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Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City

2nd SSMC CONGRESS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Center of Continuous Medical Education

 **19-20**
April, 2024

 **Conrad Etihad Towers**
Abu Dhabi, UAE



CONFERENCE BOOK



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SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS



Michael Wallace



William Palmer



Saeed Al Marzooqi

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Scientific and the Organizing committees, it is our honor and pleasure to welcome you to the "2nd SSMC Congress in Gastroenterology and Hepatology" to be held on April 19 and 20, 2024, as a hybrid event at Conrad, Etihad Towers Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

This congress serves as a platform for us to come together and shape the future of gastroenterology by sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and generating innovative ideas. We are thrilled to bring together experts and professionals from various disciplines to engage in discussions and propel advancements in the field.

During this two-day event, you will have the opportunity to explore groundbreaking research, exchange creative and stimulating ideas, establish valuable connections, and gain inspired perspectives from members of the multidisciplinary, multi-professional Gastroenterology and Hepatology team. Our plenary sessions will feature presentations by authorities across disciplines, covering a wide array of clinical and research topics.

The scientific committee has meticulously developed an inspirational program that showcases national and international renowned faculty and content sessions focused on the most up-to-date, evidence-based developments in gastroenterology, hepatology, and related diseases. This congress promises to provide you with valuable insights, foster professional growth, and equip you with the latest knowledge in the field.

We are confident that this event will serve as a catalyst for collaboration, driving advancements in patient care, research, and innovation. Together, we can make a significant impact on the future of gastroenterology and hepatology.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you as you join us in the beautiful city of Abu Dhabi.

Michael Wallace

Michael B. Wallace MD MPH

Congress President
John C. Andersen Professor of
Medicine Mayo Clinic, Florida
Associate Professor of Medicine Mayo Clinic,
Arizona
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

William Palmer

William Palmer, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.

Congress Co-Director
Associate Professor of Medicine
Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Associate Dean, School of Continuous
Professional Development
Mayo Clinic, USA

Saeed Al Marzooqi

Saeed Al Marzooqi

Congress Co-Director
Consultant, Gastroenterology and
Hepatology, Program Director,
Gastroenterology Fellowship
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Michael B. Wallace MD MPH
Congress President
John C. Andersen Professor of
Medicine Mayo Clinic, Florida
Associate Professor of Medicine Mayo Clinic,
Arizona, Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology, USA



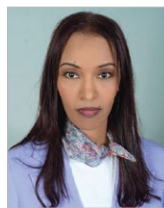
William Palmer, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.
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**Saeed Hussein Mohamed
Husain Al Marzooqi**
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Ahlam Abbas Gadalla
Senior Education Officer
Center of Continuous Medical Education,
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



Dr. Mohammed Karajeh
Chair of Gastroenterology
Consultant, Gastroenterology
and Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Saeed Al Marzooqi
Congress Co-Director
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Dr. Talha A. Malik MD, MSPH
Consultant Physician
Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Mayo Clinic, Arizona



Dr. Ibrahim Al Hosani
Consultant,
Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Inas Mikhail
Consultant, Gastroenterology and
Hepatology and Tropical Medicine
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

- Recent advances in liver disease
- Updates and controversies in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Medical management of IBD
- Bariatrics and the GI physician
- Recent advances in foregut disorders
- Future trends in GIH
- Pancreatobiliary disorders

TARGET AUDIENCE

This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of practicing physicians and other health care professionals interested in learning the latest information on diseases specific to gastroenterology and hepatology, including:

- Gastroenterologists
- Hepatologists
- Radiologists
- Pathologists
- General surgeons
- Internists
- Oncologists
- General practitioners
- Family medicine
- Medical and surgical professionals
- Residents
- Dieticians
- Trainees and GI Endoscopists
- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Medical students
- Allied health professionals interested in the topic

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The 2nd SSMC Congress in Gastroenterology and Hepatology has been designed to offer educational content focused on improving competence among GI providers.

Objectives include:

- Highlight novel therapeutic options for the management of inflammatory bowel disease
- Describe key interventions available to improve short and long-term outcomes in patients with liver cirrhosis
- Summarize best-practices in evaluation and treatment of patients admitted to the hospital with acute pancreatitis

Achieving these objectives would lead to improved provider competence, and clinical performance which would ideally translate to improved patient outcomes for patients effected by these common GI conditions.



CME ACCREDITATION

The 2nd SSMC Congress in Gastroenterology and Hepatology is accredited by two reputable organizations for continuing medical education:



The 2nd SSMC Congress in Gastroenterology and Hepatology has been accredited for **12.0 European CME Credits** (ECMEC®s). EACCME® certificates of attendance will be ready maximum 10 days post conference at MENA Conference website (www.menaconference.com).

DAY 1, Friday 19/04/2024 is Accredited for 6.0 CME Hours

DAY 2, Saturday 20/04/2024 is Accredited for 6.0 CME Hours



The 2nd SSMC Congress in Gastroenterology and Hepatology has been accredited by the Department of Health and is designated for a maximum of **11.20 DOH CME Credits**.

DAY 1, Friday 19/04/2024 is Accredited for 06.0 CME Hours

DAY 2, Saturday 20/04/2024 is Accredited for 05.20 CME Hours

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

- DOH certificates of attendance will be available on TAMM for 60 days.
- A notification containing the link and instructions on how to download the certificates will be sent to your registered email address.
- Please note that you are required to complete the online evaluation of the conference before you can access the link to download your CME certificates. It is your responsibility to download and retain a copy of the certificate for your records.
- Each medical specialist should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Venue** Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers offers a 5 star luxury hotel and events venue of awe-inspiring design and extraordinary architecture, located in the iconic West Corniche district of Abu Dhabi.
- **Name Tags** Participants are required to wear their name tags throughout the conference in order to be admitted to the lecture halls and other scheduled activities.
- **Refreshments and Lunch** Refreshments and Lunch will be offered in accordance with the breaks indicated on the timetable.
- **Internet** Free internet will be available in the exhibition area during the conference.
- **Mobile Phones and Photography** Participants are kindly requested to keep their mobile phones silent mode in the conference hall and refrain from taking photographs during sessions.



CONRAD ETIHAD TOWERS,
ABU DHABI



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1: Friday, April 19, 2024

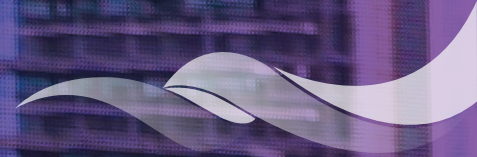
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:30-08:30	Registration	
08:30-08:35	Welcoming Remarks	Dr. Michael Wallace, USA Dr. William Palmer, USA Dr. Saeed Al Marzooqi, UAE
SESSION 1: Recent advances in liver disease Session Chairs: Dr. Ahmad Al Rifai and Dr. Shiva Kumar		
08:35-08:55	Viral Hepatitis: latest updates	Dr. Saeed Al Marzooqi, UAE
08:55-09:15	Personalizing Outpatient Care of Patients with Cirrhosis	Dr. William Palmer, USA
09:15-09:35	Metabolic Dysfunction steatotic liver disease – An up-to-date practical comprehensive approach	Dr. Ahmad Rifai, UAE
09:35-10:00	Panel Discussion	
Official Inauguration		
10:00-10:15	Opening Message Dr. Michael Wallace, UAE - Dr. William Palmer, USA - Dr. Saeed Al Marzooqi, UAE	
10:15-10:30	Introduction & Vision of Tertiary Care in the MENA region	
10:30-10:50	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 2: Updates and controversies in IBD Session Chairs: Dr. Nabil Quraishi		
10:50-11:10	Latest on epidemiology & natural history of IBD in the Middle East	Dr. Maryam Al Ahmad, UAE
11:10-11:30	Future trends in monitoring response to IBD therapy	Dr. Talha Malik, USA
11:30-11:50	Preventative care in the IBD patient	Dr. Frank Farraye, USA
11:50-12:10	Panel Discussion	
12:10-12:40	GI Jeopardy	
12:40-14:00	PRAYERS LUNCH BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking	
Session 3, IBD-2 Medical Management of IBD Session Chairs: Dr. Frank Farraye and Dr. Talha Malik		
14:00-14:20	De-escalation of therapy: When is it safe to stop?	Dr. Frank Farraye, USA
14:20-14:40	Detecting Dysplasia in the Colitis patient, advances in endoscopic imaging	Dr. Micheal Wallace, USA
14:40-15:00	How to incorporate new IBD therapies into our treatment strategies	Dr. Nabil Quraishi, UAE
15:00-15:30	Panel Discussion	
15:30-15:45	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
15:45-16:15	Summary & Key Takeaways & Post Session Quiz Dr. Michael Wallace, Dr. William Palmer, Dr. Saeed Al Marzooqi	
16:30	END OF DAY 1	




SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM


DAY 2: Saturday, April 20, 2024

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:30-08:25	Registration	
08:25-08:30	Conference General Announcement	
SESSION 4: Bariatrics and the GI physician Session Chairs: Dr. Mohammed Karajeh and Dr. Victoria Gomez		
08:30-08:50	New medical therapies for obesity	Dr. Julie Shah, UAE
08:50-09:10	Managing fistulas and leaks after bariatric surgery (including video cases)	Dr. Steven Bowers, USA
09:10-09:30	Advanced in endoscopic therapy for obesity (including video cases)	Dr. Victoria Gomez, USA
09:30-09:50	Panel Discussion	
09:50-10:10	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 5: Recent Advances in Foregut disorders Session Chairs: Dr. Eyad Al Akrad and Dr. Steven Bowers		
10:10-10:30	The expanding array of options for GERD. (including video cases)	Dr. Steven Bowers, USA
10:30-10:50	Esophageal Spasm and Achalasia; Surgical and endoscopic therapies (including video cases)	Dr. Mohammed Abdallah, UAE
10:50-11:10	Gastroparesis, drugs, pacers & POEM. New options for a challenging disease	Dr. Eyad Al Akrad, UAE
11:10-11:30	Panel Discussion	
11:30-11:50	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 6: Future trends in GIH Session Chair: Dr. Michael Wallace and Dr. Ibrahim Al Hosani		
11:50-12:10	The impact of AI, Chat GPT and other LLM on Medicine	Dr. Michael Wallace, USA
12:10-12:30	Building high quality, high efficiency medical practices in the Middle East	Mr. Darshan Nagaraju, USA / Dr. Talha Malik, USA
12:30-12:50	Celiac disease in the MENA region	Dr. Ibrahim Al Hosani, UAE
12:50-13:10	Panel Discussion	
13:10-13:40 <small>(Unaccredited)</small>	Janssen Symposium: "Stelara" Heritage in Impacting UC Patients Symposium Chair: Dr. Inas Mikhail	Dr. Mohammed Nabil Quraishi, UAE
13:40-14:30	LUNCH BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking	
13:40-14:10 <small>(Unaccredited)</small>	Lilly Symposium: Evolution in the management of Ulcerative Colitis - Dr. Mazen Taha, UAE	
SESSION 7: Pancreatobiliary disorders Session Chairs: Khalid Al Nuaimi and Dr. Michael Wallace		
14:30-14:50	Screening for pancreatic cancer in high-risk individuals	Dr. Michael Wallace, USA
14:50-15:10	Updates on Management of Acute Pancreatitis	Dr. William Palmer, USA
15:10-15:30	Rethinking gallbladder disease in the era of LAMS	Dr. Victoria Gomez, USA
15:30-15:50	The role of cholangioscopy in indeterminate biliary strictures	Dr. Khaled al Nuaimi, UAE
15:50-16:10	Panel Discussion	
16:10-16:30	Summary & Key Takeaways Post Session Quiz Best Posters Awards Dr. Michael Wallace, Dr. William Palmer, Dr. Saeed Al Marzooqi	
16:30	END OF THE CONFERENCE	



SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

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 **Conrad Etihad Towers**
Abu Dhabi, UAE

**2ND SSMC CONGRESS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY
AND HEPATOLOGY**

MAYO CLINIC
CONGRESS IN



SPEAKERS



Michael B. Wallace MD MPH
Congress President
John C. Andersen Professor of
Medicine Mayo Clinic, Florida
Associate Professor of Medicine Mayo
Clinic, Arizona, Division of Gastroenterology
and Hepatology, USA



**William Palmer
M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.**
Congress Co-Director
Associate Professor of Medicine
Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Associate Dean, School of Continuous
Professional Development, Mayo Clinic, USA



**Saeed Hussein Mohamed
Husain Al Marzooqi**
Congress Co-Director
Consultant, Gastroenterology &
Hepatology, Program Director,
Gastroenterology fellowship
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, UAE



Dr. Talha A. Malik MD, MSPH
Consultant Physician
Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA



Dr. Ibrahim Al Hosani
Consultant,
Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Ahmad Al Rifai
Consultant, Gastroenterology &
Hepatology Chairman of Department
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Maryam Al Ahmad
Consultant - Internal Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Frank Farraye
Professor of Medicine
Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Center, Mayo Clinic, Florida, USA



**Dr. Mohammed Nabil
Quraishi FRCP, PhD**
Consultant Gastroenterologist
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Julie Shah
Consultant - Endocrinology &
Obesity Medicine
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
(SSMC), Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Steven Bowers
Professor of Surgery,
Esophageal and Gastric disease
Mayo Clinic, Florida USA



Dr. Victoria Gomez
Associate Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic in Florida, USA



SPEAKERS



Dr. Mohammed Abdallah
General Surgery, Metabolic and
Bariatric Surgery, Obesity
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



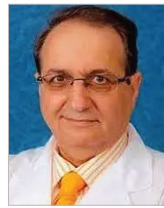
Dr. Eyad Al Alakrad
Consultant - Gastroenterology
& Hepatology, Director of the GI
Motility Disorders
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Darshan Nagaraju
Operations Administrator
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville,
Florida, USA



Dr. Khaled Alneaimi
Consultant Gastroenterologist
& Hepatologist
Mediclinic Hospital
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Mazen Taha
Senior Consultant,
Gastroenterology/Hepatology,
Chief of the Gastroenterology Department,
Chairman of the Internal Medicine Department
Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, UAE

MODERATORS



Dr. Shiva Kumar
Chair, Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Cleveland Clinic
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Mohammed Karajeh
Chair of Gastroenterology
Consultant, Gastroenterology
and Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Inas Mikhail
Consultant - Gastroenterology
& Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Michael B. Wallace MD MPH

Congress President

John C. Andersen Professor of Medicine Mayo Clinic, Florida

Associate Professor of Medicine Mayo Clinic, Arizona,

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, USA

Dr. Wallace is the Fred C. Andersen Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic and Director of Research and Innovation of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

He received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1992. He completed a residency program in Internal Medicine in 1995 and a fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in 1998 at the Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and a Master's in Public Health with a focus on clinical research at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Wallace completed an advanced endoscopy fellowship in Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) and Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in 1999 at the Medical University of South Carolina under Dr. Peter Cotton and Robert Hawes.

He joined the Mayo Clinic in 2003 and was promoted to full professor in 2007, and to Chair of the Division in 2010. Dr. Wallace served multiple roles for the AGA, ASGE and ACG including Associate Editor for Gastroenterology 2006-09. He currently chairs the World Endoscopy Organization (WEO) committee on Artificial Intelligence. From 2015-23, he was Editor in Chief of the peer reviewed medical journal, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy raising that journal's impact to the highest in the world of endoscopic journals. From 2021-24, he was the Chair of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Sheik Shakhbout Medical City, as well as outpatient practice chair, Simulation Center director, and chair of the Artificial intelligence committee in partnership with Mayo Clinic, in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E..

As a research, he has published more than 450 peer reviewed scientific papers in journals including Nature, JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine among others and holds an H-Index of 94, among the top 1% of scientist worldwide.

Dr. Wallace also co-lead the Mayo Clinic Procedural Innovation Team and Digestive Disease Innovation and Research Teams, utilizing simulation based device and procedure development. This led to more than 20 patent filings, and several business startups. He is a member of the Society for Simulation in Health Care.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



William Palmer
M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.
Congress Co-Director
Associate Professor of Medicine Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Associate Dean, School of Continuous Professional Development, Mayo Clinic, USA

William Palmer is Consultant and Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Mayo Clinic. He completed medical residency and fellowships in Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology at Mayo Clinic. He serves as the medical director for the Hereditary Hemochromatosis Clinic at Mayo Clinic in Florida, Director of Education for the Center For Individualized Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Florida, and Associate Dean for the Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development. He has published over 100 peer view articles and abstracts, and was the recipient of the Mayo Brothers Distinguish Fellowship Award.



**Saeed Hussein Mohamed
Husain Al Marzooqi**
Congress Co-Director
Consultant, Gastroenterology & Hepatology,
Program Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Almarzooqi graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and completed fellowships in hepatology research, clinical gastroenterology, clinical hepatology and transplant hepatology from the University of Toronto. He has multiple publications in the field of hepatology and has delivered presentations at regional and international meetings.

Dr. Almarzooqi's main fields of interest include liver disease and pre and post-liver transplant care. He is currently the director of the hepatology service and the program director of the gastroenterology fellowship at SSMC.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Talha A. Malik MD, MSPH
Consultant Physician
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA

Talha Aziz Malik, M.D., is a Consultant Gastroenterologist on staff at Mayo Clinic Arizona and Team lead for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Education. He is American Board Certified in Gastroenterology with specialty interest and fellowship training in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, the two main inflammatory bowel diseases.

Dr. Malik is originally from Pakistan and grew up in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He went to medical school at Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan and then completed internal medicine residency training at SUNY at Stony Brook in East Meadow, New York. Subsequently, he completed IBD fellowship, MSPH in clinical research and formal GI fellowship training at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). After fellowship, he stayed back on faculty at UAB for 4 years.

In 2018, Dr. Malik joined Mayo Clinic Arizona as the IBD Team Lead and in 2021, he traveled to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on expat assignment as the IBD lead at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City there. Dr. Malik returned to Mayo Clinic Arizona in February 2024 to resume IBD practice here and took on the role of IBD team lead for Education.



Dr. Ibrahim Al Hosani
Consultant, Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

A graduate of Damascus University, Syria, Dr. Al Hosani possesses two decades of extensive expertise in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology. Having held prior positions at Al Mafraq Hospital, he completed his post-graduation studies in Germany, obtaining medical expert training in spiral enteroscopy.

Dr. Al Hosani is heavily involved in the training of medical professionals in, serving as part of the core faculty and Associated Program Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program at SSMC. Furthermore, he is a member of numerous distinguished healthcare entities, including the National Institute for Health Specialties (NIHS), the SSMC Space and Equipment Committee and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Sub-Committee.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Ahmad Al Rifai
Consultant, Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Chairman of Department
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Al-Rifai is an experienced consultant Hepatologist and Gastroenterologist at SSMC-Mayo, UAE's largest hospital. Since his arrival in 2014, he has established a unique Hepatology service in Abu Dhabi and currently Chairs the Department of Medicine at SSMC/Mayo. In addition, he is the Chair of the Hospital Practice Committee and the Director of the Liver Disease Program.

Dr. Al-Rifai obtained his medical degree in 1998 followed by training in the UK where he became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 2003. He continued his training in Gastroenterology in some of the top university hospitals in Greater Manchester. During this time, Dr. Al-Rifai obtained a diploma in Gastroenterology at Salford University which included writing on healthcare management and theory of medical education. He later became a faculty for that course. While under training, Dr. Al-Rifai worked on multiple research projects and published in several areas of gastroenterology including IBD, endoscopy, and nutrition. He regularly presented at national and international conferences and was an active member of several GI organizations such as young ECCO, EASL, BSG among others. He worked with European colleagues on multinational multicenter studies and publications on IBD.

Following his general Gastroenterology training, Dr. Al-Rifai was accepted into a Transplant Hepatology Fellowship at the renowned Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. That led to a third certificate of training in Hepatology from the Royal College of Physicians. During his Hepatology training he had the opportunity to collaborate and publish with some of the leaders in the field on PBC, viral hepatitis and NAFLD. He was granted a position of Honorary Lecturer at Newcastle University Medical School.

In 2009 Dr. Al-Rifai became a consultant in Hepatology and Gastroenterology in Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Newcastle and established a Hepatology Division, bringing in new services to the community including hepatitis C treatment for the high risk population.

In 2011 Dr. Al-Rifai returned to Manchester to become a consultant and lead of Hepatology at one of the top University Hospitals in the UK, Salford Royal. There, he established a unique non-transplant liver service, a novel Hepatology service in the community for early detection of liver disease, chaired the Greater Manchester Hepatology Network and the HCC MDT. Furthermore, he was involved in training a team of GI trainees and specialist nurses, proudly presenting and publishing some of that work. He was assigned as a Senior Honorary Lecturer at Salford University and led the Hepatology training program.

During his time in Mafraq Hospital and later SSMC-Mayo, Dr. Al-Rifai has continued to be active in the field of research, publications, medical education and service development. He led the liver service and established the first GI Fellowship Program in the UAE. He worked with colleagues nationally and from the region on multiple projects and published on NAFLD, viral hepatitis and IBD. He continues his clinical practice in a very busy GI service whilst holding the rank of adjunct clinical professor at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi. Most recently, Dr. Al Rifai obtained his Masters Degree in Healthcare Ethics and Medical law from the University of Manchester in 2020.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Maryam Al Ahmad
Consultant - Internal Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Maryam Alahmad completed her Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC). She is Arab Board Certified in Gastroenterology and both Arab and Jordanian Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Maryam Alahmad is the first Emirati woman to graduate from an ACGME accredited Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship in UAE.

Dr. Maryam is a consultant physician in Internal Medicine and specialist in Gastroenterology. She is also an Associate Director of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and the Director of Research. She was selected to join the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Journal (GIE) Mentee Program in 2021-2022. Dr. Alahmad received the 'Most Outstanding Reviewer Award' in the 'GIE New and Mentee Reviewer Category' by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). She has multiple publications and has presented posters in local and international meetings such as Digestive Disease Week (DDW) and the annual American College of Gastroenterology meeting (ACG).

Dr. Alahmad has special interest in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). As part of her fellowship training, she spent a month with the inflammatory bowel disease team at Mayo clinic in the US.



Dr. Mohammed Nabi Quraishi FRCP, PhD
Consultant Gastroenterologist, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Mohammed Nabil Quraishi FRCP, PhD is a UK Board Certified Consultant Gastroenterologist and the Lead for Inflammatory Bowel Disease at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) in Abu Dhabi. Dr. Quraishi is a recognized specialist in inflammatory bowel disease, gut microbiome health and therapy. Prior to moving to Abu Dhabi, Dr. Quraishi worked at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, UK, as a consultant gastroenterologist whilst also being appointed as an honorary senior clinical lecturer at the University of Birmingham.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Frank Farraye
Professor of Medicine
Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Center, Mayo Clinic, Florida, USA

Francis A. Farraye, MD, MSc is Director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. He received his MD from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He completed an internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and a Master's Degree in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Farraye has an active academic clinical practice managing patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. A frequent speaker and invited lecturer on topics on the diagnosis and management of inflammatory bowel disease, Dr. Farraye has authored or co-authored over 450 original scientific manuscripts, chapters, reviews, and abstracts. He is the series editor for the text *Curbside Consultation in Gastroenterology* and co-wrote the text, *Curbside Consultation in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Gastrointestinal Emergencies*. His newest book for patients is *Mayo Clinic on Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis*. He is the Editor in Chief for *Inflammatory Bowel Disease Journal Scan* published weekly by the ASGE. Dr. Farraye is a Fellow in the ASGE and AGA, and a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology. He has served on numerous national and international committees. The New England Crohn's and Colitis Foundation named Dr. Farraye Humanitarian of the Year in 2003. In 2009, the ACG awarded Dr. Farraye the William Carey Award for service to the college. In 2020, Dr. Farraye was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New England Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.



Dr. Julie Shah
Consultant - Endocrinology &
Obesity Medicine, Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City
(SSMC), Abu Dhabi, UAE

With 16 years of extensive experience, Dr. Shah is an American board-certified physician in internal medicine and endocrinology and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine. She received her Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in Endocrinology from Pennsylvania State University, USA, and her Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Internal Medicine from the Henry Ford Health System, USA.

Dr. Shah has significant work experience in both the USA and the UAE and has been practicing endocrinology in Abu Dhabi since 2016. Dr. Julie Shah aims to provide quality, individualized and evidence-based endocrine care. She has been working in the field of obesity medicine for the last 6 years and is a tremendous asset to the Bariatric Program at SSMC. She offers medical weight loss options to patients before and after bariatric surgery, as well as to those who would benefit from weight loss.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Steven Bowers
Professor of Surgery,
Esophageal and Gastric Disease Mayo Clinic,
Florida, USA

Steven P. Bowers was educated at Duke University, majoring in Physics, and then Emory University School of Medicine. He completed General Surgery Residency at University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver, and then Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at Emory University Endosurgery Unit. Dr. Bowers served in the United States Air Force, and was deployed three times to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he introduced Minimally Invasive Surgery to the forward surgical environment. Following separation from the military, Dr. Bowers joined the faculty at Mayo Clinic Florida where he specializes in minimally invasive treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the esophagus and stomach.



Dr. Victoria Gomez
Associate Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic in Florida, USA

Victoria Gómez, M.D., F.A.S.G.E. is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Florida, with a focus and expertise in interventional endoscopy and bariatric endoscopy. She was born in Santiago, Chile and moved to Texas at a young age. She is director of Bariatric Endoscopy at Mayo Clinic and is a diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine (ABOM).

Dr. Gómez received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, where she graduated with Highest Honors and Alpha Omega Alpha distinction. She then completed her Internal Medicine Residency and Gastroenterology fellowship training at Mayo Clinic in Florida and Minnesota.

Dr. Gómez' expertise includes all areas of advanced endoscopy including diagnostic and staging of oncological diseases of the gastrointestinal and biliopancreatic tract, management of chronic calcific pancreatitis as well as non-surgical weight loss therapies and management of obesity-related diseases and complications/issues following bariatric surgery. She has over 150 publications and currently serves as Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Mohammed Abdallah
General Surgery, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Obesity
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

With more than a decade of experience in providing high-quality care to patients, Dr. Abdallah previously worked at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi where he expanded his experience in advanced laparoscopic and bariatric surgeries, as well as diagnostic and advanced endoscopy. Dr. Abdallah remains dedicated to treating patients with comprehensive procedures for weight loss and reflux. Moreover, Dr. Abdallah is a fellow of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (FASMBS), the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and the European Board of Surgery (FEBS). He is also a member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), the International Federation for The Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorder (IFSO) and the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS). A medical graduate of Jordan University of Science and Technology, he completed his residency at the American University of Beirut and gained his fellowship in Surgical Oncology at King Hussein Cancer Center in Jordan, one of the leading oncology centers in the region. Additionally, Dr. Abdallah has published a number of peer-reviewed articles in international journals relating to bariatrics and minimally invasive surgery. As well as participating in medical conferences and seminars, he oversees the teaching of residents and interns.



Dr. Eyad Al Alakrad
Consultant - Gastroenterology & Hepatology,
Director of the GI Motility Disorders
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Alakrad has extensive expertise in the fields of Gastroenterology and Hepatology with a significant training background in renowned hospitals and universities in the UK and the USA. Dr. Alakrad's primary focus is motility disorders. He specializes in performing general endoscopy, endoscopic placement of temporary gastric stimulators, and analyzing esophageal manometry, anorectal manometry, pH impedance, and pH capsules.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Mr. Darshan Nagaraju
Operations Administrator
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville,
Florida, USA

Darshan Nagaraju is a seasoned healthcare leader with more than two decades of healthcare leadership experience. He is currently serving as an Operations Administrator for Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, General Internal Medicine, Executive and International Practice at Mayo Clinic in Florida.

Darshan joined Mayo Clinic in August 2008 and has worked across Mayo Clinic sites: Rochester, Florida, Mayo Clinic Health System and most recently Mayo Clinic International (SSMC) in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has held numerous leadership roles leading large clinical departments such as Oncology/Cancer Practice, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, etc. with budget over \$150 mil operations. His role involves collaborating with physician chairs to provide leadership oversight and fostering growth in practice, research, and education activities.

In his international assignment at SSMC/Mayo Clinic in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Darshan was instrumental in building infrastructure and high-functioning clinical teams from the ground up. Darshan introduced new AI technologies within Gastroenterology clinical practice, which was a groundbreaking initiative that positioned the department as one of the premier programs in the UAE and the Middle East. He has also led robust growth and financial sustainability strategies, resulting in significant increase in outpatient visits and procedural volume, translating to >21% improvement in direct margin.

Darshan earned his Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and Management from BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore India, and his Master's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, USA. He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt and holds Graduate Certificate in Strategic Management from Harvard University.



Dr. Khaled Alneaimi
Consultant Gastroenterologist & Hepatologist
Mediclinic Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Consultant Gastroenterologist, Graduated from UAEU Faculty of Medicine in 2010. Dr. Khaled finished medicine and gastroenterology training in France. Dr. Khaled completed advanced endoscopy training in Montréal Canada. Dr. Khaled is currently working in SSMC Hospital as the Director of advanced endoscopy.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Shiva Kumar
Chair, Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Kumar is the Chair of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. He completed his fellowship in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and a Clinical & Research fellowship in Hepatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.



Dr. Mohammed Karajeh
Chair of Gastroenterology, Consultant, Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Mohammed Karajeh, MBChB, FRCP, CCST GIM & Gastroenterology, is a consultant gastroenterologist and hepatologist and director of endobariatrics at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City. He completed both his undergraduate and postgraduate training in the UK. Dr. Karajeh has over 2 decades of experience in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology and special expertise in performing complex/advanced endoscopic procedures including ERCP, cholangioscopy, stenting and endobariatric procedures. He established a successful endobariatric service at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City and introduced minimally invasive procedures for weight loss. Dr. Karajeh has published widely in peer reviewed journals and presented at national and international meetings.



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Inas Mikhail
Consultant - Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

She is also the Director of the endoscopy unit. She is a member of The Emirates Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society (E.G.H.S.), UAE. With an extensive experience of 29 years, Dr. Inas has been working as a gastroenterologist in Abu Dhabi for two decades. She is interested in liver disease, doing ultrasounds, fibroscans, and treating viral hepatitis and fatty liver disease. Dr. Inas is also passionate about the prevention of colorectal cancer, and treating pelvic floor conditions in women including constipation. She always aims at teaching as part of her goals, inspired by and inspiring young physicians.



Dr. Mazen Taha
Senior Consultant,
Gastroenterology/Hepatology,
Chief of the Gastroenterology Department,
Chairman of the Internal Medicine Department
Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, UAE

Dr. Mazen Taha is the Chairman of Internal Medicine at Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE. He is also an Associated Professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science at UAE University. After completing his training in Medicine and Gastroenterology/Hepatology in Dresden and Berlin, Germany; he became Chief of Endoscopy in 1994, and Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in 1998 at the University Hospital Dresden, Germany. In 2002, he took up the post of Senior Consultant in Gastroenterology/Hepatology and Chief of Gastroenterology in Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE. In 2010, he received certification in Hepatology from the German Board of Gastroenterology/Hepatology. Since 2016 Dr. Taha has been the Chair of the PTC (Pharmacy Therapeutic Committee) in Tawam. Dr. Taha is a member of the German Society of Gastroenterology and German Society of Endoscopy and Imaging. He has published several articles and posters in peer-reviewed journals too, focusing on gastrointestinal oncology and endoscopy.



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