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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





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RARE DISEASE SOCIETY CONGRESS
United for Rare: Empowering Families, Advancing Care

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



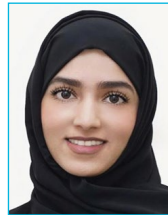
Dr. Nuha Alzaabi
Metabolic Genetic Consultant



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



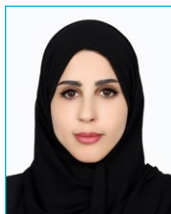
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



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



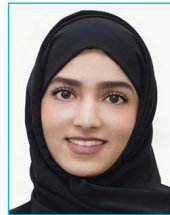
Dr. Osama Aldirbashi

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. Azza Attia

Clinical Geneticist,
Head of Clinical genomics, G42



Dr. Eman Taryam AlShamsi

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





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: Dr. Richa Soni, UAE

TRACK A

15:00-16:00 **Workshop 3:**
Metabolic Emergency Management
Instructor: Dr. Mahra Al Fattah & Dr. Dalia Al-Raie, UAE

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:**
Approach to Bleeding Disorders
Instructor: Dr. Eman Alshamsi, UAE

TRACK B

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

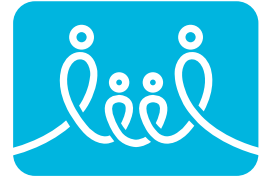
17:15 End of Workshops





CONGRESS AGENDA

September 19, 2026 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel

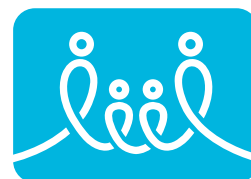


TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration التسجيل	
08:50-09:00	Welcome & Introduction الترحيب والمقدمة	
Session 1: Premarital Genetic Screening الفحص الجيني ما قبل الزواج Chair: Dr. Fatima Abdulaziz & Dr. Mariam Alshehhi		
09:00-09:40	جلسة حوارية مشتركة عن الفحص الجيني ما قبل الزواج في دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة Premarital Genetic Screening in the UAE Inborn Error of Metabolism in Adults	Dr. Ali Al-Beshri and Dr. Suad Alawar Dr. Ali Al-Beshri, UAE
Q & A / Panel Discussion أسئلة وأجوبة		
09:40-10:20	Official Inauguration الافتتاح الرسمي للمؤتمر وتكريم العائلات والراحة	
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break استراحة	
FAMILY DAY TRACK (Ballroom 1) Session 2: From Hope to Impact: Initiatives that Changed the Lives of the Rare's Chair: TBA من راحة إلى تأثير تاريخي: مبادرات التي غيرت حياة المصابين MAIN HALL (Ballroom 3) Session 2: Innovation in Rare Disease Chair: TBA		
10:45 - 11:05	Welcome & Introduction التأثير على حياة المصابين بمرض نادر Mrs. Nafisa Tawfiq – UAERDS Chairperson	10:45 - 11:05 Newborn Screening by Next Generation Sequencing, Challenges, & Benefits Dr. Hamda Abulhoul, UAE
11:05 - 11:25	Association Moon Voice – Morocco برغم لا يزال يرمقنا لا يقطعنا Mr. Ahmed Zainoun – Winner of Hope Maker 2025 لـمـا عايننا عزنا جبر زنا غلا - نونيز حمدا حيسلا	11:05 - 11:25 Novel Diagnostic / Laboratory Methods Dr. Osama Aldirbashi, Qatar
11:25 - 11:45	TBA أيمو كذا قهر فسر سري بكار - يريهملا سمشة يموكلا قهر فسر سري بكار - يريهملا سمشة جيد يموكلا يريهملا نوؤشلا قراد - همها بالحص - يقيدصلا Shamsa AL Mehairi - Acting Head of the POD Friendly Government Entity - Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department	11:25 - 11:45 Novel Therapeutic Approach to Metabolic Genetic Disorders Dr. Amal Mohammed Alhashem, UAE
11:45 - 12:05	TBA	11:45 - 12:15 Industry Symposium 1 – Sanofi TBA
12:05 - 12:15	TBA	Q & A / Panel Discussion
12:05 - 12:15 Lunch Break & Prayer قلاصلا قلايرتسا		



CONGRESS AGENDA

September 19, 2026 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
FAMILY DAY TRACK (Ballroom 1) Session 3: POD Government Services Programs Chair: TBA		MAIN HALL (Ballroom 3) Session 3: Metabolism and Biochemical Genetics Chair: TBA
13:15 - 13:25	POD Support programs at POD Department- Ministry of Family رهمهلا باحصأ معد جملر - قرسا قرارو - رهمهلا باحصأ قراد TBA	13:15 - 13:35 Progress in Gene Therapy for Metabolic Liver Disease – From Transplant to the Future Dr. George V. Mazariegos, USA
13:25 - 13:45	POD Support Programs at Department of Social Services - Sharjah رهمهلا باحصأ معد جملر - قرسا قرارو - رهمهلا باحصأ قراد Khaled Al Abdouli - Director of Wahat Al-Rushd حشرلا تاداو راد ريدم - جلودبعلا حلاخ	13:25 - 13:45 Updates on Phenylketonuria Dr. Amal Al Tenaiji, UAE
13:45 - 14:05	POD Support Programs رهمهلا باحصأ معد جملر TBA	13:45 - 14:05 Insights on Lysosomal Storage Disease Prof. Fatma Aljasmī, UAE
14:05 - 14:25	POD Support Programs and Child Protection رهمهلا باحصأو لىفطلا قيامد جملر TBA	14:05 - 14:25 Updates in MPS II Management Dr. Hind Alsharhan, Kuwait
14:25 - 14:35 Q & A / Panel Discussion		قوبجأو قلسأ
14:35 - 14:50 Coffee Break		قاريسا
FAMILY DAY TRACK (Ballroom 1) Session 4: Quality of Life: Between Family Stability and Advances in Treatment Chair: Mrs. Nashemya Alfili		MAIN HALL (Ballroom 3) Session 4: TBA Chair: TBA
14:50 - 15:10	A Panel Discussion on the Marriage of People with Disabilities: Between Reality and Challenges تايدحتلاو ع قوللا نيب رهمهلا باحصأ جاوز ناوعبر قيشاقت قلسا TBA	14:50 - 15:10 Eye identifying Rare Diseases using Ocular Clues Dr. Ken Nischal, USA
15:10 - 15:40	Treatment Approaches for Rare Diseases: Bone Marrow Therapy and Stem Cell Therapy Transplantation, Gene قيدجلا ايلخلا / جنيجلا جلاعلا / عاخذلا قعارز - قرانلا صامد جلاعلا قيرطن ع قلسا TBA	15:10 - 15:30 A. Industry Symposium 2 AstraZeneca* B. Pediatric Metabolic Stroke: Recognition & Acute Care TBC (replacing Dr. Fatima Yousif Ismail, UAE)
15:40 - 16:00	TBA	15:30 - 15:50 Autism, Insight about Genetics Dr. Mariam Alshehhi, UAE
16:00 - 16:20	TBA	15:50 - 16:10 Industry Symposium 3 – GenPharm (20 mins) Dr. Amal Altenaiji, UAE
16:20 - 16:30	Q & A / Panel Discussion	16:10 - 16:30 Q & A / Panel Discussion
16:30	Sponsors Awarding and Closing & End of Day	16:30 End of Day 1



CONGRESS AGENDA

September 19 - Saturday
Le Meridien Dubai Hotel



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration	
08:50 - 09:00	Welcome & Introduction	
Session 5: Metabolic Emergencies Session Chair: TBA		
09:00 - 09:20	Porphyria, Insights on New Treatment	Dr. Nadia Alhashmi, Oman
09:20 - 09:40	Insights on Urea Cycle Defects	Dr. Noura Aldhaheri, UAE
09:40 - 10:10	Genetics Role in Intensive Care Management	Dr. Ahmad Abou Tayoun, UAE
10:10 - 10:30	Industry Symposium 4 – Taiba Healthcare	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:		
10:45 - 11:05	Vitamin Responsive Disorders	Dr. Tawfeg Ben Omran, Qatar
11:05 - 11:25	CTX, Rare Cause of Adult Neurological Disease	Dr. Arif Khan, UAE
11:25 - 11:45	Ataxia, Treatable Causes	Dr. Aman Sohal, UAE
11:45 - 12:05	From Genetics to Hemodynamics: Hereditary Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension from Genetic Perspective	Dr. Ahmed Adel, UAE
12:05 - 12:15	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch Break & Prayer	
Session 7: Genetics Chair:		
13:25 - 13:45	The Role of Family Physician in Genetic Era	Dr. Aisha Abdullah, UAE
13:45 - 14:05	Obesity, Genetic Perspective	Dr. Asma Deeb, UAE
14:05 - 14:25	Skeletal Dysplasias and Growth Hormone	Dr. Zulf Mughal, UAE
14:25 - 14:45	Pneumonia; When to Think about Genetics?	Dr. Moeen Alsayed, KSA
14:45 - 15:05	Industry Symposium 5 – iMedica (20 mins)	TBC
15:05 - 15:15	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
15:15 - 15:25	Coffee Break	
Session 8: Ethics & Research Chair:		
15:25 - 15:45	Ethics meets Genetics	Dr. Moeen Alsayed, KSA
15:45 - 16:05	What's next: Genetic Testings are Negatives	Dr. Hiba Alblooshi, UAE
16:05 - 16:25	Interpretation of Genetic Results, Cases	Dr. Heba Elabd, UAE
16:25 - 16:45	Industry Symposium 6 – Biologics (20 mins)	TBC
16:45 - 16:55	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
16:55	End of Congress	



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CAPTURED MOMENTS:

Highlights from the UAE Rare Disease Society's Past Conferences





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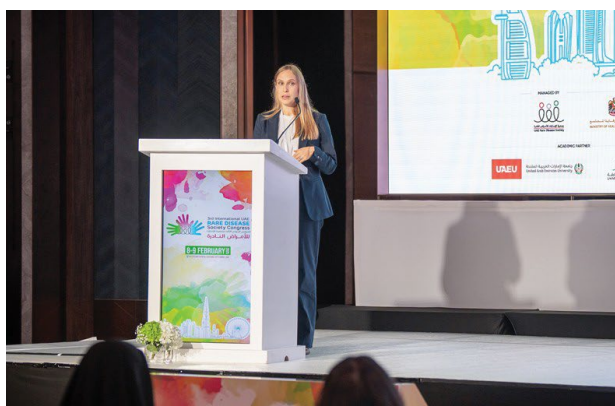




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جمعية الإمارات للأمراض النادرة
UAE Rare Disease Society

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**

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Middle East North Africa Conference Company LLC

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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Le Meridien Dubai Hotel, UAE



For more information, please contact:

Mr. Sahan & Ms. Zandy

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