

# 8<sup>th</sup> International **Oncology** Conference



17-18 December  
2020



————— “ Working Together to Improve Cancer Care ” —————

Organized by



**CONFERENCE BOOK**

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## Welcome Message



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing and scientific committee, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the **"8th International Oncology Conference" under the patronage of H.E Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al-Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence** being held virtually on 17-18 December, 2020 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

For the past seven years, this conference has been the principal forum on the latest innovations in treating cancers. Over a hundred world-leaders have participated and engaged in discussions on new approaches in the fight against cancer that are bringing us closer to a future where cancer will become a curable disease. The Congress continues to be a global platform with an interdisciplinary approach, with special lectures, debates and interactive techniques to explore the innovative and exciting developments in the management and treatment of 'cancer,' potentially thousands of different diseases with wide-ranging characteristics that require extensive and diverse management.

The 8th International Oncology Conference represents the most important gathering for 2020 designed to focus on new research and technologies with the promise of improving the outcomes of cancer, still one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. This year's Congress showcases some of the world's leading clinicians, scientists and surgeons, who will share and discuss groundbreaking in treating patients for one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

The program emphasizes on the theme **"Working Together to Improve Cancer Care"** to highlight the importance of multidisciplinary approach that have resulted in significant improvements and is required to provide patients with leading-edge cancer therapies. The conference will also highlight issues and challenges in clinical trials and research studies that provide critical information for physicians when deciding the best treatment strategies for cancer patients

The meeting will provide all stakeholders with opportunities to learn, debate, discuss, and network in this very active scientific field where recent progress has led to improvements in patient outcomes.

I am certain that this unique conference will deliberate and discuss all the different facets of this exciting topic and come up with recommendations to achieve a high level of excellence in healthcare for cancer patients.

Thank you for joining us to one of the exciting events we are planning and experience firsthand the pride we take to fight and prevent cancer, making a tangible difference for the health of our people in the UAE and the region.

I am sure that your active participation in the conference will significantly contribute to its success and will constitute a milestone in the region highlighting more than seven years of pioneering research and innovation.

I wish you a memorable meeting with a valuable learning experience and the conference great success.

*Shamsheer vp*

**Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil**

Conference President

Chairman & Managing Director, VPS Healthcare

## Scientific Committee

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- **Dr. Amr Hassan**  
Scientific Committee (Chair), Medical Director of the Medical Oncology Services, Consultant Hematologist & Medical Oncologist at Burjeel Cancer Institute & Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi**  
Scientific Committee (Co-chair), Director of Oncology at Burjeel Cancer Institute  
Director of Research & Innovation Center at Burjeel Cancer Institute, VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Gheida**  
Scientific Committee (Co-Chair), Founding Director, Department of Radiation Oncology,  
Burjeel Medical City, Adj. Assistant Professor UAE University, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Dr. Sadir Al Rawi**  
Director of Oncology & Surgical Services, VPS Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE

## Organizing Committee

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- **Mr. Khaled Afify**  
General Manager, MENA Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Mr. Vijayakumar. A**  
Manager, Office of Chairman & Managing Director, VPS Healthcare, UAE
- **Mr. Shijoth**  
Biomedical Engineering, VPS Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Mr. Ka. Jeye Pandiyan**  
Head-Supply Chain, VPS Healthcare, UAE
- **Ms. Bhavana**  
Purchasing Supervisor, VPS Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE

## Conference Objectives

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- Define cancer risk factors, eligible groups for screening & symptoms suspected for Breast, Colon, Lung, Gynecological, Urological and Pediatric Cancers
- Discuss global cancer occurrence, etiology, prevention and early detection
- Evaluate the latest trends in global research, methods, and technology for treatment of cancers
- Understand current clinical challenges in vast majority of tumor types and novel treatment strategies for particular tumor sub-types
- Gain insight about the clinical relevance of molecular advances in different cancer types
- Examine the significance of novel approaches to medical & surgical management of cancers and integrate new therapies into clinical practice
- Review the advantages of multidisciplinary approach in the diagnosis and management of various types of cancers

## Highlighted Cancers in 2020

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Breast Cancer



Colorectal Cancer



Lung Cancer



Gynecologic  
Cancer



Urologic  
Cancer



Hematologic  
Cancer

### Other Important topics in Cancer Care:

- a. Cancer Care during COVID-19 (UAE, Europe, USA experience)
- b. Palliative Care in Cancer Patients
- c. Oncologic Emergencies

### Breast Cancer:

- a. ASCO Updates (2020)
- b. New Options in Radiotherapy
- c. The New Era of Managing Metastatic Breast Cancer

## Target Audience

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- Medical, Surgical and Radiation Oncologists
- Radiologists
- Pathologists
- General Practitioners
- Family Physicians/ Internist
- Obstetrics and Gynecologists
- Gastroenterologists
- Urologists
- Pulmonologists
- Emergency Medicine
- Pharmacists & Nurses
- Governmental and Non - Governmental Cancer Control Officials
- Researchers and Other Professionals Interested in the Treatment of Cancer

# Speakers



**Dr. Hani Al-Hashimi**  
Consultant, Adult Medical Oncology,  
Hematology & Stem Cell Transplantation,  
KSA



**Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi**  
Director of Oncology, Burjeel Cancer Institute  
Director of Research & Innovation Center  
Burjeel Cancer Institute  
VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Nabil Debouni**  
Group Medical Director  
VPS Healthcare,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Amr Hassan**  
Medical Director of the Medical Oncology  
Services, Consultant Hematologist and  
Medical Oncologist at Burjeel Cancer  
Institute and Burjeel Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Gheida**  
Founding Director, Department of Radiation  
Oncology, Burjeel Medical City,  
Adj. Assistant Professor UAE University,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Prof. Dr. John Suh**  
Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology,  
Taussig Cancer Institute, Professor of Medicine,  
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at  
Case Western Reserve University,  
Associate Director of the Gamma Knife Center  
at the Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor &  
Neuro-oncology Center, USA



**Prof. Dr. Rahul Tendulkar**  
Professor, Residency Director & Clinical  
Director Radiation Oncology,  
Cleveland Clinic Ohio, USA



**Prof. Dr. Bruce D. Minsky**  
Professor of Radiation Oncology  
Frank T. McGraw Endowed Chair  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



**Dr. Robert Wolff**  
Professor of Medicine, Department of GI  
Medical Oncology, Deputy Division Head,  
Clinical & Educational Affairs in the Division  
of Cancer Medicine Program Director for the  
Hematology/Oncology Fellowship  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



**Dr. Peter Ellis**  
Division Head of Medical Oncology  
Juravinski Cancer Centre and  
McMaster University, Ontario, Canada



**Prof. Dr. Fady B. Geara**  
Professor & Chairman,  
Dept. of Radiation Oncology  
The American University of Beirut  
Medical Center, Lebanon



**Dr. Marwan Ghosn**  
Professor & Chairman of the Hematology  
Oncology Department, Saint-Joseph University  
Faculty of Medicine in Beirut, Lebanon  
Director of the Cancer Center & the Head of  
Hematology Oncology Division, Clemenceau  
Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon & Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Mary Gullatte**  
Corporate Director Nursing Innovation  
& Research EMORY Healthcare,  
Peachtree Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



**Kristin Marie Ferguson**  
Clinical Operations Manager,  
Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital;  
Washington, DC, USA



# Speakers



**Mildred Sattler**

Corporate Director Nurse Retention & Career Development, Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



**Dr. James Douglas**

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Stephen Grobmyer**

Oncology Institute Chair & Professor of Surgery, Director of Oncology Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Faek Jamali**

Director of Colorectal Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Basil Ammori**

Consultant Laparoscopic Bariatric & Gastrointestinal Surgeon  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Amritha Malini**

Histo-Pathologist, Specialist - Anatomic and Clinical Pathology,  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Neil Nijwahan**

Consultant in Palliative Medicine  
Burjeel Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi**

Oncology Head,  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Majed Mohammed Ibrahim**

Executive Beneficiary Support Services,  
Friends of Cancer, UAE



**Dr. Shabeeha Rana**

Consultant Haemato-Oncologist  
Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Kayane Mheidly**

Consultant Hematology,  
Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC)  
Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Saad Ghazal-Aswad**

Associate Professor, College of Medicine & Health Sciences (CMHS)  
Consultant, Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



**Dr. Deborah Mukherji**

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Division of Hematology Oncology  
American University of Beirut, Lebanon





# Scientific Program

## DAY 1 Thursday | 17 December, 2020 (GST/UAE Time)

| TIME        | TOPIC  | SPEAKER                          |
|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 11:05-11:10 | Welcome & Introduction   |                                  |
| 11:10-11:25 | OFFICIAL INAUGURATION<br>H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al-nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence |                                  |
| 11:25-11:35 | Salutation By Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, Conference President  |                                  |
| 11:35-11:40 | Opening Remarks By Dr. Amr Hassan, Chair of Scientific Committee   |                                  |
| 11:40-13:30 | SESSION 1: COVID impact on Oncology<br>Chairperson: Dr. Amr Hassan, UAE                                    |                                  |
| 11:40-12:00 | VPS Response Team and the Effort for COVID   | Dr. Nabil Debouni, UAE           |
| 12:00-12:25 | Regional cancer research priorities during pandemic  | Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi, UAE        |
| 12:25-12:45 | Collaborating Studies for COVID Treatment  | Dr. Hani Al-Hashimi, KSA         |
| 12:45-13:30 | Q & A   Panel Discussion   |                                  |
| 13:30-14:15 | Break   Exhibition Visit & Online Networking   |                                  |
| 14:15-16:10 | Session 2   Surgical Oncology Updates<br>Chairperson: Dr. Sadir Al Rawi, UAE                               |                                  |
| 14:15-14:40 | What's New in Thoracic Surgical Oncology   | Dr. James Douglas, UAE           |
| 14:40-15:05 | Surgical Management of Colorectal Cancer: Integrating into multidisciplinary care                          | Dr. Faek Jamali, UAE             |
| 15:05-15:30 | Advances in Breast Cancer Surgical Management  | Dr. Stephen Grobmyer, UAE        |
| 15:30-15:55 | Role of Laparoscopic Approach to D2 Gastrectomy: An Update   | Dr. Basil Ammori, UAE            |
| 15:55-16:10 | Q & A   Panel Discussion   |                                  |
| 16:10-16:25 | Break   Exhibition Visit & Online Networking   |                                  |
| 16:25-18:20 | Session 3   Radiation Oncology Updates<br>Chairperson: Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Gheida, UAE                         |                                  |
| 16:25-16:50 | Post-prostatectomy Radiation Therapy   | Prof. Dr. Rahul Tendulkar, USA   |
| 16:50-17:15 | Advances in Breast Cancer Radiotherapy   | Prof. Dr. Fady B. Geara, Lebanon |
| 17:15-17:40 | Advances in Rectal Cancer Radiotherapy   | Prof. Dr. Bruce D. Minsky, USA   |
| 17:40-18:05 | Leadership in Radiation Oncology   | Prof. Dr. John Suh, USA          |
| 18:05-18:20 | Q & A   Panel Discussion   |                                  |
| 18:20-18:35 | Break   Exhibition Visit & Online Networking   |                                  |
| 18:35-20:05 | Session 4   Medical Oncology Updates<br>Chairperson: Dr. Deborah Mukherji, Lebanon                         |                                  |
| 18:35-19:00 | Advancement in Breast Cancer Systemic Therapy  | Dr. Marwan Ghosn, UAE            |
| 19:00-19:25 | Colorectal Cancer Systemic Therapy Update  | Dr. Robert Wolff, USA            |
| 19:25-19:50 | Navigating the options for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy in the First Line Therapy of NSCLC          | Dr. Peter Ellis, Canada          |
| 19:50-20:05 | Q & A   Panel Discussion   |                                  |
| 20:05       | END OF DAY 1   |                                  |

## DAY 2 Friday | 18 December, 2020 (GST/UAE Time)

| TIME        | TOPIC   | SPEAKER                     |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 11:00-11:05 | Welcome & Introduction  |                             |
| 11:05-11:10 | Opening Remarks   |                             |
| 11:10-12:55 | Session 5   Nursing<br>Chairperson: Dr. Theresa Morrison, UAE                                   |                             |
| 11:10-11:40 | Management of Acute & Subacute Infusion Reactions   | Kristin Marie Ferguson, USA |
| 11:40-12:10 | Innovation: The Magical Role of a Nurse Retentionist  | Mildred Sattler, USA        |
| 12:10-12:40 | Improving Patient Care Outcomes through Evidence Based Practice & Research                      | Dr. Mary Gullatte, USA      |
| 12:40-12:55 | Q & A   Panel Discussion  |                             |
| 12:55-13:25 | Symposium (ROCHE)<br>The Role of Serum Biomarkers in Diagnosis & Management of Ovarian Cancer   | Dr. Saad Ghazal-Aswad, UAE  |
| 13:25-13:40 | Break   Exhibition Visit & Online Networking  |                             |
| 13:40-15:55 | Session 6   Important topics in Oncology<br>Chairperson: Dr. Taleb AL Mansoori, UAE             |                             |
| 13:40-14:10 | Palliative Care and Oncology in the UAE - the current state of play, challenges & opportunities | Dr. Neil Nijwahan, UAE      |
| 14:10-14:40 | An Update of Molecular Pathology of Gynecological Tumours                                       | Dr. Amritha Malini, UAE     |
| 14:40-15:10 | Cancer Patient Support Programs in the UAE  | Majed Mohammed Ibrahim, UAE |
| 15:10-15:40 | Oncology Research in the UAE  | Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi, UAE   |
| 15:40-15:55 | Q & A   Panel Discussion  |                             |
| 15:55-16:10 | Break   Exhibition Visit & Online Networking  |                             |
| 16:10-17:55 | Session 7   Hematological Malignancy Update<br>Chairperson: Dr. Amr Hassan, UAE                 |                             |
| 16:10-16:40 | Precision Medicine in Cancer  | Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi, UAE    |
| 16:40-17:10 | Hematological Malignancies in the UAE   | Dr. Kayane Mheidly, UAE     |
| 17:10-17:40 | Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and Cellular therapy in UAE                             | Dr. Shabeeha Rana, UAE      |
| 17:40-17:55 | Q & A   Panel Discussion  |                             |
| 17:55-18:00 | Closing Remarks   |                             |
| 18:00       | End Of Conference   |                             |

# 8<sup>th</sup> International Oncology Conference



17-18 December  
2020



VIRTUAL  
CONFERENCE  
Abu Dhabi, UAE

## CME Accreditation



8th International Oncology Conference has been Accredited  
by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical  
Education (EACCME®) for **14 European CME Credits (ECMEC®s)**

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| Day 1, Thursday 17/12/2020 is Accredited for 8 ECMEC®s |
| Day 2, Friday 18/12/2020 is Accredited for 6 ECMEC®s   |

### Certificate of Attendance

- Certificates can be downloaded at MENA Conference ([www.menaconference.com](http://www.menaconference.com)) website 7-10 days post conference. A notification with the link and 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



# Speakers' Biography



## Dr. Hani Al-Hashimi

Consultant, Adult Medical Oncology,  
Hematology & Stem Cell Transplantation,  
KSA



Dr. Hani Al-Hashimi completed his undergraduate studies in Medical Technology at King Abdulaziz University in 1999 and then pursued his medical education at McMaster University in Canada where he graduated with an MD degree in 2003. He received his post-graduate training in Internal Medicine at university of western Ontario and Hematology Fellowship at McMaster University, Medical Oncology and bone marrow transplantation Fellowship at University of Calgary Canada. He spent the last part of his training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center working with the BMT group. Dr. Al-Hashimi is currently the Senior Medical Director of Medical Affairs at Pfizer Saudi. He previously led the Oncology Center at King Fahad Specialist Hospital in Dammam (KFSH-D) and the National Strategy for Cancer Care and Specialized Oncology Services at the Ministry of Health. Over the past ten years, he helped in establishing 5 stem cell transplantation programs and more than 10 oncology departments throughout the Kingdom, in addition to his participation in developing future strategies, clinical services and education and research in the field of hematology, oncology and cellular therapy at the national and regional levels. He also worked on several national committees at the level of the Ministry of Health and the Saudi Health Council. Dr. Al-Hashimi has wide range of research activities and publications in peer-reviewed journals in the field of stem cell transplantation, leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.



## Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi

Director of Oncology, Burjeel Cancer Institute  
Director of Research & Innovation Center  
Burjeel Cancer Institute, VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Alshamsi completed his medical degree with honours from the University college Cork in Ireland. He completed Internal Medicine Residency and Medical Oncology Fellowship Training at McMaster University in Canada. He also completed a fellowship in GI Oncology at McMaster University in 2013. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of GI Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas from June 2014 until December 2016. He worked in Tawam Hospital as a Consultant Medical Oncologist and holds an Associate Professor position at Sharjah University. He has an extensive clinical and research experience in GI malignancies.

He is currently the Director of Oncology at Burjeel Cancer Institute Director of Research & Innovation Center at Burjeel Cancer Institute, VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE.



## Dr. Nabil Debouni

Group Medical Director  
VPS Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Nabil Debouni is a General Surgeon. After obtaining his medical degree in 1972, he took the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, UK in 1979. From the time of his early career, he showed interest in surgical oncology and specifically in the management of malignant breast disease. In his late career, he became more interested in Quality and hospital management. Being the Group Medical Director for VPS Healthcare, which is the largest healthcare provider in the region, Dr. Debouni is involved mainly in overlooking clinical care and quality aspect across the group. Part of his continued interest in malignant breast disease, Dr. Debouni was engaged in the national campaign for breast cancer awareness, including several media appearances and corporate presentations. During the last Covid-19 pandemic, VPS dedicated all its services and forces towards Covid-19 patients with Dr. Debouni playing a pivotal role in the group activities.



## **Dr. Amr Hassan**

Medical Director of the Medical Oncology Services,  
Consultant Hematologist and Medical Oncologist at Burjeel Cancer Institute and  
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Amr R. Hassan, M.D, specializes in Hematology and medical oncology in Burjeel Medical City-MBZ, Musaffah. Dr. Amr did both his fellowship and residency in The University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is a triple board-certified physician by American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology. He has close to 12 years of clinical experience in managing Medical Oncology disorders and Hematologic diseases both benign and malignant.

He has been involved as a principal investigator and a sub-investigator in multiple clinical trials in the USA. He uses the latest treatment regimens and protocols in accordance with the American National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines. He has been incorporating the latest approved drugs by the American FDA including targeted chemotherapeutic agents and immunotherapy drugs.

He was most recently the Medical Director of The Cancer Treatment Center at Sky Lakes Medical Center in the USA where he was part of the leadership team in the advancement and the progress of this cancer facility. Dr. Amr did both his fellowship and residency in The University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is a triple board certified by ABIM in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology. Dr. Amr is fluent in English and Arabic.

He was most recently the Medical Director of The Cancer Treatment Center at Sky Lakes Medical Center in the USA where he was part of the leadership team in the advancement and the progress of this cancer facility.



## **Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Gheida**

Founding Director, Department of Radiation Oncology, Burjeel Medical City,  
Adj. Assistant Professor UAE University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Ibrahim Husni Abu-Gheida is a Founding Director, Department of Radiation Oncology at Burjeel Medical City, an Adj. Assistant Professor at UAE University, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Dr. Abu-Gheida trained at world-leading academic cancer institutions including the American University of Beirut Medical Centre, Cleveland Clinic/Ohio and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; which is ranked as number-one cancer center in the United-States. Dr. Abu-Gheida have several peer-reviewed articles, abstracts and book chapters in reputable medical journals and books, he currently serves as a member of the Burjeel hospital Institutional Review Board (IRB).



## **Prof. Dr. John Suh**

Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, Taussig Cancer Institute,  
Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University,  
Associate Director of the Gamma Knife Center at the Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor & Neuro-oncology Center, USA



John H. Suh, M.D. is Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Taussig Cancer Institute, Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, and Associate Director of the Gamma Knife Center at the Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor and Neuro-oncology Center. He obtained his undergraduate and medical degree from the University of Miami through a combined B.S./M.D. program in 1990 and completed his residency and fellowship in Radiation Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic in 1994 and 1995, respectively. His clinical, research and educational interests are focused on brain, spine and ocular tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiation therapy, and innovative radiation technologies.



## **Prof. Dr. Rahul Tendulkar**

Professor, Residency Director & Clinical Director Radiation Oncology,  
Cleveland Clinic Ohio, USA



Dr. Rahul Tendulkar is an Associate Staff Physician in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center, and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Tendulkar completed his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan and then attended the University of Michigan Medical School. He completed residency training in radiation oncology at Cleveland Clinic, where he served as Chief Resident. He joined the Cleveland Clinic faculty in 2008, and is board certified in radiation oncology by the American Board of Radiology. He currently serves as the Clinical Director and Residency Program Director for the Department of Radiation Oncology.

His clinical interests are in the treatment of breast cancers and genitourinary cancers with radiation therapy, including cardiac-sparing breast radiation, accelerated partial breast irradiation, prone whole breast radiation, stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) for prostate cancer, and prostate brachytherapy.

His areas of active research interest include the development of predictive models for outcomes in the treatment of high risk breast cancer and prostate cancer.

In addition, he has an interest in leadership development training and helped start the first formal leadership curriculum for radiation oncology residents in the nation at Cleveland Clinic.



## **Prof. Dr. Bruce D. Minsky**

Professor of Radiation Oncology, Frank T. McGraw Endowed Chair  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



Bruce D. Minsky, MD is a Professor in the Division of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He holds the Frank T McGraw Endowed Chair for the Study of Cancer. His clinical focus is gastrointestinal cancer. Dr. Minsky received his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1982 and completed his residency in radiation therapy at the Harvard Joint Center for Radiation Therapy in 1986. In recognition for his work in the development of neoadjuvant therapy for rectal cancer Dr. Minsky was awarded an honorary medical degree in 2004 from Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen, Germany. Dr. Minsky is widely published, is an editorial board member of several journals and has served on the Board of Directors of both ASTRO and ASCO. In 2013 he was awarded honorary membership in ESTRO and is a fellow of both ASTRO (FASTRO) and ASCO (FASCO). He is a past President and Chair of the Board of ASTRO



## **Dr. Robert Wolff**

Professor of Medicine, Department of GI Medical Oncology, Deputy Division Head,  
Clinical & Educational Affairs in the Division of Cancer Medicine Program Director for the Hematology/  
Oncology Fellowship, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



Dr. Wolff is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of GI Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is also the Deputy Division Head, Clinical and Educational Affairs in the Division of Cancer Medicine.

Dr. Wolff graduated from Albany Medical College in Albany, New York and completed his residency and fellowship training in Hematology/Oncology at Duke University Medical Center. He joined the faculty of MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1997, where his research has focused on the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

He has been a collaborator with surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and laboratory researchers in trying to understand the causes of pancreatic cancer and to design better treatment strategies for resectable, locally advanced, and metastatic pancreatic cancer.



## **Dr. Peter Ellis**

Division Head of Medical Oncology  
Juravinski Cancer Centre and McMaster University  
Ontario, Canada



Dr. Ellis is a Professor in the Departments of Oncology and Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact at McMaster University. He is also Division Head of Medical Oncology at the Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC). He obtained his medical degree at the University of Sydney. He completed a Masters of Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology) and a PhD also at the University of Sydney. Dr Ellis moved to Canada in October, 2000. He is an Executive Member of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) Lung Disease Site Committee, and is Co-Chair of Cancer Care Ontario's Practice Guideline Initiative, Provincial Lung Disease Site Group. He is also an investigator on several CCTG and pharmaceutical industry-sponsored multicentre phase III clinical trials in breast and lung cancer.



## **Prof. Dr. Fady B. Geara**

Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Radiation Oncology  
The American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon



Dr Geara is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology and Founding Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) between 2007-2012.

Dr. Geara's has outstanding clinical and research achievements. While at MD Anderson, he pioneered research into the genetic variability of radiation sensitivity and contributed to the development of several clinical research studies in head, neck and lung cancers. At AUBMC he built the department of radiation oncology and created its outstanding residency program that is now the only international program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-International (ACGME-I)

He has authored or co-authored over 115 original research articles and presented over 240 invited lectures at regional and international meetings. He served on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology and Physics for many years and continues to serve on the editorial board of several oncology specialty journals



## **Dr. Marwan Ghosn**

Professor & Chairman of the Hematology Oncology Department, Saint-Joseph University  
Faculty of Medicine in Beirut, Lebanon, Director of the Cancer Center & the Head of Hematology  
Oncology Division, Clemenceau Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon & Dubai, UAE



Professor Marwan Ghosn acquired his medical degree and his post graduate expertise in Hematology and Oncology from Saint-Joseph University, Faculty of Medicine, in Beirut, Lebanon as well as from the University of Paris XI – Kremlin- Bicêtre and Institut Gustave, Roussy Cancer Center in Villejuif, France. He is the Director of the Hematology – Oncology Post Graduate Program and the Chairman of the Hematology - Oncology Department at Saint-Joseph University, Faculty of Medicine in Beirut. He acquired a Master in Hospital and Health Management from The Higher School of Business, ESA, in Beirut and a Master in the Quality Management of Units for Care Production (MUPS) from the University of Paris VII, Denis Diderot, and France. He is currently the Director of the Cancer Center and the Head of Hematology & Oncology Division at Clemenceau Medical Center, affiliated with Johns Hopkins International in Beirut. Professor Marwan Ghosn has also served, for more than 12 years, as Chairman of the HematologyOncology Department at Hotel-Dieu de France University Hospital in Beirut, where he is actually continuing his clinical, medical and research activities. He served as President of the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology (LSMO) and was member of the Board of the Lebanese Cancer Society (LCS) for many years. He is an active member of several national & international scientific organizations and societies including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), the American Society of Hematology (ASH), The European Hematology Association (EHA), the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) and the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC). He is author and co-author of more than 200 peer-reviewed articles. He also published and gave an extensive number of communications, posters and abstracts at regional and international meetings, as well as several chapters in books in the field of Medical Oncology and Health Care Management. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the "Pan Arab Journal of Oncology" (PAJO) edited by the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC) and has previously served as Editor-in-Chief of the "Cancer Letter" edited by the Lebanese Cancer Society. Professor Ghosn has special interests in multiple areas including leadership in conducting research and clinical trials in multiple solid tumors. He has an expertise in breast cancer, urologic cancers, gastrointestinal tumors, geriatric oncology domain as well as in patients' safety and Quality in Healthcare.



## Dr. Mary Gullatte

Corporate Director Nursing Innovation & Research EMORY Healthcare,  
Peachtree Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



Mary Magee Gullatte, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, AOCN, LSSYB, FAAN is the Corporate Director of Nursing Evidence Based Practice and Research at EMORY Healthcare, in Atlanta. Her leadership spans over 40 years with extensive experience in Oncology Nursing, Administration, education, & Leadership.

Dr. Gullatte is Adjunct Faculty at the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Mary is the past president of the National Oncology Nursing Society from 2012 – 2014. She has presented at numerous national and international conferences representing 6 of the 7 continents: including, invited speaker and oncology nurse consultant in Oman-UAE, West Africa; Prague, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Australia, Brazil, Amsterdam, Turkey, Thailand, China & New Zealand. Mary has contributed extensively to the literature through articles and textbooks. Recent book, 21st Century Nursing Leadership was awarded book of the Year in 2018. Gullatte is the lead editor of Chemotherapy Handbook currently in Press in 4th Ed, 2020.



## Kristin Marie Ferguson

Clinical Operations Manager, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC, USA



Dr. Kristin Marie Ferguson DNP, RN, OCN, has been an oncology nurse for over 11 years. She is currently the Clinical Operations Manager at Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at MedStar Georgetown. She obtained her Bachelors in Nursing (BSN) from Boston College in 2009, Masters in Nursing (MSN) from Catholic University in 2013 and Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Duke University 2018. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Oncology Nursing Society as Treasurer. She has a strong interest in healthcare policy, has advocated multiple times for both cancer and nursing funding on Capitol Hill visits and was invited by the White House in 2016 to attend the Cancer Moonshot Summit hosted by then Vice President Joe Biden. She has spoken and taught courses nationally and internationally.



## Mildred Sattler

Corporate Director Nurse Retention & Career Development,  
Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



Millie Sattler DNP, MSN, RN, CCRN, is the Corporate Director of Nurse Retention and Career Development for Emory Healthcare. She is part of the Emory Healthcare senior leadership team and is the executive sponsor for the Professional Lattice Advancing Nurses (PLAN), Emory Nurse Peer Mentoring Program, and the Emory Nurse Extern and InEmory Program across the nine-hospital system and ambulatory care.

Dr. Sattler has published several peer-reviewed articles and done several conference presentations throughout her nursing career focused on lifelong learning committed to patient care, patient safety, nurse engagement, team vitality, and nurse advocacy. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurse Leaders, and is the current President for Georgia's Association of Radiology Imaging Nursing Board. Millie served on the New Hampshire Nurse's Association Board of Commission while she worked at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire. She also serves as a visiting professor for Chamberlain University



## Dr. James Douglas

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Doug studied undergraduate medicine in Newcastle upon Tyne, where he completed general surgical training. After Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, he completed Cardiothoracic Surgical training in the UK Northern Region (Freeman Hospital, Newcastle and James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough), with a visiting fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Barnes Jewish Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, USA with Professors Ralph Damiano, Joel Cooper and Alex Patterson.

He helped start the new Essex Cardiothoracic Centre at Basildon as Consultant in 2007 where he was Lead for Thoracic Surgery, until moving to Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, in 2019.

He worked with colleagues to set up the new SSMC Thoracic Surgery service, which has performed nearly 200 operations since opening in July 2020.

Clinical interests include minimal access lung cancer surgery, chest wall surgery including tumours and trauma reconstruction, mediastinal tumours and pleural disease.



## Dr. Stephen Grobmyer

Oncology Institute Chair & Professor of Surgery  
Director of Oncology, Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Stephen Grobmyer is currently Oncology Institute Chair, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. At Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi he also currently serves as Director of Breast Surgery and The Breast Health Clinic. He completed training in Surgery at NY Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 2002 and Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York in 2004.

Dr. Grobmyer is an expert in the management of breast cancer. He has extensive experience with skin sparing and nipple sparing mastectomy for selected breast cancer patients. He has a particular focus on the surgical management of patients with high risk genetic mutations for breast cancer. He also has extensive experience with sentinel node biopsy, axillary reverse mapping and lymphatic bypass to prevent lymphedema.

Dr. Grobmyer is a member of ASCO and the completed ASCO leadership development program in 2012. Dr. Grobmyer has been elected into the prestigious American Surgical Association and Southern Surgical Association. He serves on the editorial board of 7 journals: Annals of Surgical Oncology, Surgery, American Journal of Surgery, European Journal of Surgical Oncology, Gland Surgery, Annals of Breast Surgery, and The Breast Journal. He has published over 190 peer review manuscripts and 30 book chapters.

His research programs have focused on innovative approaches to breast cancer prevention and treatment have been funded by over \$10 million in extramural funding. His research has been featured in The New York Times, National Public Radio, and NBC Nightly News.



## Dr. Faek Jamali

Director of Colorectal Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Faek Jamali, M.D., F.A.C.S. is Consultant Surgical Oncologist and colorectal surgeon at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City. He completed training in general surgery and surgical oncology in USA and advanced laparoscopic colorectal surgery at IRCAD/EITS in Strasbourg. Dr Jamali joined AUBMC in 2002 where he stayed till August 2020 as Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for clinical affairs before relocating to the UAE to join SSMC. His practice focuses on surgical oncology, management of peritoneal surface malignancies as well as minimally invasive colorectal as well as robotic rectal cancer surgery.



## Dr. Basil Ammori

Consultant Laparoscopic Bariatric & Gastrointestinal Surgeon  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Professor Basil Ammori graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Baghdad with an MB ChB degree in 1986, undertook his surgical training in the UK (1989-2000) where he obtained his CCST as well as the degrees of FRCSEd, FRCS Eng, and MD.

He was granted a Hunterian Professorship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 2000, and became a Consultant Laparoscopic Bariatric & Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon in Manchester, UK between 2000 and 2017. He was appointed an Honorary Professor of Hepatobiliary & Bariatric Surgery at The University of Manchester (2011-2019). His expertise extends to over 10,000 laparoscopic procedures with special interest in advanced laparoscopic gastrointestinal and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery for benign and malignant conditions. In addition, he led the bariatric service in the North West of England between 2002 and 2017. He moved to King Hussein Cancer Center, Amman, Jordan in 2017 where he promoted laparoscopic resections for cancers of the stomach, colon, liver and pancreas. In January 2020, he moved to Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE as a Consultant Laparoscopic Bariatric & Gastrointestinal Surgeon.

Professor Ammori has a keen academic interest, sits on the Editorial Boards of a number of peer-reviewed medical journals and has over 200 publications and book chapters.



## Dr. Amritha Malini

Histo-Pathologist, Specialist - Anatomic and Clinical Pathology,  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr Amritha Malini is working as an Anatomic Pathologist at Burjeel Hospital Abudhabi. She completed her Pathology Residency from Govt Medical College , Kozhikode , Kerala and worked as Consultant Pathologist and Assistant Professor . She moved to UAE in 2018 . She is a Diplomate of Royal College of Pathologists UK and a Member of International Academy of Cytology. Her Original research on Hematologic Malignancies and Breast Pathology has been published in the Indian Journal of Pathology and Oncology . Her areas of expertise include Oncologic Pathology, Gynecologic Pathology , Dermatopathology and Molecular Pathology.



## Dr. Neil Nijwahan

Consultant in Palliative Medicine  
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Neil Arun Nijwahan is a UK-trained Consultant in Palliative Medicine at Burjeel Medical City. After medical school at Kings College London, he pursued speciality training in Palliative Medicine in London and previously worked as a Consultant in Palliative Medicine at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Nijwahan is the first licensed Palliative Care physician in Abu Dhabi and is licensed to practice all aspects of Palliative Medicine. He believes strongly that for patients undergoing cancer treatment, if one's symptoms are well controlled, they will feel better, and both the patient and their family will tolerate their anti-cancer treatment better.

Dr. Nijwahan's ethos is to treat every patient like family and firmly believes that there is always something that we can do to help make people feel better. The overarching aim of Palliative Care is to improve the quality of life of patients through diligent and thorough assessment and treatment of both physical and psychological symptoms. Patients do not exist in isolation and therefore supporting the family/carers is an essential component of the palliative care approach to care. His clinical area of interest is symptom control (including pain, nausea, breathlessness, fatigue) and assistance with complex treatment decision-making and he is often called on to provide an independent second opinion. Palliative care is available for everyone – of any age, race, culture, background and religion.

He is fluent in English.



**Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi**

Oncology Head, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Hashmi is Oncology Head at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City. He worked as an Associate Professor of Medicine faculty at Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA, where he works as a supplementary consultant. He is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at AlFaisal University in Riyadh, KSA. He graduated in 2000 from Karachi, Pakistan, receiving the President of Pakistan's Gold Medal for the best medical graduate and went on to do his Internal Medicine Residency at Yale-Griffin Hospital in Connecticut, USA. He then completed his Master's in Public Health at Yale University, Connecticut, USA. Afterward, he completed hematology-oncology & stem cell transplant fellowship at the Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, New York, USA. He joined Mayo Clinic faculty in 2012 as the Director of the Long-Term-Follow-Up program within the Blood and Marrow Transplant Division. He joined KFSHRC, Riyadh in 2016 and is currently the Director of their LTFU Clinic. In 2019, he assumed the responsibility of Chair of the Clinical Research Department at KFSHRC. He is an international authority on Graft-versus-host-disease, Machine Learning (AI) and in BMT survivorship with greater than 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is Diplomate of the American Board of Hematology, American Board of Public Health, and American Board of Internal Medicine. Besides institutional leadership, his selected national or international accomplishments are as below:

Co-chair, Health Services and International Studies, Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplantation (CIBMTR) – 2018; Member, Nuclear Accident Committee (NAC), The European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) – 2019; Chair, Survivorship Special Interest Group, American Society for Transplantation & Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) – 2016; Member, Founding & Steering Committee, National Institutes of Health (NHLBI and NCI), BMT Late Effects Initiative – 2015; Member, Diversity and Health Disparities Group, National Marrow Donor Program, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014; Member, CIBMTR Advisory Council – 2018.



**Majed Mohammed Ibrahim**

Executive Beneficiary Support Services,  
Friends of Cancer, UAE



Majed Mohammed, Executive Beneficiary Support Services at Friends of Cancer Patients (FOCP) charitable organization, where I contribute in FOCP's mission to minimize the impact of cancer through providing financial support, guidance, and various other types of assistance to needy cancer patients and their families across the United Arab Emirates. My educational background includes MSPH from Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, and a BMSc from United Arab Emirates University.



**Dr. Shabeeha Rana**

Consultant Haemato-Oncologist  
Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai, UAE



Dr. Shabeeha is a Consultant Hematologist and Hemato-oncologist, born and trained in the UK. She is currently practicing in Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai for nearly 2 years since moving from UK.

She graduated with MBBS with honors from Aga Khan University, Pakistan in 2002. She started her post graduate medical training at Addenbrookes hospital Cambridge and Kings College Hospital, London. She became the member of Royal College of Physicians member with passing MRCP exam in 2006. She then embarked on the specialist training in Hematology, Hemato-oncology and Bone marrow transplantation in Nottingham University Hospitals while passing FRCPATH exam in hematology to be a member of Royal College of Pathologists. She successfully received her certificate of completion training in hematology (CCT) with BMT fellowship from Nottingham. She has worked as a Consultant Hematologist in most prestigious institutions including Royal Marsden Hospital London, University Hospitals Birmingham and Kings College Hospital London. She has been a lecturer and Examiner for the Royal College of Pathologists for Hematology. Her main interests include malignant hematology, stem cell and cellular therapy and hematological malignancies diagnostic services. She has been Co-PI of several UK and NCRN Trials in the UK and has published several articles peer-reviewed journals.



**Dr. Kayane Mheidly**

Consultant Hematology,  
Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC), Dubai, UAE



Dr Kayane MHEIDLly started her medical school in 2004 at the faculty of medicine of Lille 2-France. She acquired her medical degree and her post graduate expertise in hematology with a very honorable mention at the faculty of medicine of Rennes 1-France. She had a position of fellowship-PhD at department of hematology at the university hospital of Rennes 1, well known department in the management of Lymphoma, multiple myeloma, acute leukemia and bone marrow transplantation (114 autologous stem cells transplantations and 58 allogenic stem cells transplantations per year). With her 10 years of experience in the management of hematological diseases (hematological malignancies and benign hematology) from the diagnosis to the therapy, including stem cells transplantation, immunotherapy, in and outpatient care, she always works to adjust the treatment to the molecular and cytogenetic profile of the disease and to the patient's tolerance. She is very interested in clinical research, she is member of the LYSA, the SFH and the IFM.



## Dr. Saad Ghazal-Aswad

Associate Professor, College of Medicine & Health Sciences (CMHS)  
Consultant, Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



MD, DFFP, FRCOG, PhD, FFPH.

Dr. Aswad is a graduate from Aleppo University with Doctor of Medicine (1980). He completed his post graduate training in United Kingdom in General surgery & Urology, then Obstetrics and Gynecology (1982-1989 and was awarded his Membership for the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (MRCOG-RCOG), UK (1988). Then He completed his Training in Gynaecological Oncology at the Gynaecological Oncology Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead ,the largest Female cancer unit in the United Kingdom (1989-93) and subsequently attained his Doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Newcastle (PhD). Dr Aswad later lectured at the University of Newcastle and maintained a consultant position within NHS Trusts in the North East (1993-1998)

On moving to the United Arab Emirates, he was appointed as an associate professor at the College of Medicine & Health Sciences (CMHS) and consultant at Tawam Hospital for eight years (1989-2006). During this period, he was awarded fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG-RCOG). He later occupied the position of Chair of Department in Tawam (2006-2011) during which he was awarded Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, the Royal Colleges of Physicians of United Kingdom, 2008, (FFPH-RCP) UK.

Subsequently, Dr Aswad established services for Ain al-Khaleej Hospital (2011-2013) as a Medical Director during the trust's start before returning to Tawam Hospital with his re-appointment as Consultant and Chair of Department in Tawam (2013-2019) and as adjunct Professor at CMHS.

From October 2020 moved part time to multidisciplinary polyclinic sitting (Levantine Medical Center, Al-Ain) as Consultant O&G / Gyne Onc & Medical Director and part time Consultant O&G/ Gyne Oncology, Tawam Hospital, Al-Ain

Since leaving the CMHS, UAE University Dr Aswad hold an Adjunct Professor Position, CMHS, UAE University

Additional certifications:

- Diploma of the Faculty of Family Planning (DFFP) 1998
- Diploma in Managing Health Services, 1996
- Joint RCOG/RCR practical course in Advanced Obs. US "By exam", 1996/1997
- Diploma in Colposcopy, IFCCP, 2005
- Distinction Award, University, Clinical & Community Service, FMHS/CMHS 2004-2005
- Sh. Hamdan Medical Award for: "The outstanding clinical department in Public hospital Sector in UAE": 2010.
- Arab Health Award for outstanding contribution to Medical Education in the Middle East: 2013



## Dr. Deborah Mukherji

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine  
Division of Hematology Oncology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon



Dr. Deborah Mukherji joined the faculty of the American University of Beirut Medical Center in June 2012 as a medical oncologist and has a special interest in gastrointestinal and genitourinary oncology. Dr Mukherji completed her advanced specialty training in Medical Oncology at Guys and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust, London UK and was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London in 2011. On completion of her advanced specialty training Dr Mukherji joined the Royal Marsden Hospital London where she worked in clinical research and drug development with a focus on prostate cancer. In June 2015 Dr Mukherji was awarded a post-graduate diploma in Global Clinical Research from Harvard Medical School supported by a scholarship from the Dubai-Harvard Foundation. In June 2016 Dr Mukherji was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians UK.



# Speakers' Abstracts

DAY 1 Thursday  
17 December, 2020

## SESSION 1 | COVID impact on Oncology

### 11:40-12:00 VPS Response Team and the Effort for COVID



**Dr. Nabil Debouni**

Group Medical Director  
VPS Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Outlines:

- Management of initial insult
- Surge capacity
- Future readiness

### 12:00-12:25 Regional cancer research priorities during pandemic



**Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi**

Director of Oncology, Burjeel Cancer Institute  
Director of Research & Innovation Center  
Burjeel Cancer Institute, VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE



### 12:25-12:45 Collaborating Studies for COVID Treatment



**Dr. Hani Al-Hashimi**

Consultant, Adult Medical Oncology,  
Hematology & Stem Cell Transplantation,  
KSA



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has started to affect Saudi Arabia in the beginning of March 2020 and is expected to cause significant morbidity to many patients, especially to elderly, who might require intensive care unit (ICU) support to survive as its lethality increases with the increasing age. Recent publications suggested the benefit of utilizing convalescent plasma (CP) from recovered donors as a therapeutic approach in treating COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma could provide our first-line defense for people with Covid-19, especially those who are older and at a much higher risk for complications., therefore, we developed a national protocol to investigate the safety, benefit and applicability at larger scale and at different health care facilities in Saudi Arabia (KSA).

569 patients (178 received CP) from 22 sites across KSA that participated in the study. Tertiary, secondary, academic and non-academic centers participated (real world data). There were no unusual safety issues related to convalescent plasma infusion since all mortalities in the plasma group were not related to plasma infusion which represent similar finding from other the published international reports. 30 mortality in the plasma group was 24.2% compared to 39.9% in the comparative group with an Absolute risk reduction of 15.7% (p value <0.001). This benefit to seem to be more noticeable in the COVID-19 cases who did not meet the criteria for life-threatening disease.



## Session 2 | Surgical Oncology Updates

14:15-14:40

### What's New in Thoracic Surgical Oncology



#### **Dr. James Douglas**

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Outlines:

- Recent and future changes in lung cancer staging
- Updates in surgery
- Trials in adjuvant treatment

14:40-15:05

### Surgical Management of Colorectal Cancer: Integrating into multidisciplinary care



#### **Dr. Faek Jamali**

Director of Colorectal Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Purpose:

Multidisciplinary cancer care is currently considered worldwide as standard for the management of patients with cancer. It improves patient diagnostic and staging accuracy and provides patients the benefit of having physicians of various specialties participating in their treatment plan. The purpose of this presentation is to describe the potential benefits brought by multidisciplinary care in surgical management of colorectal cancer



## Session 2 | Surgical Oncology Updates

15:05-15:30

### Advances in Breast Cancer Surgical Management



#### Dr. Stephen Grobmyer

Oncology Institute Chair & Professor of Surgery  
Director of Oncology, Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



#### Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of new approaches to surgical management of breast cancer.
- Apply advances in multi-disciplinary care to optimize surgical approaches to breast cancer.
- Demonstrate understanding of emerging approaches to further reduce impact of surgery on breast cancer patients.

**Methods:** This paper reviews latest published work by the author and others regarding de-escalation of surgical management of breast cancer.

**Results:** De-escalation of surgery for breast cancer is occurring through advances in understanding of biology of breast cancer, the interaction of other therapies on outcome, advances in technical aspects of surgery.

**Conclusions:** De-escalation is allowing us to safely reduce the morbidity of surgery for breast cancer while allowing patients to have improved outcomes. Work to continue to de-escalate breast cancer treatment is critical and ongoing.

#### References:

- Marinovich et al. JAMA Surgery, August 2020
- Al-Hilli and Grobmyer, Annals Surgical Oncology, 2019.

15:30-15:55

### Role of Laparoscopic Approach to D2 Gastrectomy: An Update



#### Dr. Basil Ammori

Consultant Laparoscopic Bariatric & Gastrointestinal Surgeon  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



#### Learning Objectives:

- Review the evidence for safety of the laparoscopic/robotic approach to D2 gastrectomy compared with open surgery and its learning curve.
- Establish the short-term and long-term oncologic outcomes of laparoscopic D2 gastrectomy compared to open surgery.
- Discuss the safety and benefits of enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) program and the impact of minimally invasive surgery on quality of life (QoL).

**Methods:** Literature review of recent randomized and non-randomized comparative studies of laparoscopic and robotic versus open D2 gastrectomy. Outcome measures examined include safety outcomes (morbidity, mortality, blood loss, conversion rate, hospital stay, readmissions, and reoperations), short-term oncologic outcomes (lymph node retrieval rate, R0 resection rates), long-term oncologic outcomes (disease-free survival and overall survival), the impact of ERAS on recovery, morbidity and hospital stay, as well as the learning curve for laparoscopic and robotic procedures and their impact on QoL. A short video of the procedure will be presented.

**Results:** Although the laparoscopic approach to D2 subtotal (distal) and total gastrectomy for advanced gastric cancer requires significantly longer operative time, it is associated with significant reductions in blood loss and hospital stay and improved QoL, with comparable morbidity and mortality rates and equivalent short-term and long-term oncologic outcomes. ERAS program after laparoscopic gastrectomy reduced postoperative pain, enhanced recovery and shortened hospital stay. The learning curve for laparoscopic gastrectomy ranges from 20 to >100 cases, and there is no clear benefit to the robot over the laparoscopic approach to gastrectomy.

**Conclusions:** In experienced hands, the laparoscopic approach to D2 gastrectomy offers an equivalent oncologic resection as with open surgery and when combined with an ERAS program might deliver quicker recovery.



## Session 3 | Radiation Oncology Updates

16:25-16:50

### Post-prostatectomy Radiation Therapy



#### **Dr. Rahul Tendulkar**

Clinical Director Radiation Oncology,  
Cleveland Clinic Ohio, USA



Learning Objectives:

- Explain the potential indications for post-operative radiotherapy after radical prostatectomy.
- Discuss the role of adjuvant versus early salvage radiotherapy in the management of prostate cancer after prostatectomy.
- Discuss management strategies incorporating androgen deprivation therapy and/or pelvic nodal irradiation after prostatectomy.

16:50-17:15

### Advances in Breast Cancer Radiotherapy



#### **Prof. Dr. Fady B. Geara**

Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Radiation Oncology  
The American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon



Learning Objectives:

- Understand the current indications of radiotherapy in breast cancer
- Determine the best regimen of radiation in breast cancer
- Apply newer radiation modalities for breast cancer patients

Methods: Review of the most recent relevant clinical studies in radiation therapy for breast cancer

Results: Analysis of trial data and relevance will be presented and discussed



## Session 3 | Radiation Oncology Updates

### 17:15-17:40 Advances in Rectal Cancer Radiotherapy



#### **Prof. Dr. Bruce D. Minsky**

Professor of Radiation Oncology, Frank T. McGraw Endowed Chair  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



#### Learning Objectives:

- Review the rationale for the adjuvant management of rectal cancer
- Discuss current treatment for rectal cancer
- Present new approaches for rectal cancer

The conventional treatment for cT3-T4 or node-positive clinically resectable rectal cancer is long course preoperative chemoRT followed by surgery and postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy. Disadvantages of this approach include possible overtreatment of patients, 6 weeks of daily radiation treatment, and undetected metastatic disease. There are a number of emerging trends which are changing this approach to treatment. Selected topics include the selective use of pelvic radiation, the role of radiation for a positive radial margin, the interval between radiation and surgery, non-operative management, new chemoRT regimens, short vs. long course radiation, and the role of postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy.

### 17:40-18:05 Leadership in Radiation Oncology



#### **Prof. Dr. John Suh**

Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, Taussig Cancer Institute,  
Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University,  
Associate Director of the Gamma Knife Center at the Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor & Neuro-oncology Center, USA



#### Learning Objectives:

- Provide an overview about the Cleveland Clinic
- Review some books that have influenced my leadership style
- Discuss lessons learned during my leadership journey

This talk will provide an overview about the Cleveland Clinic, books that have influenced my thoughts about leadership during my 14 years as chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Taussig Cancer Institute, and lessons that I have learned during my leadership journey. These books and my journey emphasize the importance of being a student of leadership, importance of coaching and emotional intelligence, acknowledgement of your strengths, and importance of the empowerment dynamic and grit in developing one's leadership acumen. Based on my journey, I believe leadership requires focus and passion, can be learned, and should always bring out the best in yourself and others

#### References:

- Jack Welch. Winning.
- Jim Collins. Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't.
- Daniel Goleman. Emotional Intelligence. 10th anniversary edition; Why it can matter more than IQ.
- Tom Rath. Strength Finders 2.0.
- Jim Collins. Great by Choice.
- Ken Jennings and John Stahl-Wert. The Serving Leader: Five Powerful Actions to Transform Your Team, Business, and Community
- David Emerald. The Power of TED (\*The Empowerment Dynamic).
- Angela Duckworth. Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance



## Session 4 | Medical Oncology Updates 1

18:35-19:00

### Advancement in Breast Cancer Systemic Therapy



#### Dr. Marwan Ghosn

Professor & Chairman of the Hematology Oncology Department, Saint-Joseph University Faculty of Medicine in Beirut, Lebanon, Director of the Cancer Center & the Head of Hematology Oncology Division, Clemenceau Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon & Dubai, UAE



Breast cancer: an overview

- Epidemiology
- Molecular subtypes

HR+/HER2- breast cancer

- General principles of management
- Determinants of resistance to CDK4/6i
- New available systemic therapies
  - PIK3CA in the metastatic setting (SOLAR-1 and BYLieve trials)

HER2+ breast cancer

- General principles of management
- New available systemic therapies
  - TDM1 for residual disease after neoadjuvant treatment (KATHERINE trial)
  - Trastuzumab deruxtecan for mBC (DESTINY-BREAST01)
  - Neratinib+chemotherapy for mBC (NALA trial)
  - Tucatinib+chemotherapy+trastuzumab for mBC (HER2CLIMB trial)

Triple negative breast cancer

- General principles of management
- New available systemic therapies
  - Sacituzumab-govitecan for refractory TNBC (ASCENT trial)
  - PARPi in mBC with mutations in DNA Damage Response Pathway Genes (OlympiAD and EMBRACA trials)
  - Pembrolizumab for Advanced TNBC (Keynote-355 trial)
- Subset of patients with quadruple negative breast cancer

Future perspectives

- CDK4/6i in the adjuvant setting for HR+/HER2- breast cancer: Abemaciclib+ET (MonarchE trial)
- Addition of Atezolizumab to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in Stage II-III TNBC (IMpassion031 trial)
- Veliparib in BRCA mutated advanced TNBC (BROCADE3 trial)
- Many other trials

Conclusion

19:00-19:25

### Colorectal Cancer Systemic Therapy Update



#### Dr. Robert Wolff

Professor of Medicine, Department of GI Medical Oncology, Deputy Division Head, Clinical & Educational Affairs in the Division of Cancer Medicine Program Director for the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA



## Session 4 | Medical Oncology Updates 1

19:25-19:50

### Navigating the options for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy in the First Line Therapy of NSCLC



**Dr. Peter Ellis**

Division Head of Medical Oncology  
Juravinski Cancer Centre and McMaster University  
Ontario, Canada



Learning Objectives:

- Review data on immune checkpoint inhibitors in the initial management of advanced/metastatic NSCLC
- Propose a suggested algorithm for initial therapy in NSCLC without targetable mutations.

Methods: Review of the literature was undertaken including published data and major conference proceedings including ASCO, ESMO and WCLC. Studies evaluating immune checkpoint inhibitor alone, or in combination compared with standard of care chemotherapy were identified. Data on efficacy outcomes including overall survival, progression free survival, response rate, duration of response, as well as toxicity and quality of life (where available) were extracted and summarized.

Results: Randomized trials of immune checkpoint inhibitors in NSCLC have established multiple treatment options with immunotherapy as initial therapy in NSCLC. Pembrolizumab monotherapy in patients with PD-L1 positive tumors (TPS  $\geq$  50%), pembrolizumab plus platinum and pemetrexed in non-squamous NSCLC and any PD-L1 expression, pembrolizumab plus carboplatin and (nab)/paclitaxel in squamous NSCLC and any PD-L1 expression, atezolizumab plus carboplatin, paclitaxel and bevacizumab, atezolizumab monotherapy in patients with high PD-L1 expression (TC/IC 3+), and nivolumab plus ipilimumab alone or with a short course of chemotherapy in patients with any PD-L1 expression, have all been shown to have superior efficacy to platinum-based chemotherapy alone. There are no direct comparisons of any of these regimens to know if any one of them offer superior efficacy. Differences exist in toxicity as well as cost that might inform treatment selection.

Conclusions: Multiple options for immune checkpoint inhibitors now exist in the initial management of advanced and metastatic NSCLC.



# Speakers' Abstracts

DAY 2 Friday  
18 December, 2020



## Session 5 | Nursing

11:10-11:40

### Management of Acute & Subacute Infusion Reactions



#### **Kristin Marie Ferguson**

Clinical Operations Manager, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC, USA



#### Learning Objectives:

- Define local hypersensitivity vs anaphylaxis
- Identify what/how to reach patients prior to infusion reaction
- Identify what side effects to teach patients undergoing chemotherapy

11:40-12:10

### Innovation: The Magical Role of a Nurse Retentionist



#### **Mildred Sattler**

Corporate Director Nurse Retention & Career Development,  
Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



**Purpose:** Using feedback that traditional recruitment & retention activities were ineffective, a 10-hospital system created and implemented a Nurse Retentionist role to drive a culture of innovative exemplary professional practice. The Retentionist leveraged professional practice to redesign recruitment, recognition, and retention, resulting in significant outcomes.

**Relevance/Significance:** Nurse leaders remain challenged with retaining nurses amidst the multi-generational workforce, given that each genre has unique preferences for personal & professional development. Servant, authentic leaders consider various engagement drivers when allocating organizational resources to increase retention & reduce costs (Shirey, 2009). The national focus on clinician well-being & professional joy as essential to achieve the Triple Aim (IHI, ); hence listening to nurses voices on what engagement strategies matter is essential (Bernard, 2019).

**Strategy/Implementation Methods:** The Retentionist developed & implemented a program after a complete review of the literature on nurse retention, residencies, externships, career & leader development, hiring practices, mentoring, & meaningful recognition. A strategy included individual meetings, relationship building & partnerships, clinical ladder & peer mentor program expansion, system retention committees of nurses, & focused recognition efforts. Nurses reflected on their individual strengths & areas for improvement. Retentionist developed a toolkit addressing resume building, interviewing skills, & career development goal planning. A significant expansion of recognition activities celebrated the nurse's professional achievements.

**Evaluation/Outcomes/Research:** Outcomes include, clinical ladder participation from increased 3665 to 5400 nurses, clinical ladder advancement increased 48%, externship increased 210%, 105 nurse residents remained in the system who had plan to resign. First year nurse residency retention rate was 93.4%. Ambulatory nurse recognition increased 187%. 19 nurses received state nursing awards. 175 nurses joined nurse retention committees. DAISY recognition increased 390 %. Over 120 nurses joined Peer Mentor program. Certified Nurses' Day honored 1580 nurses, 112 received awards during nurse's week for two consecutive years. Over 225 development classes supported 650 leaders, with a 31% internal promotion rate. Nurse turnover dropped from 13% to 11.8%, & importantly 294 nurses were retained via career planning. Total estimated cost saving were \$22, 860, 000.

**Conclusion:** Through the Retentionist role, health systems can serve & retain the multi-generational workforce. Through a multitude of synergistic strategies such as career planning, coaching, mentoring, professional development, self-reflection, & meaningful recognition, nurses report higher engagement & professional value.

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## Session 5 | Nursing

12:10-12:40

### Improving Patient Care Outcomes through Evidence Based Practice & Research



#### **Dr. Mary Gullatte**

Corporate Director Nursing Innovation & Research EMORY Healthcare,  
Peachtree Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA



#### Learning Objectives

- Discuss the role of leadership in developing and sustaining a robust Evidence Based Practice [EBP] and Research team
- Outline the difference and similarities between quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research
- Explore development of interprofessional collaborative Clinical Trials
- Discuss translation of research findings into practice

**Methods:** The presenter draws from years of oncology practice, academia, research, and published evidence supporting improved patient & provider outcomes from applying best evidence while stimulating a culture of clinical inquiry to develop new knowledge through innovation and research.

**Results:** As a result of the senior leader commitment and organizational strategic plan to support program development, mentor nurses, and the interdisciplinary team in the conduct of EBP and research and implementation of the research findings into practice the hospitals have achieved Magnet designation across 4 of 6 hospitals with the goal of all hospitals and ambulatory clinic designated. Top rankings in several polls for best quality and safety and strong satisfaction and intent to stay among nurses. High ranking among academic medical centers in research funding to the School of Medicine and School of Nursing, contributing to advancing the science.

**Conclusions:** Commitment to a program to support EBP and research at the organization level has led to strengthening the culture of clinical inquiry with subsequent nurse led and interprofessional collaborative research as well as dissemination to a broad audience with local and national presentations and peer reviewed journal publications.

#### References:

- Melnyk, B. & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2019). Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice. 4th Ed. Wolters Kluwer, Philadelphia.
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## Session 6 | Important topics in Oncology

13:40-14:10

### Palliative Care & Oncology in the UAE - the current state of play, challenges & opportunities



**Dr. Neil Nijwahan**

Consultant in Palliative Medicine  
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



In this presentation we will discuss the evidence for closer integration of palliative care into oncology care, models of palliative care provision, symptom burden in cancer patients, the current status of palliative care services within the UAE, the challenges facing palliative care within the UAE and some longer-term recommendations for improving the provision and access to palliative care services.

14:10-14:40

### An Update of Molecular Pathology of Gynecological Tumours



**Dr. Amritha Malini**

Histo-Pathologist, Specialist - Anatomic and Clinical Pathology,  
Burjeel Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Outlines:

- Molecular Pathology update of gynecological tumours ; in particular molecular classification of Endometrial carcinoma
- Clinical and therapeutic implications
- Tailored treatment strategies

Methods: Based on IHC, MSI, NGS

Results: Grade3 Endometrial carcinomas are heterogenous at molecular level, POLE and MSI group are likely to respond to Immunotherapy, TP53 group likely to behave aggressively .

Conclusion: Molecular subtyping in Endometrial carcinoma is poised to become standard of care in the diagnosis of EC

References:

- WHO classification of Tumours of Female genital tract , 2020
- Noorah Almadani et al. An update of molecular pathology and shifting systems of classification in tumours of the female genital tract. Diagnostic Histopathology

## Session 6 | Important topics in Oncology

14:40-15:10

### Cancer Patient Support Programs in the UAE



#### Majed Mohammed Ibrahim

Executive Beneficiary Support Services,  
Friends of Cancer, UAE



In the UAE, approximately 4,500 new cases of cancer are reported in a year. In 2012, cancer was the third leading cause of deaths in Abu Dhabi emirate. The UAE is determined to bring down cancer fatalities by nearly 18% by 2021 (Zaman, 2016). Reducing the numbers of mortality and morbidity due to cancer is one of the key performance indicators of the pillar of world-class healthcare of the UAE National Agenda (U.ae, 2020). Especially during this difficult time and the spread of COVID-19 virus, ensuring the continuum of care in cancer patients is vital and must be considered as a major priority, as many hospitals and healthcare centers are overwhelmed with increased numbers of COVID-19 cases and high demand on healthcare services and medical care (Al-Quteimat, Amer, 2020).

According to a 2016 report released by the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, the top five cancers in males are: Leukemia, Colorectal, Prostate, Non-Hodgkins, and Brain cancer. In females, the top five cancers are: Breast, Leukemia, Colorectal, Thyroid, and Uterus (DOH, 2017) (Loney, Aw, Handysides, 2013). However, there has been significant investment from the government and private health care providers to enhance the quality of cancer care in the UAE.

Over the past 20 years, Friends of Cancer Patients (FOCP) non-profit organization has achieved multiple milestones since its inception in 1999 under the directives and patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi. The key achievements for the organization are focused on advocacy, raising awareness on the importance of early detection of cancer, and providing cancer patients with both financial and moral support throughout their fight against cancer and during survivorship as well. FOCP's vision is "To Create a Cancer aware community in the United Arab Emirates Advocate and provide medical access to improve the quality of life of people affected by cancer", which is aligned with the UAE government's vision 2021 to reduce cancer mortality and provide high quality healthcare for its citizens (Vision 2021).

First, when it comes to advocacy, FOCP has held many events & advocacy activities throughout the year to provide the emotional and psychological support to people living with the disease. Also, to raise society awareness about cancers, and to consolidate community's efforts to address the equity gap when it comes to access to healthcare. In addition, FOCP has participated in local and international conferences that promote its humanitarian goal and mission.

Secondly, FOCP is keen to raise awareness across the UAE on the causes of cancer, prevention and screening, types of treatments, and the available support services in the UAE. Also, FOCP launched several awareness campaigns throughout the seven Emirates, including the Pink Caravan, Relay for Life, ANA Childhood cancer initiative, Shanab and Kick Cancer men's health initiative, to further support patients and to encourage early detection.

In addition, FOCP provides the financial and moral support along with different kinds of assistance to needy cancer patients and their families throughout the UAE to help in alleviating the treatment costs for cancer patients irrespective of their nationality, gender, age, and religion. Recently, due to the current pandemic, FOCP has launched the online application form to continue providing the financial support to limited-income patients across the UAE. Patients can fill the application online and upload the required documents from their homes or during their hospital stay. Then, FOCP staff review the applications and contact patients via email and phone to respond to their queries, in addition to coordinating with different hospitals, healthcare centers, insurance companies and other entities to ensure efficient access to healthcare services for cancer patients.

On the other hand, FOCP moral support initiatives "Color My World" and "Joy Cart" events and activities are held throughout the year. Recently, the beneficiary department has organized many virtual webinars, events, support groups, and life-coaching workshops for cancer patients in collaboration with different hospitals and partners to keep them feeling connected during COVID-19 and to encourage them to work together to overcome the disease.

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## Session 6 | Important topics in Oncology

### 15:10-15:40 Oncology Research in the UAE



#### **Dr. Humaid Al Shamsi**

Director of Oncology, Burjeel Cancer Institute  
Director of Research & Innovation Center  
Burjeel Cancer Institute, VPS Oncology, Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Session 7 | Hematological Malignancy Update

### 16:10-16:40 Precision Medicine in Cancer



#### **Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi**

Oncology Head, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



#### Learning Objectives:

- Identify of genetic alterations that drive carcinogenesis
- Describe treatment with drugs that can effectively inhibit the function of the genetic alterations
- Explain consistent use of molecularly targeted therapy



## Session 7 | Hematological Malignancy Update

### 16:40-17:10 Hematological Malignancies in the UAE



#### Dr. Kayane Mheidly

Consultant Hematology,  
Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC), Dubai, UAE



#### Outlines:

- Challenges in the practice of clinical hematology in UAE
- Information and screening of hematological diseases
- From the biology to the therapy: Example of the chronic lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)- Multiple Myeloma-Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)

#### Methods:

- The challenges in my current practice
- Hematology/oncology care in UAE
- Biological heterogeneity of blood diseases
- Variable clinical manifestations of blood diseases (Example CLL /MM/MDS) and variable management
- Prospects and areas for improvement

#### References:

- Oncology Care in the UAE - Ibrahim Abu-Gheida et al - e.Proofing | Springer
- The state of cancer care in the United Arab Emirates in 2020: challenges and recommendations, a report by the United Arab Oncology Task Force - Humaid Al-Shamsi
- From Biology to Therapy the CLL success story - Yosifov et al-EHA HemaSphere (2019)
- MGUS to myeloma: a mysterious gammopathy of underexplored significance-Madhav V. Dhodapkar-Blood 2016
- Updated Diagnostic Criteria and Staging System for Multiple Myeloma-Rajkumar ASCO 2016
- MDS overlap disorders and diagnostic boundaries Tiffany N. Tanaka and Rafael Bejar-Blood 2019
- ICUS, IDUS, CHIP and CCUS: Diagnostic Criteria, Separation from MDS and Clinical Implications Peter Valent-

### 17:10-17:40 Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and Cellular therapy in UAE



#### Dr. Shabeeha Rana

Consultant Haemato-Oncologist  
Al Zahra Hospital, Dubai, UAE



Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is a complex procedure and an intricate interplay between multiple disciplines, subspecialties, and components needing to be in place for a successful outcome both for the patient and the transplant program. It is currently a standard of care for many malignant and non-malignant disorders. It proves curative in situations where no other curative treatment option exists. The key element is the replacement of the patient's bone marrow with another source of HSC either autologous or allogeneic. The first transplant procedures were performed more than 40 years ago and clearly overtime, new lines of treatment have surfaced, including conditioning regimens, different graft sources, technologies for safety, and best available care to ultimately improve patient outcomes. UAE is a modern and developed country on major fronts of life, although the steps towards setting up this essential and well-needed HSCT service is gathering a lot of attention recently. Here, we discuss the need of establishing a safe, expert, and forward-thinking HSCT service with international collaboration and accreditation. Clearly, this has major implications on costs, service provision, and availability of expertise to set this major project off the ground. Overall, the aim of this presentation is to give a brief overview, explore and open avenues of collaboration towards strengthening a healthcare system.

# The Role of Serum Biomarkers in Diagnosis & Management of Ovarian Cancer

## SYMPOSIUM



**18 December 2020**  
**12:55-13:25 (GST/UAE Time)**

Presented by:

### **Dr. Saad Ghazal-Aswad**

MD, DFFP, FRCOG, PhD, FFPH, Associate Professor  
College of Medicine & Health Sciences (CMHS)  
Consultant, Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE

#### **Abstract: HE 4 in Ovarian Cancer Management:**

Introduction: Clinical diagnosis of ovarian cancer is often very difficult and is associated with a high rate of misdiagnosis. It is particularly challenging in asymptomatic patients and even in symptomatic patients, the final diagnosis can take up to 6 months. An ideal cancer biomarker is:

- Able to discriminate between malignant and benign conditions with a high sensitivity and specificity
- Detectable in easily obtainable samples.
- Measurable by robust and precise assays providing reliable clinical decision support for physicians.

Many studies confirmed:

- HE 4 is highly expressed in Ovarian Cancer.
- HE 4 is involved in in Ovarian Cancer cell proliferation & invasion.
- HE 4 help to identify patients in early ovarian cancer.
- HE4 Complements CA 125 in identifying patient with disease progression.
- Patients with high HE 4 have poorer prognosis.

HE 4 play an important role in Ovarian Cancer Management

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