



# *UAE Healthcare Delegation to Houston, Texas October 16-19, 2023*

## *A Collaborative Initiative*

### ***Executive Summary:***

This report provides an overview of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Healthcare Delegation's visit to Houston, Texas, highlighting the objectives, key events, and outcomes of the delegation's visit.

The purpose of this visit was to foster collaboration between healthcare professionals, institutions, and government bodies in the UAE and Houston, Texas, with a focus on sharing best practices, exchanging knowledge, and exploring opportunities for mutual benefit.

### ***Introduction:***

Houston is known for having a thriving healthcare industry with world-class medical facilities and renowned healthcare institutions. The Texas Medical Center (TMC),



located only 12 minutes from downtown Houston, is one of the largest medical complexes in the world and is home to a multitude of hospitals, research institutions, and medical schools.

Some of the most notable hospitals in Houston include the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, and Memorial Hermann, among others.

These institutions are known for their cutting-edge research, innovative medical treatments, and high-quality patient care.

Houston and Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, are also sister cities. The sister city relationship was formed 21 years ago when the Honorable Lee Brown, then Mayor of Houston, travelled to Abu Dhabi to formally ratify the agreement between the two cities.

The UAE Healthcare Delegation's visit to Houston, Texas took place from October 16 to 19, organized with the aim of strengthening the healthcare systems in both regions through collaboration, partnerships, and knowledge exchange.

The high level delegation was led by His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al Olama, Undersecretary of the U.A.E.



Ministry of Health and Prevention, and sub-led by His Excellency, Dr. Amin Al Amiri, Asst. Undersecretary of the ministry. The rest of the group comprised of prominent healthcare leaders, government officials, and medical experts from all around the UAE.

The delegation was organized by the Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Association and supported by the office of His Excellency Eng. Saeed Al Mheiri, Consul General of the UAE in Houston, and the office of City Council Member, the Honorable Letitia Plummer.

### ***Objectives:***

The primary objectives of the delegation's visit were as follows:

**a. Developing Stronger Partnerships:** Strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new ones between healthcare institutions, research centers, and government bodies.

**b. Exploring Collaborative Opportunities:** Identifying potential areas of collaboration in healthcare, medical research, healthcare technology, regulatory methods, and medical tourism.

**c. Exchange of Healthcare Expertise:** To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise in healthcare practices, research, and technology between the UAE and Houston, Texas.

**d. Investment Opportunities:** To explore investment opportunities for UAE healthcare entities in Texas and vice versa.

### ***Key Events:***

The delegation participated in a series of meetings and tours during their visit, including:



**a. Hospital and Facility Visits:**

The delegation visited the city's most prominent healthcare facilities and hospitals to observe best practices and explore

potential collaborations.

**b. Innovation and Educational Visits:** The delegation visited TMC's primary innovation



center, Helix Park, and was introduced to the center's innovation and collaborative labs with local academia. The group also visited Rice University's Bioscience Research Collaborative labs and were introduced to the research work going on there.

**c. Government Engagements:** The delegation also met with Texas state government officials to discuss regulatory frameworks, policy initiatives, and potential areas of cooperation.



**d. Welcome Dinner Reception:** The Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Association also hosted an evening dinner reception event on October 17 attended by at least 100 executives from local healthcare corporations who came to welcome the visitors from the UAE.



His Excellency Asst. Undersecretary Dr. Amin Al Amiri, provided the keynote remarks and also ran a powerpoint presentation highlighting

the UAE government's initiatives to improve healthcare in the UAE, and the country's 50-year vision for its healthcare goals.

## ***Outcomes:***

The UAE Healthcare Delegation's visit to Texas yielded several positive outcomes:

**a. Knowledge Exchange:** Valuable insights and knowledge were shared between healthcare professionals and institutions in both regions, leading to enhanced understanding and cooperation.



**b. Collaborative Initiatives:** Several collaborative initiatives were explored and discussed and perhaps are in the early stages of development, including legislative initiatives.

**c. Investment Opportunities:** The visit identified potential investment opportunities for Texas healthcare entities in



UAE and vice versa, contributing to economic growth in both regions.

**d. Strengthened Partnerships:** Existing partnerships were reaffirmed and new partnerships were explored and discussed, promoting mutual growth and development.

### ***Conclusion:***

The UAE Healthcare Delegation's visit to Texas was a successful endeavor in promoting collaboration, knowledge exchange, and partnership building between the UAE and Texas in the field of healthcare. This initiative holds significant promise for the advancement of healthcare practices, research, and technology in both regions.

As the collaboration continues to develop, it is only expected to bring forth a positive impact on healthcare outcomes, technology innovation, and economic growth both in the UAE and Texas.

This report was prepared October 21, 2023 by:

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