Syrian Association of Family Medicine, under the auspices of the Family Doctors Syndicate, recently held its sixth scientific symposium on January ,3 2024 at the headquarters of the Damascus Medical Syndicate, entitled (The Role of Family Medicine in Health Promotion and Maintenance).

The symposium included important scientific lectures:



- A modern concept at cervical malignancy ... It was delivered by Prof. Dr. Iyad Al-Shatti, President of the Association of Pathological Anatomy in Syria, as January coincided with the International Month for the Early Detection of Cervical Cancer.
- Prof. Dr. Hiam Bashour also gave a lecture on the key role of family medicine in achieving universal health coverage.
- Dr. Lamia Abu Ajaj, an official in the vaccine program at the Ministry of Health, gave a lecture on the new in the expanded national vaccine program in Syria.
- UNICEF participated in this seminar, where Dr. Lamis Bazzaza participated in a lecture on caring for the first thousand days of a child's life and the early upbringing of the child.
- Dr. Wael Al-Daghli spoke about the early detection program for hearing loss.
- There was a lecture by WHO Nutrition Consultant Dr. Mahmoud Bouzo on the new recommendations in cow's milk allergy - the new diagnostic hair.
- Dr. Saba Rihawi, a member of the Scientific Council of the Syrian Board, gave a lecture on common mental disorders in primary health care, as well as Dr. Samar Al-Moazen, President of the Syrian Association of Family Medicine, gave a lecture on promoting women's health between prevention and early detection of diseases.



# The Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine

"The Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine" celebrates receiving the Guinness World Records certificate.

The Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine celebrated obtaining the Guinness World Records certificate for achieving a new record by gathering the largest number of supporters for the awareness campaign on shingles. This record was achieved through the campaign held at Boulevard City in Riyadh, shedding light on the effects of shingles, its negative impact on the affected individuals, and preventive measures. During the event, inquiries related to the nature of the disease, its potential spread among men and women, causes, common complications and ways to deal with them were addressed. The presentation also highlighted prominent preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease, targeting age groups most in need of vaccination.

This event marks the second organized by the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine at Boulevard City in Riyadh, held from January 3 to 9. The event witnessed significant participation from the public, providing them with health guidance and measuring body mass index.

Dr. Ashraf Amir, Deputy President of the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine, praised the large interaction from the audience, indicating the keen interest in health education and raising awareness about various diseases. He also commended the role of Saudi medical societies in organizing awareness campaigns, emphasizing their significant contribution to the Saudi community's health and well-being. This aligns with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 to promote health and community awareness and education about the nature, causes, complications, and preventive measures of diseases.





# 14th National Congress of General Medicine / Morocco

Join us at the 14th National Congress of General Medicine organized by the National Collective of General Practitioners of Morocco (MGMAROC), taking place from May 9th to 12th, 2024, at the Royal Tulip City Center Hotel in Tangier.

We invite you to submit your abstracts for oral presentations and e-posters! Share your research, insights, and experiences with fellow healthcare professionals in the field of general medicine/family medicine.

Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: April 2024 ,1

Notification of acceptance: April 2024 ,24

All abstract submissions will be confirmed via email.

If you do not receive confirmation within two weeks of submission or have any questions, please reach out to us at [abstractmgmaroc@gmail.com](mailto:abstractmgmaroc@gmail.com).

Scientific topics are open to all areas related to general medicine/family medicine.



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## Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi bio

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi has held various leadership positions at the international, regional, and national levels. At the international level, he was the President Elect of the East Mediterranean Region (EMR) of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) from June 2021-November-2023 . At the regional level, Dr. Al-Mahrezi is a founding member of the Gulf Association of Family Medicine since May 2023.

At the national level, he has held several significant leadership roles. He is currently the Director General of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH), the only academic hospital in Oman, since May 2022. He served as the Head of Family Medicine & Public Health for six years from 2014 to 2020. Additionally, he was the President of Oman Family Medicine Society from 2018 to 2023. He has also held other leadership positions within the hospital, including the chair position of the University Health Committee.

His Clinical Achievements were being the First Omani Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada as well as the First Omani physician to complete family medicine residency training at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi has made significant contributions in the field of academic teaching and learning as well as research. He has received several awards and recognition for his contributions, including certificates of appreciation for his work in the development of the Integrated Clinical Examination and the conduct of the Final MD examination. He has also been recognized for his valuable participation as an examiner in international membership examinations. In terms of research, Dr. Al-Mahrezi has published numerous articles in reputable journals, with a total of 42 journal publications. His research has focused on various topics such as hypertension management, chronic pain, medical education, and infectious diseases.

Dr. Al-Mahrezi's leadership positions demonstrate his commitment to advancing healthcare at various levels, from international organizations to regional and national healthcare institutions.

For more information you can the CV on the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ozNRPam4stGXlyKOURS47SbhuoqzMc1l/view?usp=sharing>