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4TH INTERNATIONAL UAE RARE DISEASE SOCIETY CONGRESS

United for Rare: Empowering Families, Advancing Care

SAVE THE DATE

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

18 SEPT 2026

CONGRESS

19-20 SEPT 2026



Le Meridien Dubai Hotel, UAE

www.uaerdsc.ae



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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committees, as well as the UAE Rare Disease Society, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to attend the **4th UAE Rare Disease Society Congress 2026**, taking place **18-20 September 2026** at Le Meridien, Dubai. The event will open with pre-congress workshops on 18 September, followed by the main congress sessions on 19 and 20 September 2026.

This year's congress is held under the theme: **United for Rare: Empowering Families, Advancing Care**, reflecting our collective commitment to strengthening support systems, advancing scientific knowledge, and improving patient outcomes.

As President of this year's congress, I am deeply honored to host this gathering of distinguished experts, researchers, advocates, and individuals committed to improving the lives of those affected by rare diseases. This congress provides a vital platform for sharing groundbreaking research, fostering collaboration, and advancing progress in the diagnosis, treatment, and support of patients with rare diseases. Our collective efforts are essential in addressing the unique challenges faced by this community, and I am confident that the knowledge, partnerships, and insights gained here will leave a lasting impact.

Although rare diseases are individually uncommon, together they affect millions worldwide, presenting both complex challenges and remarkable opportunities. Research into these conditions often reveals fundamental biological mechanisms, offering insights into more prevalent diseases and driving innovation in diagnostics, therapeutics, and personalized medicine. This focus not only benefits individuals living with rare diseases but also enriches the broader medical field, pushing the boundaries of science and patient care.

I warmly encourage each of you to participate actively, engage in meaningful discussions, and share your expertise. By working together, we can amplify the voices of those living with rare conditions and move closer to a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Dr. Nuha Alzaabi

Congress President
Metabolic Genetic Consultant
UAE Rare Disease Society





SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



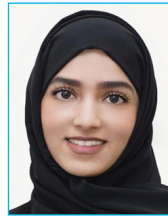
Dr. Nuha Alzaabi
Metabolic Genetic Consultant




Prof. Fatma Al Jasmi
MBBS, FRCPC, FCCMG
Dean of CMHS, UAEU
Biochemical Genetics Consultant,
Tawam Hospital




Dr. Fatma Al Bastaki
BSc, MBBS, DCH, MSc, FRCPC
Consultant Clinical Geneticist -
HMS Mirdif Hospital

Dr. Amal AL Tenaiji
Consultant Clinical Geneticist,
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City




Dr. Eman Taryam AlShamsi
MBBS, RCPC
Consultant & Acting Head of Pediatric
Hematology Oncology - Al Jalila Children's
Specialty Hospital

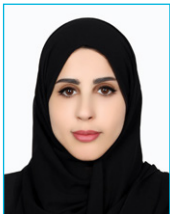

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Mrs. Nafisa Tawfiq
Chair President
UAE Rare Disease Society




Mrs. Awatif Aljasmi
Head of Administrative Services
Dubai Health Authority's
Thalassemia Center

Ms. Dalal Al Dhabyani
Operational Manager
UAE Rare Disease Society




Ms. Aadla Jodat
Executive Administrative
UAE Rare Disease Society




Dr. Azhar Rahma
Instructor at the Institute of
Public Health,
College of Medicine and
Health Sciences, UAE






CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To enhance awareness and understanding of rare diseases among healthcare professionals and the general public.
- To provide a platform for sharing the latest research, diagnostic, and therapeutic advancements in rare diseases.
- To facilitate networking and collaboration among stakeholders in the rare disease community.
- To promote patient advocacy and support for individuals and families affected by rare diseases.
- To discuss challenges and opportunities in rare disease diagnosis, treatment, and access to care in the UAE and the region.
- To educate healthcare providers on the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate management of rare diseases.
- To improve the quality of life for patients and families affected by rare diseases.

WHY ATTEND THE CONGRESS (KEY POINTS)

- Gain insights into the latest advancements in rare disease research and treatment.
- Network with leading experts, researchers, and clinicians in the field.
- Learn about best practices in diagnosis, management, and care of rare disease patients.
- Connect with patient advocacy groups and families affected by rare diseases.
- Earn continuing medical education (CME) credits.
- Contribute to the growing awareness and understanding of rare diseases in the UAE & the region.
- Discover new opportunities for collaboration and research.
- Stay updated on the latest policies and initiatives related to rare diseases.
- Be part of a community dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by rare diseases.





TARGET AUDIENCE

- Geneticists
- General Pediatricians
- Pediatric sub-specialty
- Cardiologists
- Pulmonologists
- Endocrinologists
- Neonatologists
- Oncologists
- Hematologists
- Ophthalmologists
- ENT
- Dermatologists
- Neurologists
- Nephrologists
- Rheumatologists
- Anesthesiologists
- ENT specialist
- Family physicians
- Internalist
- Metabolic Consultants
- Psychiatrists
- Genetic Counselors
- Nurses
- Dieticians
- Metabolic Dieticians
- Physiotherapists
- Learning difficulties specialists
- Speech Therapists
- Academic scientists
- Researchers
- Medical / Science students
- Laboratory technologist - Genetics
- Molecular geneticist
- Cytogenetic specialist
- Trainers
- Rare Heroes / Rare Families / Rare Caregivers.
- Community service providers
- POD service providers
- Non-Profit Organizations.
- Patients Advocacy Bodies.
- POD/Special Needs Business-Application Developers.

CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Genetics and Genomics of Rare Diseases
- Newborn Screening for Rare Disorders
- Diagnostic Approaches and Challenges
- Innovative Therapies and Clinical Trials
- Patient Advocacy and Support
- Ethical Considerations in Rare Disease Management
- Rare Disease Registries and Data Collection
- Specific Rare Disease Focus (e.g., metabolic disorders, neurological disorders, etc.)
- The role of Artificial Intelligence in Rare Diseases

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline of Submission: March 9, 2026 (23:00 UAE/GST)

Notification of Accepted Abstracts: March 16, 2026





SPEAKERS



Dr. Ali Al-Beshri

Consultant Clinical
Genetics & Genomics
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



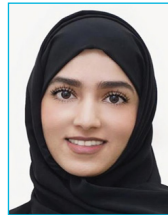
Dr. Osama Aldirbashi

Senior Consultant Clinical Scientist
Metabolic Lab, Department of
Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar



Dr. Amal Mohammed Alhashem

Consultant/ Professor/
Chairperson Genetic Department
King Fahad Specialist Hospital-
Alfaisal University, Saudi Arabia



Dr. Amal AL Tenaiji

Metabolic Genetics Consultant
Division of Pediatrics
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Tawfeg Ben Omran

Division Chief, Genetic and
Genomic Medicine - Sidra
Senior Consultant,
Department of Medical Genetics - HMC
Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College
Professor, College of Health Services,
Qatar University



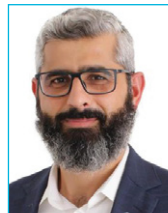
Dr. Hind Alsharhan

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Medical and Biochemical Geneticist
Department of Pediatrics Kuwait University,
Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait



Dr. Fatima Yousif Ismail

Assistant Professor - Consultant
UAE University -
Tawam /STMC/AQWCH , UAE



Dr. Ahmad Abou Tayoun

Director, Genomic Medicine Center
Associate Professor of Genetics
Dubai Health, UAE



Dr. Nadia Alhashmi

Head of training section at NGC,
Sr. consultant (Medical genetic)
Royal Hospital, Oman



Dr. Arif Khan

Section Head, Pediatric &
Neuro Ophthalmology
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Zulf Mughal

Consultant,
Paediatric Bone Disorders
Al Jalila Children's Hospital,
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Heba El Abd

Medical Genetic Consultant
Al Jalila Children's Hospital,
Dubai, UAE





4TH INTERNATIONAL UAE
RARE DISEASE SOCIETY CONGRESS
United for Rare: Empowering Families, Advancing Care

SPEAKERS



Dr. Asma Deeb

Chair of Paediatric
Endocrinology Division
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Sareea Al Remeithi

Consultant Pediatric Endocrinology
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Ken Nischal

Medical Director, Digital Health UPMC
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Assistant Medical Director,
UPMC International Medicine
Professor of Ophthalmology
Co-Executive Officer and Co-Founder,
World Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology
and Strabismus (WSPOS)



Dr. George V. Mazariegos

Jamie Lee Curtis Professor of Surgery and
Critical Care Medicine
Chief of Pediatric Transplantation,
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Director, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation
Institute, University of Pittsburgh School of
Medicine Affiliated Faculty, McGowan Institute
for Regenerative Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



Dr. Eman Taryam AlShamsi

MBBS, RCPCB
Consultant & Acting Head of Pediatric
Hematology Oncology - Al Jalila Children's
Specialty Hospital, Dubai, UAE



Dr. Azza Attia

Clinical geneticist,
Head of clinical genomics, G42



Dr. Laura Winter-Paquette

Genetic Counsellor
Abu Dhabi Health Services Company- SEHA





WORKSHOPS

September 18, 2026 - Friday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



13:00-13:50 Registration

13:50-14:00 Welcome & Introduction

TRACK A

14:00-15:00 **Workshop 1:**
Diet as Management of Rare Diseases
Instructor: Ms. Masooma Al Jasmi, UAE

TRACK B

14:00-15:00 **Workshop 2:**
Genetic Counseling
Instructors:
TBC

TRACK A

15:00-16:00 **Workshop 3:**
Metabolic Emergency Management
Instructor: International Speaker

TRACK B

15:00-16:00 **Workshop 4:**
Genetic Testing Results: How to Interpret
Instructor: Dr. Azza Attia, UAE
TBC

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

TRACK A

16:15-17:15 **Workshop 5:**
Bleeding Disorders
Instructor: Dr. Eman Alshamsi, UAE

TRACK B

16:15-17:15 **Workshop 6:**
Newborn Screening
Instructor: International Speaker

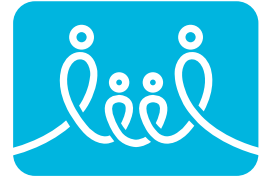
17:15 End of Workshops





FAMILY DAY TRACK

September 19, 2026 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



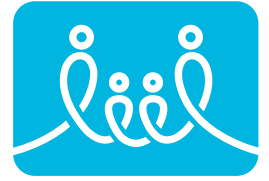
TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration التسجيل	
08:50-09:00	Welcome & Introduction الترحيب والمقدمة	
Session 1: Premarital Genetic Screening الفحص الجيني ما قبل الزواج Chair: Dr. Fatima Abdulaziz – Dr. Mariam Alshehhi		
09:20-09:40	جلسة حوارية مشتركة عن الفحص الجيني ما قبل الزواج في دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة Premarital Genetic Screening in the UAE	Dr. Ali Al-Beshri and Dr. Suad Alawar
	Q & A / Panel Discussion أسئلة وأجوبة	
09:40-10:20	Official Inauguration الافتتاح الرسمي للمؤتمر وتكريم العائلات والرعاة	
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break استراحة	
Session 2: From Hope to Impact: Initiatives that changed the lives of the Rare's Chair: TBA		
10:45-11:05	Welcome & Introduction كلمة الترحيب لبرنامج العائلة	Mrs. Nafisa Tawfiq – UAERDS Chairperson
11:05-11:25	جمعية أطفال القمر بالمغرب Association Moon Voice – Morocco	السيد أحمد زينون - الفائز بجائزة صناع الأمل Mr. Ahmed Zainoun – winner of hope maker 2025
11:25 – 11:45	TBA	شمسة المهيري – نائب رئيس فريق الجهة الحكومية الصديقة لأصحاب الهمم – دائرة الشؤون القانونية لحكومة دبي Shamsa AL Mehairi - Acting Head of the POD Friendly Government Entity – Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department
11:45-12:05	TBA	TBA
12:05-12:15	TBA	TBA
12:15-13:15	Lunch Break & Prayer استراحة الصلاة	
Session 3: POD Government Services Programs Chair: TBA		
13:15-13:25	إدارة أصحاب الهمم - وزارة الأسرة – برامج دعم أصحاب الهمم POD Support programs at POD Department- Ministry of Family	TBA
13:25-13:45	إدارة أصحاب الهمم - وزارة الأسرة – برامج دعم أصحاب الهمم POD Support programs at Department of Social Services - Sharjah	خالد العبدولي – مدير دار واحات الرشيد Khaled Al Abdouli - Director of Wahat Al-Rushd
13:45-14:05	POD Support programs برامج دعم أصحاب الهمم	TBA
14:05-14:25	POD Support programs and child protection برامج حماية الطفل وأصحاب الهمم	TBA
14:25-14:35	Q & A / Panel Discussion أسئلة وأجوبة	
14:35-14:50	Coffee Break استراحة	





FAMILY DAY TRACK

September 19, 2026 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
Session 4: Quality of Life: Between Family Stability and Advances in Treatment Chair: Mrs. Nashemya Alfili		
11:05-11:25	جلسة نقاشية بعنوان زواج أصحاب الهمم بين الواقع والتحديات A Panel Discussion on the Marriage of People with Disabilities: Between Reality and Challenges	TBA
15:10-15:40	جلسة عن طرق العلاج للأمراض النادرة – زراعة النخاع / العلاج الجيني / الخلايا الجذعية Treatment Approaches for Rare Diseases: Bone Marrow Transplantation, Gene Therapy, and Stem Cell Therapy	TBA
15:40-16:00	TBA	TBA
16:00-16:20	TBA	TBA
16:20-16:30	Q & A / Panel Discussion أسئلة وأجوبة	
16:30	Sponsors Awarding and Closing & End of Day تكريم الرعاية – ختام برنامج يوم العائلة	





SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

September 19 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome & Introduction	
Session 1: New Era of Metabolics Session Chair: Dr. Fatma Abdelaziz, Dr. Mariam Al Shehhi		
09:00-09:20	Inborn Error of Metabolism in Adults	Dr. Ali Al-Beshri
09:20-09:40	Prenatal Genetic Screening in the UAE	Dr. Suad Alawar, MOHAP, Dr. Ali Al-Beshri DOH, EHS, DHA, other Government Entities
09:40-10:00	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
10:00-10:45	Official Inauguration	
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	
Session 2: Innovation in Rare Disease Chair:		
11:00-11:20	Newborn Screening by Next Generation Sequencing, Challenges, & Benefits	Dr. Hamda Abulhoul, UAE
11:20-11:40	Novel Diagnostic / Laboratory Methods	Dr. Osama Aldirbash, UAE
11:40-12:00	Novel Therapeutic Approach to Metabolic Genetic Disorders	Dr. Amal Mohammed Alhashem, UAE
12:00-12:30	Industry Symposium 1	TBC
12:30-12:40	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
12:40-13:30	Lunch Break & Prayer	
Session 3: Metabolism and Biochemical Genetics Chair:		
13:30-13:50	Progress in Gene therapy for metabolic liver disease- From transplant to the future	Dr. George V. Mazariegos, USA
13:50-14:10	Updates on Phenylketonuria	Dr. Amal Al Tenajji, UAE
14:10-14:30	Insights on Lysosomal Storage Disease	Prof. Fatma Aljasmī, UAE
14:30-14:50	Porphyria, insights on new treatment	Dr. Nadia Alhashmi, Oman
14:50-15:00	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
15:00-15:10	Coffee Break	
Session 4: TBA Chair:		
15:10-15:30	Eye identifying Rare Diseases using Ocular Clues	Dr. Ken Nischal, USA
15:30-15:50	Pediatric Metabolic Stroke: Recognition & Acute Care	Dr. Fatima Yousif Ismail, UAE
15:50-16:10	Autism, Insight about Genetics	Dr. Mariam Alshehhi, UAE
16:10-16:30	Industry Symposium 2	TBC
16:30-16:40	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
16:40	Closing & End of Day 1	



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

September 20, 2026 - Sunday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome & Introduction	
Session 5: Metabolic Emergencies Chair:		
09:00-09:20	TBC	TBC
09:20-09:40	Insights on Urea Cycle Defects	Dr. Noura Aldhaheeri, UAE
09:40-10:10	Genetics Role in Intensive Care Management	Dr. Ahmad Abou Tayoun, UAE
10:10-10:30	Industry Symposium 3: TBC	Dr. Sareea Al Remeithi, UAE
10:30-10:40	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
10:40-10:55	Coffee Break	
Session 6: Treatable Metabolic Disorders Chair:		
10:55-11:15	Vitamin Responsive Disorders	Dr. Tawfeg Ben Omran, Qatar
11:15-11:35	CTX, rare cause of adult neurological disease	Dr. Arif Khan, UAE
11:35-11:55	Ataxia, treatable causes	Dr. Aman Sohal, UAE
11:55-12:15	From genetics to hemodynamics: hereditary pediatric pulmonary hypertension from genetic perspective	Dr. Ahmed Adel, UAE
12:15-12:25	Q & A / Panel discussion	
12:25-13:25	Lunch Break Prayer Poster Presentation	
Session 7: Genetics Chair:		
13:25-13:45	Genetic Testing in Epilepsy: A new landscape for precision care	TBC
13:45-14:05	Obesity, Genetic Perspective	Dr. Asma Deeb, UAE
14:05-14:25	Re-thinking Growth Promotion in Skeletal Dysplasias	Dr. Zulf Mughal, UAE
14:25-14:45	Pitfalls in metabolic emergencies/cases based	Dr. Moen Alsayed, KSA
14:45-14:55	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
14:55-15:05	Coffee Break	
Session 8: Ethics & Research Chair:		
15:05-15:25	Ethics meets Genetics	Dr. Moen Alsayed, KSA
15:25-15:45	What's Next: Genetic Testings are Negatives	Dr. Hiba Alblooshi, UAE
15:45-16:05	Interpretation of Genetic Results, Cases	Dr. Heba Elabd, UAE
16:05-16:25	Industry Symposium 4	TBC
16:25-16:35	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
16:35	End of Conference	



4TH INTERNATIONAL UAE
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CAPTURED MOMENTS:

Highlights from the UAE Rare Disease Society's Past Conferences





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HOW TO REGISTER

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Registration Fees

Please select the conference that is relevant to your speciality.

Category	Physical
☐ Doctors	AED 900
☐ Nurses	AED 600
☐ Medical Students, Residents & Allied Health	AED 350
☐ Family Day (Parents/Guardians and 1 Kid)	AED 1000
☐ Pre Congress Workshops (Per workshop)	AED 500

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your registration form. Please note that full payment must be received prior to the event. Payment can be made via Online, Credit card, Cheque, Bank drafts in AED.

***Additional 5% VAT will be Applicable on all Fees**

Payments

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Managing Office

شركة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا للمؤتمرات ذ.م.م.



For more information, please contact

Mr. Sahan
Ph : +971 2 4919888, Mob : +971 56 503 3781
Email: sahan@menaconference.com

Cancellation / Substitution Policy

If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate will be very welcome in your place. If this is not suitable, a 20% administration fee will apply. Registrations cancelled less than one weeks before the event are non refundable.

Event Venue

Le Meridien, Dubai

The organizing committee reserves the right to make any modifications to the programme in occurrence of any unforeseen circumstances.



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PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

18 SEPT 2026

CONGRESS

19-20 SEPT 2026



Le Meridien Dubai Hotel, UAE



For more information, please contact:

Mr. Sahan & Ms. Zandy

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zandy@menaconference.com

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CONFERENCE

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