



# Wonca

EAST MEDITERRANEAN



**2025  
January**

**WONCA EMR Newsletter - January 2025**



## CONTENT

Dr. Abdelaziz Al-Mahrezi - WONCA  
EMR President

Prof. Faisal Alnaser – WONCA EMR Elect  
Chair

Prof. Taghreed Farahat - Immediate Past  
Chair

Prof. Nagwa Nashat - WONCA EMR  
Honorary Secretary

Dr. Mona Osman - WONCA EMR  
Treasurer

Dr. Suha Hamshari - Member at Large

Dr. Muntadher Sad - Member at Large

Dr. Ashraf Amir - Member at Large

Dr. Adel Yasky - YDM Lead

WONCA EMR Newsletter Editor:  
Dr. Suha Hamshari (Palestinian)

WONCA EMR Newsletter Associated  
Editor:  
Dr. Nagwa Nashat Hegazy (Egypt)

Presidents Abed Al Azez PAGE 3

A Brief History of health services  
and hospitals in Palestine PAGE 5

The WONCA EMR 2024  
Conference PAGE 8

Digital Horizons in Medical  
Education and Healthcare to be  
Explored at WONCA EMR  
Congress 2025 PAGE 10

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Letter from the President

Dr. Abdelaziz Al-Mahrezi

WONCA East Mediterranean Region

Dear Colleagues,

As we conclude another year of challenges and opportunities, I want to address a topic that is increasingly at the forefront of our practice as family physicians: **The Role of Family Medicine in Addressing Seasonal Respiratory Infections Amid Emerging Global Health Threats.**

With the ongoing interplay of seasonal flu, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), and the evolving variants of COVID-19, family physicians are again called to the frontlines. This convergence presents a unique challenge but also reaffirms our indispensable role in ensuring community health.

### Our Responsibility in the Current Climate

#### 1. Prevention and Vaccination Advocacy:

Vaccination remains our first line of defense. As family physicians, we must advocate for comprehensive immunization programs, including the annual influenza vaccine and updated COVID-19 boosters. Education on the new RSV vaccine for vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly and young children, is vital.

#### 2. Early Detection and Management:

With overlapping symptoms, distinguishing between these respiratory illnesses is crucial. We must employ clinical acumen and, where necessary, leverage diagnostic tools to guide appropriate management and prevent complications.



### 3. Holistic Patient Care:

Family medicine transcends the immediate illness. The pandemic reminded us of the psychological and social dimensions of health. Addressing vaccine hesitancy, dispelling misinformation, and ensuring equitable access to care are as vital as prescribing medications.

#### Supporting Our Communities

This season is a reminder of the strength and resilience of our communities. As family physicians, we are uniquely positioned to build trust and bridge gaps in healthcare. Collaboration with public health authorities, policymakers, and community leaders is essential to amplify our efforts.

#### Moving Forward Together

As your WONCA EMR President, I am proud of the collective efforts of our region's family medicine practitioners. Let us continue to learn from one another, share best practices, and innovate solutions tailored to our unique challenges. WONCA EMR remains committed to supporting you with resources, research, and opportunities for professional development. Let us all reaffirm our dedication to the principles of family medicine: comprehensive, continuous, and compassionate care for all.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Abdelaziz Al-Mahrezi**  
President, WONCA East  
Mediterranean Region

# A Brief History of health services and hospitals in Palestine

**Prof. / Dr. Faisal A. Alnaser** MBBS, FPC, MICGP, FRCGP, FFFPH, FAM(USA), PhD

President-elect Wonca Emr

President: Bahrain Family Physician Association

Honorary Faculty, Imperial College London

General Secretary, International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine

WHO EMRO Temp. Adviser

WONCA EMR Regional Adviser

Bahrain representative in Anti-Smoking International Alliance

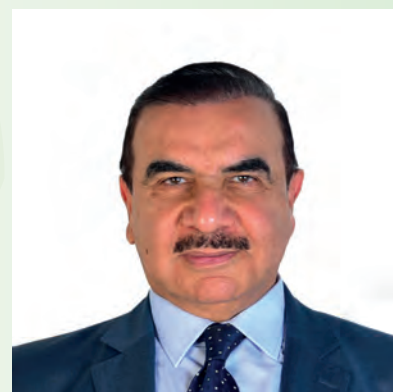
Chair; Home Health Care Centre

A Brief History of Health services and hospitals in Palestine

Palestine is an Arab country geographically located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. It is called the Holy Land. The word Palestine is derived from the Greek word Philistia, which refers to the entire fertile region of the Crescent, whose human habitation could be traced back to 10,000 BCE (before the current era).

## A Brief History of Health services and hospitals in Palestine

Palestine is an Arab country geographically located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. It is called the Holy Land. The word Palestine is derived from the Greek word Philistia, which refers to the entire fertile region of the Crescent, whose human habitation could be traced back to 10,000 BCE (before the current era).



Historically, medical services and hospitals in Palestine were established in various historical periods, including very ancient times before the Islamic era, during the Islamic era, and later, including the Ottoman era. Historians report that during the Hasmonean Maccabean period (BC 175–100), the youngest son of Simon, Hyrcanus I (BC 135–104), established a hospital in the city of Jerusalem, and later in AD 325, the consul of Vesia decided to build a hotel and hospital on the church erected on the hill of Golgotha in Jerusalem and named it "Basilica" in honour of Caesar "Basil". In AD 529, Emperor Justinian I (Christian Roman Emperor) ordered the construction of a pilgrim hospital with 200 beds, which was later expanded to 1000 beds in Jerusalem with the consul of Vesia (AD, a prolific and influential medieval writer 604-590) later, Pope Gregory I commissioned another hospital. It was located near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. In AD 614, it was reported to have had over 570 beds (Haret ad-Dabbagh). However, the hospital was destroyed during the Persian invasion in AD 614. After the city was recaptured from the Persians in AD 624, Emperor Heraclius ordered the restoration of this hospital, which remained in existence even during the Islamic presence in the city. During the Islamic period, especially during the Umayyad period, many Muslim physicians practiced medicine in Palestine, including Khalid bin Yazid bin Mu'awiyah and Omar bin Abdul Aziz. Also, during the Abasiya period, other physicians, such as Paul bin Hanun and Abu al-Fath Kashajim, who were mentioned in the Baghdad Medical Council, became famous in the cities of Ramla, Ashkelon and Tiberias. The first hospital established in Palestine during the Islamic period was during the Fatimiya period. It was built to the south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The name of the builder and the year of construction are unknown. It was probably built at the same time as the Fatimiya Caliph 1062 AD.



AD, the Fatimiya Caliph Al-Mustansir Bellah allowed Italian merchants to 1062 In build a hospital, which was expanded and named John's Hospital, where the AD. Many other 1228 Palestinian physician Yaqub bin Saqlab worked. He died in famous physicians, such as Anba Zakariya bin Tawaba, Saeed al-Tamimi, and his grandson Muhammad bin Ahmed bin Saeed al-Tamimi, practiced in Jerusalem around AD. Hospitals were also established in Palestine during the Ayyubi period when 1000 After their withdrawal from .583 Salah-Aldeen Alayyubi conquered Jerusalem in AH AH, they moved to Acre, which 583 / AD 1187 Jerusalem post the Battle of Hattin became the capital of the crusaders in Palestine, where they also set up another hospital. During Salah-Aldeen's wars with the Crusaders, Palestine enjoyed political attention, accompanied by medical attention to the armies. Many famous doctors such as Abdul Latif al-Baghdadi, Rashid al-Din al-Suri, and Ahmed bin Qassim Ibn Abi .Asba`a, were deployed in Salah-Aldeen's army

During the Ottoman era, many more bimaristans were established in Palestine, including the bimaristan of al-Fatimah in Jerusalem, the bimaristan of al-Salahi in Acre, the bimaristan of al-Mansury in Hebron, the bimaristan of Gaza, the bimaristan of Ramla, the bimaristan of Nablus, and the bimaristan of Tankiz in Safed. Al-Baladi during the regimen of Sultan Abdul 1891 Hospital was also founded in Jerusalem in .Hamid II

## Woncna EMRO 2024 confernce

The WONCA EMR 2024 conference, held from October 2024 ,5-3, was a significant event that brought together family medicine professionals, researchers, and healthcare leaders from the Eastern Mediterranean region. It served as a platform for collaboration, discussion, and the sharing of innovative healthcare solutions. The conference adopted a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual attendance, which expanded its reach.

The event was well-prepared, with abstract reviews completed in advance, and the program, which was made available online, featured 12 sessions, including additional ones announced during the conference. A special session by WHO EMRO focused on fostering regional collaboration. The conference was officially inaugurated on October 2024 ,3, by Dr. Firas Al-Hawari, Jordan's Minister of Health, and marked the beginning of significant moments, such as honoring three leaders for their outstanding contributions to family medicine: Prof. Taghreed, Dr. Mohamed Tarawnh, and Dr. Abdelaziz.

Awards were presented for outstanding research in both oral and poster abstract categories. Oral Abstract winners included Dr. Suha AlHamshari, Prof. Mohamed Elmutasim Abd El Bagi, and Dr. Hana Mohammed Abuzaid, while poster abstract winners included Dr. Anees Alyafei, Dr. Khadijeh Alhubidi, and Dr. Gordon Zubrod. These awards highlighted impactful research in family medicine and primary healthcare.





A key session, "WHO EMRO at WONCA EMR 2024," took place on October 2024, 4. It focused on primary healthcare (PHC) models and workforce development in the region. Notable speakers included Dr. Awad Mataria, Dr. Fethiye Gedik, Prof. Nagwa Nashat Hegazy, and Dr. Mona Osman. The session discussed critical issues related to PHC and the role of the Regional Professional Diploma in scaling the family practice workforce. In conclusion, the WONCA EMR 2024 conference successfully addressed the current challenges and future directions of family medicine in the Eastern Mediterranean. With substantial contributions from WHO EMRO, groundbreaking research, and active collaboration, the conference emphasized the significance of primary care and the ongoing development of family medicine. The hybrid format enhanced participation, ensuring that the conference's discussions and outcomes reached a wider audience.





## Digital Horizons in Medical Education and Healthcare to be Explored at WONCA EMR Congress 2025

Tangier, Morocco – January 2025 ,10 - The 15th National Congress of General Medicine & WONCA EMR Congress 2025 will take place from May 8th to 11th at the Hilton Houara Hotel in Tangier, Morocco. The Congress will focus on "Digital Horizons in Medical Education and Healthcare," bringing together family medicine and general medicine professionals from across the region.

The event will feature a range of activities, including keynote speeches, workshops, and interactive sessions, all aimed at exploring the latest advancements in digital health and their implications for medical education and patient care. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from leading experts in the field and network with colleagues from across the region.

### Key Highlights:

**Exploration of Digital Health:** The Congress will delve into the latest technologies and trends in digital health, such as telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics.

**Focus on Medical Education:** A significant portion of the Congress will be dedicated to exploring how digital tools can be integrated into medical education to enhance learning and improve patient outcomes.

**Networking Opportunities:** The event will provide ample opportunities for attendees to network with colleagues, share best practices, and build relationships.



# MOROCCO WONCA EMR



# 15<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>

## NATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENERAL MEDICINE

## Wonca EMR CONGRESS 2025

MAY 8-11, 2025  
HILTON HOUARA HOTEL, TANGIER, MOROCCO

**GENERAL MEDICINE - FAMILY MEDICINE**  
DIGITAL HORIZONS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION  
AND HEALTHCARE



**REGISTRATION :**

 Beyond Com  
(+212) 661 736 028  
Beyondcom.3c@gmail.com

**MG MAROC SECRETARIAT :**

(+212) 530 053 030 / (+212) 665 077 994  
secretariatmgmaroc@gmail.com  
www.mgmaroc.ma





# Wonca

EAST MEDITERRANEAN

