

# Annual Report 2025



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# Message from the Founder



As I reflect on the past year, I am inspired by the remarkable progress and collective energy that have propelled the MENASA Group forward. Our mission—to mobilize representation, networks, and advancement for Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) communities in clinical research—has never been more urgent or more achievable.

We began this journey with a simple yet bold vision: to bridge the persistent gaps in health representation and ensure that MENASA voices are heard, valued, and included in the global dialogue on clinical research. In 2024, this vision took shape through six flagship initiatives, each designed to empower healthcare providers, build inclusive research ecosystems, and engage communities historically overlooked in clinical trials.

Our first MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit in Houston brought together over 200 attendees, 32 community leaders, and nine life sciences vendors, marking the launch of the first U.S.-based advocacy platform for MENASA clinical trial inclusion. This event not only secured media coverage and academic recognition but also laid the foundation for ongoing partnerships and advocacy.

With the launch of the MENASA Magazine, we have created a vital platform for sharing stories of accomplished physicians, insights on clinical trial equity, and innovations within our communities. The magazine's reach is already expanding, with 350 printed issues distributed and partnerships with leading medical associations.

Looking ahead, we are committed to launching a comprehensive MENASA Clinical Trial Registry, expanding the Junior Academy nationally, and securing core funding for our central hub in Sugar Land. These steps will ensure that our impact continues to grow, both in the United States and internationally.

I am deeply grateful to our team, partners, sponsors, and the broader MENASA community for their unwavering support. Together, we are not just an organization—we are a movement. A movement dedicated to creating an inclusive global healthcare landscape where every patient, regardless of their ethnicity, is truly represented, valued, and served.

With hope and determination,

**Dr. Hadi Danawi**Founder, MENASA Group

# Mission, Vision, and Values

#### **Mission**

The MENASA Group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) communities by advancing access to healthcare, promoting representation in clinical research, and fostering innovation. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to build sustainable solutions that address health disparities and create opportunities for individuals and organizations to thrive. Our mission is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and valued in the global healthcare landscape.

#### Vision

To be a global leader in transforming healthcare and research ecosystems, ensuring that MENASA communities are fully represented, engaged, and empowered. We envision a future where health equity, community collaboration, and medical innovation drive better outcomes and opportunities for all. Our goal is to build an inclusive healthcare system where every patient, regardless of ethnicity, is truly represented, valued, and served.

#### **Values**

- Inclusivity: We champion diversity and strive to ensure that MENASA communities are included in research, policy, and practice at every level.
- Empowerment: We provide education, mentorship, and resources to empower individuals—from youth to healthcare professionals—to lead and innovate.
- Collaboration: We foster partnerships with community leaders, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders to create lasting change.
- Advocacy: We advocate for systemic change, working to break down barriers and promote policies that advance health equity for all.
- Innovation: We embrace new ideas and technologies to address health disparities and improve outcomes for underserved populations.
- Integrity: We act with honesty, transparency, and respect in all our endeavors, building trust within our communities and among our partners.

#### **Our Commitment**

The MENASA Group is more than an organization—it is a movement. Through our six flagship initiatives, including the MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit, MENASA Magazine, and the MENASA Junior Clinical Research Academy, we are building a future where healthcare is accessible, research is inclusive, and every voice matters. By upholding our mission, vision, and values, we are rewriting the narrative of global health equity and creating a legacy of empowerment, representation, and innovation for generations to come.

# **Our Team**

# Leadership



Dr. Hadi Danawi Chair & Global President

### **Board of Directors**



Jerry Settle
Treasurer



Liliana Gamba Secretary



Dr. Rasha Babikir

### **Our Team**

#### **Global Leadership**

Professor Hadi Danawi: Global President & Founder

**Dr. Rasha Babikir**: Senior Vice President & Chief Executive Officer

**Todd Albin:** Vice President, Clinical Research Business Development

Dr. Faten Almassri: Vice President, Academic Affairs

**Ms. Rhea Sharma:** Vice President, Clinical Operations

# **Senior Executive Leaders & Regional Directors**

**Dr. Faten Almassri:** Regional Director for the Middle East – GCC Countries

**Maha Hamoui Barake:** Regional Director for the Middle East – EX GCC Countries

Lina Kamali: Country Leader - Lebanon

Dr. Rasha Babikir: Regional Director for North Africa

Dr. Mamoun Baker: Country Leader- Egypt

Ms. Rhea Sharma: Regional Director for South Asia

Dr. Amulya Sharma: Country Leader - India

**Zahra Lokhandwala:** Country Leader – Pakistan

**Dr. AbdelRahim Al Hour:** VP, Journalism and

**Investigative Reporting** 

#### **Advisors**

Damola Aderemi Ebony Nelson Shafaq Sarwar

Frank Alaribe Belief Emadamerho

#### **Executive Directors**

Public Relations & Sponsorship Programs: Fadwa Saleh & Sean Ghawi

**Event Planning:** Fadwa Saleh & Dina Dali Balta

**Magazine Arabic Translation:** Dina Dali Balta

**External Grants & Corporate Gifts:** Dr. Karim Salhani (Consultant)

IT & Website: Hadi Kabrit

Educational Programs: Dr. Frank Alaribe

**Legal Advisor:** Attorney Arsalan Safiullah

Financial Advisor: Razan Rawashdeh

Corporate Travels: Martha Sagastegui

Digital Interactive Designer (MENASA Group Magazine) & Director of Photography: Bilal Itani

**Auctions & Fundraising**: Mohamad Baalbaki

Print Art Director (MENASA Group Magazine): Grant Kaedbey

**Program Evaluation:** Dr. Hadi Danawi

Chief Editor (MENASA Group Magazine): Mary Karish

Global Leaders for Patient Experience:

Jodie Huddleston & Farah Ahmad

**Social & Digital Marketing**: Malak Al Rabaa & Maryam Fattal

### **Our Team**

#### **Summit Leadership Team**

**Nicole Holguin:** CEO & Co-founder, Cornerstone Clinical Research Services

Preeti Dhania: COO & Founder, Cornerstone

Clinical Research Services

Mitchel Hilbe: CEO & Founder, DiversiTrials

MaryAnn Bowman: Founder & CEO, ClinGRO Solutions; Co-founding Partner & Manager, CollabTrials; Co-founder & Executive Director, Clinical Research Justice League

#### **Marketing Committee**

Executive leadership team

# **International Planning Steering Committee**

**Salma Dannawi Oueida:** Associate Vice President for Development, Alumni Relations and University Events, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

**Dr. Mary Deeb:** Professor, Lebanese American University, Lebanon.

# Principal Investigators (PIs) / Sub PIs

**Dr. Jaffar El-Annan:** Emerging PI in Ophthalmology

Dr. Asad Abbas: Experienced PI in Ophthalmology

Dr. Ryan Jurdy: Experienced PI in Psychiatry

**Dr. MM Salim:** Experienced PI, Director Chest Diseases Center, Director Chandler Clinical Research

Dr. Mohamad Shalaby: Experienced PI, Cardiology

Muhammad Omar Salim: **Experienced PI, Endocrinology** 

Dr. Pierre N. Khoury: **Experienced PI, Oncology** 

Dr. Samir Tuma: **Experienced PI**, **Nephrology Endowed Chair, Houston Methodist Hospitals** 

Dr. Muhammad Ali Muzammil: Sub PI

# Community Representatives

Fadwa Saleh: Middle Easterns

Nerveine Ouida: North Africans

Aijaz Ahmad: South Asians

#### Honorary Keynote/Speakers

Professor Hadi Danawi Dr. Rasha Babikir Dr. Hana Baroudi Dr. Samir Tuma Dr. Pierre N. Khoury Dr. Nidal Moukaddam Dr. Mirza Rahman Dr. Salim Shah Dr. Jawad Shah Dr. Mazhar Jaffry Dr. Suleman Lalani Dr. Ljiljana Minwala Dr. Omar Aldabagh Dr. Mohannad AlBayyaa Dr. Omar Aimer Dr. Raymond Mouzannar

Dr. Raymond Mouzanna Dr. Ali Elhaj Dr. Nabil Shinder

Dr. Mahmood Dweik

Dr. Rashad Massoud
Professor Khaled Fakhro
Dr. Khaled Musallam
Dr. Hady Khoury
Dr. Rabih Dabliz
Dr. Nael Abdelsamad
Dr. Mutlaq Alqafry
Dr. Daniel Fox
Shabab Qarni
Nasruddin Rupani
Farah Ahmad
Ayesha Hameed
Wessam Sonbol
Fadi Dimassi

Dr. Abeer Al- Gharaibeh

### **Our Partners**

# National/International Partners

**USA National Center for Health Workers** 

Texas Workforce Commission, Passport 2 Citizenship Program, an approved vendor of the U.S. Department of Labor

Arab Board for Clinical Research, U.S.A.

Arab Hospital Magazine

**Arab Hospitals Federation** 

Excellence Center: Research and Development, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

# National/International CROs (Contract Research Organizations)

Umar Pharmaceuticals, South Asia

Phoenix, MENA

PDC, MENA

MedArk, MENA

CTI MEA Region

Habibis United Research

MENASA Research Institute



#### **Goodwill Ambassadors**

U.S. National Arab Orchestra



#### **Collaborators**

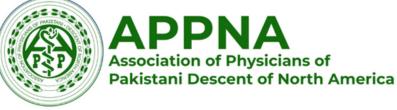














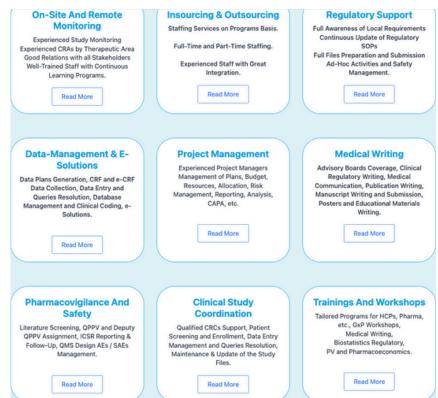
# Featured Partners



Phoenix Clinical Research (Phoenix CR) is a full-service Contract Research Organization (CRO) headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, with additional offices in Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia. Established in 2012, Phoenix CR has grown to become a key player in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, providing comprehensive clinical trial solutions for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

#### **Key details about Phoenix CR:**

- Services: Phoenix CR offers a wide range of services including clinical trial feasibility, project management, clinical monitoring, medical writing, biostatistics, regulatory support, patient recruitment and retention, pharmacovigilance, health economics, and digital solutions.
- Expertise: The company is known for its flexibility, responsiveness, and more than 18 years of combined international and regional clinical research experience. It is also one of the few ISO-accredited CROs in the MENA region.
- Values: Phoenix CR operates on core values of transparency, quality, commitment, and efficiency. The company emphasizes open communication, stakeholder trust, and investment in human capital.
- Leadership: Dr. Georges Labaki is a key figure at Phoenix CR, with contact information publicly available for business inquiries.
- Location: The Beirut office is located at Berytech Technology & Health, Damascus Road.
- Scope: Phoenix CR specializes in both interventional and observational clinical trials and aims to combine Middle Eastern and Western expertise to support the development of innovative medicines in the region.



# Featured Partners



Lumi Research partners with local clinicians to bring cutting-edge clinical trials directly to community practices, ensuring patients have access to innovative treatments close to home. Founded in 2018 and headquartered in Kingwood, TX, their mission is to make clinical research a life-changing option for patients beyond standard care.

#### Key details about Lumi research:

- Clinical Trial Enablement for Community Physicians: They empower local doctors to lead clinical trials
  by providing the expertise, infrastructure, and support needed to offer these opportunities to their
  patients—without requiring referrals to distant academic centers.
- End-to-End Research Support: From feasibility and sponsor negotiation to patient recruitment, regulatory compliance, and trial management, Lumi handles the operational burden so clinicians can focus on care.
- Therapeutic Focus: Successfully delivered over 40 clinical trials, with a primary focus in oncology and plans to expand into additional specialties.
- Sponsor Partnerships: Proven track record negotiating with and securing contracts from over 15 major pharmaceutical companies, enabling local investigators to lead 30+ clinical trials and counting.
- Patient-Centric Approach: Streamlined patient screening, dedicated research staffing, and continuous education ensure a seamless transition from standard care to clinical trial participation.

#### **Therapeutic Areas of Focus**

Lumi Research is dedicated to bringing cutting edge therapy and has successfully delivered over 40 clinical trials and screened thousands of patients to date. Oncology is our current focus **but** we are looking to expand in other specialties.

- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma
- Multiple Myeloma
- Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia
- Solid Tumors
- Colorectal Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
- Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Cancer Screening
- COVID 19 Prevention

# Featured Partners



Suraya Group is a strategic consultancy at the intersection of clinical research, healthcare innovation, and ethical business development.

#### Services incliude:

Strategic Advisory & Business Development for CROs, Sponsors & Clinical Research Networks Site Identification & Feasibility Optimization Diversity-Focused Recruitment Strategy Partnership Structuring & Contract Strategy Global Site Readiness & Capacity Building Strategic Relationship Development

# What & Why



# Mobilizing Representation, Networks, and Advancement for MENASA in Clinical Research

The MENASA Group, a not-for-profit organization established in the United States, is committed to empowering and bridging health representation among Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) populations in the U.S. and abroad. The group's leadership team consists of experienced healthcare providers who are dedicated to building inclusive research ecosystems and engaging with minority communities that have been historically underrepresented in clinical trials.

#### Why Partner with MENASA Group



#### Underrepresentation of MENASA Populations

- MENASA populations are significantly underrepresented in clinical trials
- Often misclassified as 'White'
- Leading to exclusion from accurate health data and programs.



#### Consequences and Urgency

- Under-representation results in:
  - 1. less effective, culturally insensitive healthcare
  - highlights the urgent need for inclusive research to achieve health equity.

Advocate for MENASA visibility in U.S. Census & FDA trial guidance.
First global site network focused on MENASA inclusion.
Enable sponsor access to an untapped, high-potential patient population.

#### Consequences

#### Culturally Tailored Treatments

Lack of representation leads to ineffective treatments that do not address the specific health needs of MENASA populations.

### Increased Health Disparities

Insufficient ethnic-specific data exacerbates existing health disparities, resulting in poorer health outcomes and lack of drug safety profiles for MENASA Communities.

#### Adverse Drug Reactions

Absence of subgroup analyses raises the risk of adverse drug reactions, compromising the safety and efficacy of treatments for MENASA individuals. MENASA
GROUP
Program
Highlights
6 Initiatives



# MENASA GROUP SIX FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

we are pleased t present to you our six flagship initiatives that answer to all missing links serving our MENASA communities in the U.S. and globally

#### **MENASA Group Flagship Initiatives**

#### **MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit**

Inaugural event held in Houston, TX in April 2024 with 217 in person attendees, 32 community leaders, and 9 life sciences sponsors. Delivered 21 sessions including general, breakout, and workshops.

#### MENASA Magazine

Quarterly digital and print publication launched in April 2024 featuring Arab and South Asian physician spotlights, clinical trial equity commentary, and startup innovations. Reached 350 printed issues as of May 2025.

#### MENASA Junior Clinical Research Academy

Engaged 52 middle and high school students in the Greater Houston area, with 87% reporting increased interest in clinical research. Students contributed to community health events and participated in the MENASA Summit.

#### **MENASA Clinical Research Referral Club**

Building trust and pipelines to connect underrepresented patients to research-ready physicians, strengthening MENASA healthcare provider ecosystems in the U.S., Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.

#### **MENASA Site Network**

Establishing a national and international network of culturally competent, minority-owned research sites, including 5 exploratory partner sites and a PI Certification Program to train 13 MENASA physicians.

#### **MENASA Research Institute**

Developing a research site dedicated to serving MENASA populations in the U.S., starting in Sugar Land, Texas, with plans to expand to other regions.

### MENASA GROPU ACCOMPLISHMENTS-24/25



# Goowill Ambassador



### MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit



Location: Houston, Texas, United Way of Greater Houston

#### **Event Overview**

The MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit, held in April 2024, marked a historic milestone for the MENASA Group. This pioneering event united a diverse cross-section of the healthcare and clinical research community, with a focus on advancing equity and inclusion for Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) populations in the United States.

#### **Key Highlights**

- Total Attendees: 217 (in-person)
- Community Leaders Represented: 32, from prominent Arab and South Asian organizations
- Sponsors Engaged: 9 leading life sciences vendors
- Sessions Delivered: 21 (including general sessions, breakout discussions, and interactive workshops—see attached agenda)

#### **Notable Outcomes**

- Advocacy Platform Launch: The Summit launched the first U.S.-based advocacy platform specifically dedicated to increasing MENASA representation in clinical trials. This platform serves as a catalyst for ongoing dialogue, partnership, and action to address underrepresentation in research.
- **Media and Academic Recognition:** The event secured significant media coverage and academic citations, amplifying awareness of the urgent need for MENASA inclusion in clinical research and highlighting the Summit's role as a leader in health equity initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** The Summit brought together a vibrant network of community leaders, healthcare professionals, and industry partners, fostering collaboration and shared commitment to inclusive research practices.

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# MENASA Magazine

https://menasagroup.org/magazine

Launched in April 2024, MENASA Magazine is a groundbreaking quarterly publication—available in both digital and print formats—serving as a dynamic platform to spotlight, connect, and empower Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) healthcare professionals and innovators.

#### **Key Highlights**

Frequency: Quarterly (Digital and Print)
Print Distribution: 350 issues distributed as of May 2025

#### **Featured Topics:**

- Spotlights: Profiles of accomplished Arab and South Asian physicians, celebrating their achievements and contributions to medicine and research.
- Equity in Clinical Trials: Thoughtful commentary and advocacy on increasing equity and participation in clinical trials for MENASA communities.
- Innovation Showcases: Features on startup innovations and research technology developed within MENASA communities, highlighting progress and potential in healthcare.



#### **Partners Highlighted:**

- Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent in North America (APPNA)
- The National Arab American Medical Association (NAAMA)

#### **Impact and Mission**

MENASA Magazine is more than a publication—it is a catalyst for change. By highlighting excellence, fostering collaboration, and connecting patients with culturally competent physicians, the magazine strengthens the ties between healthcare providers and the communities they serve. It also serves as a vital resource for business development, training, and clinical trial support, empowering physicians to lead and innovate within a sustainable minority medical ecosystem.

#### **Looking Forward**

With each issue, MENASA Magazine amplifies the voices of underrepresented professionals, advances health equity, and inspires the next generation of healthcare leaders. The magazine is committed to expanding its reach, deepening its impact, and continuing to serve as a trusted platform for advocacy, education, and innovation within the MENASA community.

# MENASA Junior Clinical Research Academy

The MENASA Junior Clinical Research Academy is a dynamic youth initiative designed to inspire and educate the next generation of researchers from Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) backgrounds. Focused on the Greater Houston area, the Academy brings together middle and high school students for workshops, mentorship, and hands-on learning experiences.

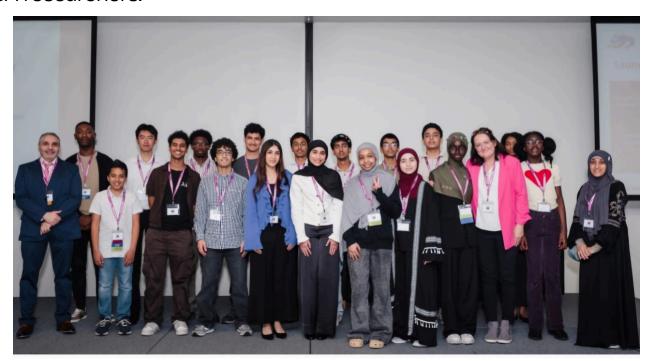


#### **Key Highlights**

- Geographic Reach: Greater Houston Area (including Spring Branch, Sugar Land, Alief ISD, and Katy)
- Participants: 52 middle and high school students
- Workshops Conducted: 6 (1 virtual, 5 in-person)
- Focus Areas: Clinical research literacy, career mentorship, education on health disparities
- Community Impact: Youth ambassadors contributed to 2 community health awareness events
- Summit Participation: 27 students actively participated in the MENASA Summit at the United Way of Greater Houston, gaining hands-on experience in event support roles such as registration, session moderation, and outreach
- Engagement: 87% of participants reported increased interest in future workshops

#### **Outcomes and Future Plans**

The Academy has successfully fostered curiosity and enthusiasm for clinical research among youth, with many students eager to continue their involvement. Looking ahead, the Academy plans to launch a summer internship course introducing students to clinical trials, further strengthening the pipeline for future MENASA researchers.



### MENASA Global Site Network

The MENASA Global Site Network aims to establish a national and international network of culturally competent, minority-owned research sites. Through our proprietary global platform, which hosts over 2.5 million healthcare providers worldwide, we provide physicians and clinical sites with access to a personalized Global Digital Passport (GDP) wallet for certifications and resumes, reviewed annually.

#### **Our Progress:**

- Partnerships: We've secured an exclusive agreement with BlueCloudX, encompassing six master region files, expanding our reach and capabilities.
- Site Engagement: We've identified five exploratory partner sites across Texas, Florida, Michigan, and New Jersey, with the goal of designating them as "Research Ready Sites". These sites can choose from various membership options, including our Basic Package (Free), which provides onboarding and basic training (7.5 hours across five modules), HR Local/Global GDPR Directory Application, GDP wallet setup, and centralized essential documents for employees.
- Operational Efficiency: We've developed 12 standard operating procedure (SOP) templates to
  ensure site readiness, with additional SMO-like services available, including provision of
  standardized SOPs and support with feasibility studies and budget negotiations.
- Technology Pilots: We are currently implementing eConsent and eSource tools with two partner sites, enhancing our operational efficiency and compliance.

#### **PI Certification Program:**

- Partners: Our program is a collaborative effort with Habibis United Research and the MENASA Research Institute.
- Objective: Our objective is to train private-practice physicians from MENASA backgrounds to become qualified clinical trial investigators. This includes comprehensive Principal Investigator (PI) certification training and CRC certification training, along with other modules, endorsed by senior academic faculty and academic accreditation bodies such as the Medical Learning Institute and Global Public Health Credentialing Board (GPHCB), and MENASA Group. All modules and certifications are housed in our proprietary e-Learning management application for audit readiness.
- Cohort: We currently have 13 physicians enrolled, completing five modules covering crucial topics like GCP and ICF, among others.
- Outcomes: Our program is already yielding results:
  - Two physicians are conducting patient assessments for ophthalmology trials.
  - One physician is conducting patient assessments for cardiology trials.
  - We have successfully recruited 11 private-practice physicians who are fluent in Arabic, Urdu,
     Hindi, and Farsi, enhancing our ability to serve diverse patient populations.

Sites can also opt for our Advanced Package (\$1,250 per year) for active promotion to clinical trial sponsors, or the Premium Package (\$2,500 per year) for proactive global marketing, representation in clinical trial bidding opportunities, and a trial award finder's fee.



#### **MENASA Site Network**

#### MENASA Site Network

Build a national and international site with 2.5 global members network including culturally competent, minority-owned research sites to serve MENASA populations in the U.S. and abroad.

#### Partner Sites Engaged

Engaged 5 exploratory partner sites in Texas, Florida, Michigan, and New Jersey to join the MENASA Site Network.

# Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Developed 12 standard templates for site readiness to ensure consistent quality and processes across the MENASA Site Network.

#### Technology Pilots

Implementing
eConsent and eSource
tools with 2 partner
sites to improve
patient engagement
and data collection.

#### PI Certification Program

Launched a program to train private-practice physicians from MENASA backgrounds to become clinical trial investigators, with 13 physicians in the initial cohort.

#### Outcomes

2 physicians are now actively performing patient assessments for trials in Ophthalmology and Cardiology, and 11 additional providers have been recruited (Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, and Farsi-speaking).

#### MENASA Clinical Research Referral Club and Research Institute

#### **MENASA Clinical Research Referral Club**

The programme is designed to build trust and create pipelines connecting underrepresented patients with research-ready physicians, while strengthening professional networks among MENASA healthcare providers across the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and the United States.

#### **Our Achievements:**

- Online Platform: The MENASA Group is now a featured entity within the Clinical Research Referral Club platform, offering members access to exclusive events, skill development, and career opportunities.
- Ongoing Initiatives: Active discussions are underway to launch specific programs within the club framework, further enhancing collaboration and resource sharing among members.



#### **MENASA Research Institute** (In Development)

This programme aims to establish a dedicated research site focused on serving MENASA populations in the United States, with the initial location planned for Sugar Land, Texas.

Active discussions with existing partners are underway to facilitate the development and launch of the institute, ensuring a strong foundation for future research and community engagement.

# Local Events

#### **Inaugural Annual Iftar (March 09, 2025)**

On March 9, 2025, the MENASA Group hosted its inaugural Annual Iftar at Fadi's Mediterranean Grill. This event brought together over 160 invitees for an evening of unity, reflection, and celebration.

Sponsored by the MENASA Group, the Iftar was a meaningful opportunity to share our mission, vision, and key milestones. We highlighted our advocacy work concerning OMB Directive 15 and Congress, our collaborations with the FDA, and our early initiatives under the Trump administration. The event provided a platform to reflect on our journey toward shaping a more inclusive future for Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) communities in the U.S. and globally.

The evening's program included an impactful presentation, a lively Q&A session, raffle prizes, and a beautiful violin performance, all complemented by a delicious Iftar meal enjoyed in warmth and community.









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# Local Events

#### **National Expo & Conference**

on Saturday-May 3rd, 2025, our president and founder Professor Hadi Danawi had the distinct honor of speaking at the 2025 National Expo & Conference hosted by the National Center for Health Workers, as well as presenting an award to Mr. Rupani, Chairman of the Ibn Sina Foundation. My presentation highlighted the critical yet overlooked need to train and certify our MENASA physicians as clinical investigators, enabling them to contribute to clinical trials that establish accurate drug safety profiles for MENASA communities with the U.S. FDA—both nationally and internationally.

It was a privilege to engage with prominent leaders and innovators in healthcare. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Ibn Sina Foundation and all event partners and sponsors who made this gathering possible.

We look forward to advancing this essential work and improving health outcomes for our communities.









# International Events

## 1st MENA Congress for Clinical and Translational Research (May 16-17, 2025)-Abu Dhabi, UAE

Our president, Professor Hadi Danawi, attended the first MENA Congress in Abu Dhabi where he initiated discussions with local and international stakeholders to advance the inclusion and participation of MENASA communities in clinical trials.









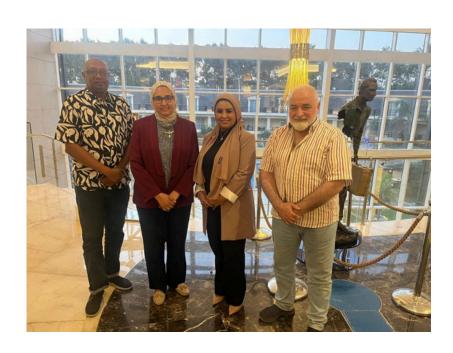


# International Events

#### **Exciting progress for MENASA GROUP in Egypt!**

Dr. Rasha Babikir had the pleasure of meeting with our MENASA Country Leader for Egypt & Sudan, Mohamed Baker and representative, Heba Rashed at MedArk CRO and Dr. Nabil Shinder in Cairo end of June, 2025. The in-person discussions were a key part of strengthening our partnerships and aligning on strategic priorities for advancing clinical research capacity across the region. From driving inclusive site development to supporting investigators and communities, MENASA GROUP remains committed to creating sustainable impact across the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. Pictured below are: Dr. Rasha Babikir, MBBS, MBA, Heba Rashed, Dr. Mohamed Baker, and Dr.Nabil Shinder — marking a new chapter of collaboration and shared vision.

Onward and upward!





# Thank You



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# Notes


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# Notes






**Contact Us**