MENASA DIRECTORY & MAGAZINE

Serving the Middle Eastern, North African and South Asian communities in the USA

HELP US BUILD THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE | United Way of Greater Houston | Special Issue 1 - April 2025

MENASASUMMIT

Special Launching Issue CLINICAL RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SUMMIT

menasasummit.net

> "Together, we are building a sustainable medical ecosystem that uplifts minority communities."

Professor Hadi Danawi, Ph.D.
Global President, Menasa Group

Editor in Chief:
Professor Hadi Danawi

Art Director:
Grant Kaedbey

Designed & Created by:
Promo Group International LLC

Printed by:
Minuteman Press Southwest

Published by Menasa Group:
5535 memorial drive, suiteF
#271, Houston, tx 77007

Email:
info@menasagroup.org

Menasa Group Website:
www.menasagroup.org

Menasa Magazine Website:

menasagroup.org/magazine

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of MENASA Magazine

It is with immense pride and purpose that we welcome you to the first issue of MENASA Magazine, launching on April 19th during the historic MENASA Clinical Research Inclusion Summit.

This publication is more than just a magazine, it is a platform to spotlight the voices, contributions, and brilliance of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian communities in health, research, innovation, and beyond. As we stand at the intersection of change and opportunity, our mission is to uplift stories that have long been overlooked, foster unity across our rich cultures, and create space for dialogue, progress, and advocacy. We are honored to have you on this journey with us - together, we are shaping a more inclusive and equitable future.

Professor Hadi Danawi, Ph.D.
Global President, MENASA Group

منصة

MENASA

INDEX

A+ RestorationPro

We're the Premier Choice for Restoration Excellence.

A+ RESTORATIONPRO

MASTER FINISHING & REPAIR INC.

Our Services Include:

✓ Furniture Repair & Refinishing (**Wood, Leather, Upholstery**)
✓ Fabric Cleaning & Stain Removal
✓ Kitchen Cabinets, Doors & Floors Restoration
✓ Stair Rails, Patio, and Outdoor Repairs
✓ Residential & Commercial Repairs & Maintenance

🛠️ No job is too small for us!

📞 Contact Us Today!

Fadwa Saleh:

Office: **281-633-0212** or Cell: **281-381-0273**

Email: APlusrestorationpro@yahoo.com

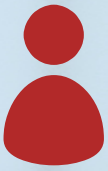
1931 Spreading Bough Ln
Richmond TX 77406

Website:

منصة MENASAGROUP

Serving the Middle Eastern, North African and South Asian communities

Over $759 Billion in Government contracts awarded to businesses in 2023. What could that mean for your business?



$30,900,000,000
Awarded To Woman Owned Small Business

$76,200,000,000
Awarded To Small Disadvantaged Business

$178,000,000,000
Awarded to Small Business

We are diligently working on pursuing minority status for small business owners in the US from the Middle East and North Africa.

info@menasagroup.org

MENASA Group is a not-for-profit entity that includes six initiatives with the purpose of serving MENASA communities. We strive to serve through education, training, promotion, communication, referrals and business set ups.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL TRIALS:

ENSURING ARAB AMERICANS AND SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS ARE INCLUDED.

By Dr. Hadi Danawi

Professor in Epidemiology and Global Health.

President: Arab Board for Clinical Resrarch, Habibis United Research, MENASA Group.

Hdanawi@menasagroup.org

In recent years, the FDA has taken significant steps to address the lack of participation in clinical trials. The FDA's Diversity Action Plans and the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 15 are at the heart of these efforts, pushing for greater representation of racial and ethnic minorities, including Arab Americans and South Asian Americans, in clinical research. But why does this matter, and how does it impact our communities?

Why Diversity Matters in Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are essential for developing safe and effective medications. They help scientists understand how new drugs work and ensure that treatments are safe for all populations. However, for too long, clinical trials have not been inclusive of many minority groups. Arab Americans and South Asian Americans, in particular, are often underrepresented in clinical research, even though these communities have unique genetic makeups that can affect how they metabolize drugs.

The FDA's Diversity Action Plan aims to correct this by requiring pharmaceutical companies to include minority groups in their clinical trials. But what does this mean for Arab Americans and

South Asian Americans? It means that, by being part of these studies, we can ensure that new treatments are effective and safe for our communities as well.

Genetic Differences: Why Inclusion is Crucial

One of the key reasons this issue is so important is that different racial and ethnic groups metabolize drugs differently due to genetic variations. For instance, Arab Americans and South Asian Americans have distinct genetic profiles that can impact how they respond to certain medications. Including these populations in clinical trials ensures that these differences are studied and understood, leading to better treatment outcomes.

For example, a significant percentage of South Asians carry genetic mutations that affect how they metabolize statins, a common medication used to lower cholesterol. These mutations can lead to higher risks of side effects, such as muscle damage, if the dosage is not carefully adjusted for this population. Similarly, certain blood pressure medications may not work as effectively for Arab Americans due to genetic differences in enzyme activity, making it crucial to adjust treatment approaches for this community.

Prevalence of Disease Among Arab Americans and South Asian Americans

Additionally, some diseases are more prevalent in these communities, making it even more critical for pharmaceutical companies to study how treatments work for them. For example, South Asians have a higher risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease compared to other populations, while Arab Americans face a higher prevalence of certain types of cancer, such as bladder and liver cancer, due to genetic and environmental factors.

Without sufficient representation in clinical trials, we run the risk of developing medications that are not as effective—or worse, harmful—for these groups. Conducting subgroup analyses on Arab Americans and South Asian Americans allows researchers to tailor treatments more effectively, improving overall health outcomes.

The Path Forward: A Call for Representation

By including Arab Americans and South Asian Americans in clinical trials, the FDA and pharmaceutical companies can ensure that treatments are safe and effective for everyone. It's not just about fair and just participation for participation's sake—it's about making sure that clinical trial results are relevant and applicable to all groups, not just a select few. This improves the external validity of study findings, meaning that the results can be more reliably applied to different populations.

The recent changes from the FDA and the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 15 are a positive step forward in ensuring that clinical trials reflect the diverse populations they aim to serve. But the work doesn't stop here. As a community, it's crucial for us to advocate for our inclusion in these studies and encourage pharmaceutical companies to prioritize participation in their research.

Only by doing so can we ensure that the future of medicine works for everyone—Arab Americans, South Asian Americans, and all other communities across the globe.

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

7:45 - 8:45 AM Registration (Main Hall) and Breakfast (included with registration)

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM HALL (G/H/I)

8:45 - 9:00 AM Entertainemt Program 1

9:00 - 9:10 AM EMCEE: Hana Baroudi, PhD Cand, Medical Physics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

9:10 - 9:45 AM MS200: The Great Inaugural Launch: Advocacy and Support, opening session with a panel of keynote speakers.

Arab American Keynote Speakers:
- Hadi Danawi, PhD, MPH (Moderator)
- Pierre N. Khoury, MD
- Nidal Moukaddam, MD, PhD
- Fadi Dimassi, Business & Community Leader

South Asian American Keynote Speakers:
- Hadi Danawi, PhD, MPH (Moderator)
- Suleman Lalani, MD
- Mirza Rahman, MD, MPH
- Asim Shah, MD
- Dr. Raffia Qutab

9:50 - 10:10 AM MS201: Patient recruitment and perceptions

Overcoming Barriers to Recruitment and Understanding Patient Perspectives

Objectives of this presentation:
- Address barriers to MENASA patients' recruitment, including cultural perceptions, mistrust, and logistical challenges.
- Equip global MENASA and American physicians with effective recruitment strategies that are culturally sensitive and tailored to the unique needs of minority populations.
- Provide insights into MENASA patient perceptions and experiences in clinical trials, helping physicians build trust and improve communication with potential trial participants.

Speakers: Asim Shah, MD & Nidal Moukaddam, MD, PhD

10:15- 10:40 AM MS202: Building the Foundation: Introduction to Clinical Trials, **presented by Mitchell Hilbe**

Engaging Naive and Non-Naïve Physicians in Clinical Trials

Objectives of this presentation:
- Introduce the basics of clinical trials to global MENASA and American physicians unfamiliar with the field.
- Highlight the importance of physician involvement in clinical trials for improving diversity.
- Provide foundational knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of clinical investigators.

10:40 - 10:50 AM **Disco & Bio Break**

10:55 - 11:15 AM MS203: Regulatory Expectations and Compliance in Clinical Trials, **presented by Mazhar Jaffry, MBBS, MBA, MHA**

Regulatory Pathways and Compliance for MENASA American Physicians

Objectives of this presentation:
- Educate physicians on key FDA regulations and compliance requirements for clinical trials.
- Build an understanding of IRB processes and ethical considerations.
- Help global MENASA and American physicians navigate the regulatory landscape specific to minority involvement in trials.

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

11:20 - 11: 40 AM MS204: Oncology Clinical Trials: The Evolving Landscape of Cell and Gene Therapy

Deepening Engagement & Enhancing Cultural Competency in Clinical Trials,
presented by Bilal Abid, MD, MS

Objectives of this presentation:

- Learn the Current State of FDA Approved and Existing Therapeutic Pipeline of Cellular Therapy in Oncology.
- Examine Phase I clinical trials in Cell and Gene Therapy - FDA regulations and a call to action for patient-centric endpoints.
- Learn how existing data related to access barriers in Black and Hispanic cohorts can be leveraged to enhance recruitment of Middle Eastern, North Africans and South Asian populations into clinical trials.

11:45 - 12: 00 PM MS205: Decentralized Clinical Trial Tools (DCTs) & Wearables For Digital Health in Clinical Trials

Leveraging Digital Tools for Physician Engagement, ***presented by Wessam Sonbol, BS***

Objectives of this presentation:

- Introduce emerging DCTs and platforms for clinical trial management and recruitment.
- Explore how DCTs can benefit global MENASA and American physicians and communities.
- Provide training on the use of digital tools like e-consent and remote monitoring in clinical research.

12:05 - 12:55 PM **Community Lunch (included with summit registration)**

1:00 - 1:20 PM MS206: Grants and Programs for Diverse Communities, **presented by Omar Aldabagh, PhD**

Accessing Funding and Resources to Support Minority Public Health Infrastructure Programs

Objectives of this presentation:

- Educate global MENASA and American public health professionals on available grants and funding opportunities to strengthen public health infrastructure and capacity building
- Guide the audience on Grants management for public health programs and addressing social determinants of health.
- Facilitate support for public health research and community outreach initiatives.

1: 25 - 1:45 PM MS207: Datasets & Feasibility Studies, **presented by Terry Hartley, PhD**

Leveraging Data for Feasibility and Success in Clinical Trials

Objectives of this presentation:

- Educate global MENASA and American physicians on the importance of leveraging clinical datasets to determine the feasibility of trials, especially in underrepresented minority populations.
- Train physicians on how to use feasibility studies to identify potential patient populations and optimize trial design.
- Provide insights into accessing and utilizing real-world data (RWD) and real-world evidence (RWE) to support trial enrollment and outcomes in MENASA communities.

1:50- 2:10 PM MS208: Budget Negotiations & Clinical Trial Agreements

Maximizing Financial and Contractual Success in Clinical Trials

Objectives of this presentation:

- Equip global MENASA and American physicians with skills to negotiate fair and competitive budgets with sponsors and CROs, ensuring adequate compensation for trial participation and overhead.
- Educate physicians on the key elements of clinical trial agreements (CTAs), including intellectual property rights, indemnification, and payment terms.
- Provide best practices for managing financial risks and ensuring transparency and accountability in clinical trial agreements to protect minority physicians and their practices.

Speakers: MaryAnn Bowman, BS & Layla Jabur, BA.

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

2:15 - 2:25 PM **Disco & Bio Break**

2:30 - 2:55 PM MS209: Business Development & Clinical Trials Award.

Building a Sustainable Global Platform for Clinical Trial Best Practices and Recognizing Excellence

Objectives of this presentation:

- Provide strategies for physicians to develop and grow their clinical trial business, focusing on partnerships, marketing, and operational efficiency.
- Guide global MENASA and American physicians on how to position their practices to win clinical trial awards and recognition, boosting credibility and visibility in the industry.
- Provide market insights into the ever-changing site market of clinical trials to position sites and investigators for present and future clinical trial success.

Speakers: Al Pacino II, BS & Darian Trojacek, MSc.

3:00 - 3: 30 PM MS210: MENASA Junior Clinical Research Academy, Panel Discussion

Empowering Youth Ambassadors for Clinical Research Awareness

Objectives of this presentation:

- Introduce youth under 18 from the MENASA region to the basics of clinical research, aiming to inspire interest and understanding of its importance in healthcare.
- Equip youth ambassadors with tools and knowledge to raise awareness about clinical trials within their schools and communities, focusing on the significance of diversity in research.
- Develop leadership skills by training participants to engage in community outreach, helping them promote the importance of clinical research and recruit diverse participants from their networks.

Speakers: Qunoot Almecci, EdD; Bryce Nicholas, ALM & Ana Bestic

3:35 - 3:55 PM MS211: FDA Diversity Action Plan

Evaluating the FDAs Diversity Action Plans and Leveraging Them for Success

Objectives of this presentation:

- Conduct a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the FDA's Diversity Action Plans, focusing on their implications for increasing Arab and South Asian American representation in clinical trials.
- Educate stakeholders about the specific offerings and incentives provided within the
- Diversity Action Plans that CROs and sponsors can utilize to enhance minority recruitment and retention.
- Develop actionable strategies for CROs and sponsors to effectively implement the FDA's diversity guidelines in clinical trial design and execution, ensuring both compliance and meaningful inclusion of underrepresented populations.

Speakers: Hadi Danawi, PhD, MPH & Mitchell Hilbe

4:00 - 4:30 PM MS212: Closing & Final Notes: Call for Actions. Panel Discussion

Speakers: Hadi Danawi, PhD, MPH; Rasha Babiir, MD; Mitchell Hilbe; Rhea Sharma, MS; Nicole Holguin, BSHA ; Preeti Dhaania, M.B.B.S ; & MaryAnn Bowman, BS.

4: 35 - 4: 50 PM Entertainment Program 2

5:00 PM Adjourn

Breakout Sessions (Rooms E & F)

1:00 - 1:25 PM Advancing Clinical Insights: Target Trial Emulation as a Bridge Between Clinical Trials and Real-World Evidence (Room E)

Presented by Mohanad Albayyaa MD

1:00- 2:00 PM Diversity and Inclusion in Clinical Safety: Elevating Representation of MENASA Communities (Room F)

Speakers: Omar Aimer, PhD

1:35 - 2:00 PM Enhancing Patient-Centered Clinical Trials: AI-Powered Consent Forms for Effective Recruitment (Room E)

Presented by Ina Burgstaller, BSc; MSc

2:10 - 2:35 PM Identifying and Targeting the Right Partnerships for Clinical Trials (Room E)

Presented by Darian Trojecak, MSc

2:10 - 2:35 PM Patient Experience Data as a Retention Tool in Clinical Trials (Room F)

Presented by Farah Ahmad, MBA

2:40- 3:05 PM Regenerative Health & the Role of Stem Cells in the Body (Room F)

Presented by Jason Wozniak, MBA

Workshops

2:45 - 3:15 PM Clinical Trials/Principal Investigators Training towards a Certification (free) (Room E)

Presented by Alisha Moore & Danial Hassan, MD (CEO | Founder | Clinical Research Innovator and Revival Research Institute)

3:00- 5:00 PM Good Clinical Practice- 3 levels/33 modules, towards a certification (additional $200)- (Room F)

Presented by Joshua Webber, BS (Clinical Research Learning Network)

3:30- 5:00 PM Diversity Workshop towards a certification (additional $200)- (Room E)

Presented by Barry Holmes, A. A. S (Genesis Medical Research Group)

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

Hosts: EMCEE & Session Moderator

Hana Baroudi: PhD Cand: Medical Physics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Rasha Babikir, MD. Director; Clinical Research Consultant

Keynote Speakers

Hadi Danawi, PhD, MPH

- President Arab Board for Clinical Research
- President of Habibis United Research
- Founder of MESANA Group: SUMMIT, Magazine Junior Academy, Referral Club, Site Network & Clinical Research
- Co-founder and Chief Diversity Officer of DiversiTrials

Pierre N. Khoury, MD

- National Treasurer of the American Lebanese Medical Association (ALMA) Houston Chapter
- President of USJ Alumni Houston Chapter
- Vice President of Millennium Physician
- Board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, Oncology

Nidal Moukaddam, MD PhD

- President of the National Arab American Medical Association (NAAMA)
- Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston
- Director for Psychiatry Outpatient Services in the Harris Health System

Fadi Dimassi

- President of the American Lebanese Cultural Center (ALCC) in Houston, TX.
- Business & Community Leader

Suleman Lalani, MD

- Texas House Representative - Legislator for District 76
- Quadruple Board Certified Physician
- Community Leader

Mirza Rahman, MD, MPH

- President of the American College of Preventive Medicine
- Co-Founder and President of the Guyanese Diaspora Charity Adjunct Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health Adjunct
- Associate Professor at the University of Guyana, in Guyana, South America.

Asim Shah, MD

- Professor & Executive Vice Chair of the Menninger Dept of Psychiatry at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas

Raffia Qutab, MD

- APPNA Chair Liaison Committee
- Instructor at Umass Chan Medical School MA
- Director/owner of Rutland family Health Center, Holden, MA

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

Get to know our industry professional and passionate speakers from academic and research institutions

Speakers

Mitchell Hilbe
- CEO & Co-founder of DiversiTrials

Mazhar Jaffry, MBBS, MBA, MHA
- Founder and CEO at Revival Research Institute, LLC

Bilal Abid, MD, MS
- Clinician-Scientist, Hematology/Oncology, UT Houston & MD Anderson Cancer Center

Wessam Sonbol, BS
- Founder, CEO at Delve Health Healthcare Technology, Clinical Research, Digital Endpoints

Omar Aldabagh, PhD
- Vice President of the Iraqi American Health and Cancer Foundation, City of Houston.

Terry Hartley, PhD
- Texas Health and Human Services

Maryann Bowman, BS.
- ClinGRO Solutions – Founder & CEO
- CollabTrials – Co-founding Partner & Manager
- Clinical Research Justice League – Co-founder & Executive Directo

Al Pacino II, BS
- President at BlueCloudX at HealthCarePoint.com

Darian Trojacek, MSc
- Partnership Consultant at Diversitrials

Qunoot Almecci, EdD
- Director of Clinical Education
- Advocate for Diversity in Clinical Trials

Mohanad AlBayyaa, MD
- Physician-Scientist, Faculty at the University of Texas Medical Branch

Omar Aimer, Pharm. D, PhD, QPDS, FISoP
- ISoP EC member and Treasurer
- NASoP President

Farah Ahmad, MBA
- Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder, PatientX

Ina Burgstaller, BSc; MSc
- **Co-founder & CEO at Bionabu**

Demystifying the Clinical Trial Journey for Healthcare Professionals

Jason Wozniak
- Managing Partner, Rocky Creek Integrated Medical & Wellness Center

Rhea Sharma, MPH
- South Asia Regional Director, MENASA Group
- Founder Desi Woman in Clinical Research

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

Preeti Dhaania, M.B.B.S.
- COO & Founder, Cornerstone Clinical Research Services

Workshop Hosts

Alisha Moore, MSc.
- *CEO | Founder | Clinical Research Innovator*

Danial Hassan, MD, MSc, FISQua
- Revival Research Institute

Joshua Webber, BS
- Founder and CEO: Clinical Research Learning Network

Barry Holmes Jr. A. A. S
- Vice President of Strategy and Development, Genesis Medical Research Group

Special Programs

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Meditation/Zen (Room A)
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Prayer (Room B)
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Silent Auction (Room C)
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	MENASA Clinical Research Junior Academy/Meeting Room (Room D)
1:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Breakout Sessions/Workshops (Rooms E & F)
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Sponsors/Vendors (Autidorium K/J)

JOINT VENTURE

MENASA GROUP | Curalink Clinical Group

Set Up Your Practice for Successful Research

Promoting an ecosystem for private practice MENASA-Regions physicians

GET CERTIFIED TO BECOME A PI FOR FREE

- Turnkey support
- Improve patient outcomes
- New revenue stream

Curalink Clinical Group

MG MENASA GROUP

www.menasagroup.org

www.curalinkclinical.com

For more info, contact us at
info@menasagroup.org
info@curalinkclinical.com

MENASA
Ramadan Iftar

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

Sponsored by the MENASA Group, the event served as a meaningful gathering to share our mission, vision, and the major milestones we've achieved - from our advocacy work with OMB Directive 15 and Congress to our collaborations with the FDA and early efforts under the Trump administration. We reflected on our journey to shape a more inclusive future for Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian communities in the U.S. and beyond.

The evening featured a powerful presentation, a lively Q&A session, raffle prizes, a beautiful violin performance, and of course, a delicious Iftar meal enjoyed in community and warmth.














TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

Thank you for your support

info@menasagroup.org
MENASAGROUP.ORG

clinical.ly

We provide exceptional technological solutions to the clinical research industry.

Now there's an easier way to address regulatory obligations and compliance challenges.

As regulations become more burdensome and labor costs rise, **Clinical.ly** solutions can help you stay ahead.

We'd love to hear from you

888.568.8304 info@clinical.ly

REVIVAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LLC

Dedicated to Redefining Clinical Research Trials & Patient Care.

As a leading clinical research organization in Michigan, with a site network spanning Texas, Nebraska, Georgia, Arizona & Illinois, we combine heart, ingenuity, and science to conduct quality clinical trials. Our goal is to increase patient recruitment and retention while enhancing patient-centricity.

248-721-9539 revivalresearch.org

HOST

EMCC & SESSION MODERATOR

Dr. Hana Baroudi

Innovating Radiation Therapy Through Technology and Research

Dr. Hana Baroudi is a PhD candidate in Medical Physics at the MD Anderson UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, specializing in radiation oncology. Her research focuses on improving breast cancer radiation therapy by integrating advanced technology to enhance treatment planning and patient outcomes. She is developing an automated contouring model using a dataset of CT scans from 450 breast cancer patients, improving accuracy in targeting critical structures while enhancing clinical efficiency and safety.

With a strong academic background, Dr. Baroudi holds a Master of Sciences in Physics from the American University of Beirut and a Bachelor of Sciences in Physics with a Teaching Diploma from Beirut Arab University, consistently maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. As a Graduate Research Assistant at MD Anderson Cancer Center, she has pioneered automated treatment planning methods that integrate machine learning, streamlining workflows and reducing human error in radiation therapy. Her contributions have led to multiple publications and presentations at international conferences, showcasing advancements in medical imaging and quality assurance.

Beyond research, Dr. Baroudi has gained hands-on clinical experience through rotations at MD Anderson, complementing her academic expertise with practical patient care insights. She has also served as a teaching assistant at the Lebanese American University and the American University of Beirut, mentoring students in physics and engineering. Actively involved in professional organizations, she co-chairs the Medical Physics Women Group and contributes to the AAPM Arab Medical Physics Subcommittee, promoting gender equity and outreach in medical physics.

Recognized with awards such as the Linda Wells Outreach Award and the Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellowship, Dr. Baroudi is committed to advancing radiation therapy through innovation, research, and education, aiming to integrate automation and personalized care into oncology treatment planning.

HOST

EMCC & SESSION MODERATOR

Dr. Rasha Babikir

Director; Clinical Research Consultant

Dr. Rasha Babikir, MBBS, MBA, is a results-driven leader with over 20 years of experience in clinical research, business development, and strategic planning. As a physician with a strong background in clinical trials and healthcare management, she has played a key role in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in research. She serves as regional leader for North Africa at the MENASA Group, where she supports research-naive physicians in becoming research-ready through training and certification programs.

She is also a board member of the Society for Clinical Research Sites' IncluDE Program, where she collaborates with industry leaders to develop strategies that promote inclusivity in clinical trials. As director of sponsor and CRO relations at Cedar Health Research, she leads strategic partnerships with pharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations, driving business development, feasibility assessments, and inclusive patient recruitment strategies. Her work has helped secure study opportunities across multiple therapeutic areas while ensuring high-quality data delivery and compliance with regulatory standards.

Her expertise spans community engagement, account management, and business strategy. She has built relationships with key stakeholders, led feasibility processes, and played an active role in expanding Cedar Health Research's presence in underrepresented communities. She also serves on the executive board of the Texas Muslim Women Foundation, supporting initiatives in anti-domestic violence education, interfaith outreach, and social services.

She holds an MBA in healthcare management from the University of Texas at Dallas and a medical degree from Ahfad University for Women. Fluent in English and Arabic, she continues to champion efforts that improve access to clinical trials and foster a more inclusive research environment. Her commitment to patient engagement, mentorship, and operational excellence makes her a leader in advancing equitable healthcare solutions.

SPEAKER

KEYNOTE

Dr. Hadi Danawi

Global Public Health Leader | Epidemiologist | Advocate for Diversity in Clinical Research

Dr. Hadi Danawi is a renowned public health professor, epidemiologist, and global leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical research. With over 25 years of experience, he has dedicated his career to advancing health equity, research ethics, and clinical trial participation for underrepresented populations, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) regions. His work spans academia, nonprofit leadership, and clinical research innovation, making him a pivotal figure in shaping global healthcare policies and research frameworks.

A Pioneer in Health Equity and Clinical Research Diversity

Dr. Danawi is the founder of Epiconsults, Inc., the Arab Board for Clinical Research, and the MENASA Group, which advocate for equitable access to healthcare and clinical research opportunities. As Global President of the MENASA Group, he leads multiple initiatives designed to promote inclusive clinical trials, culturally competent healthcare practices, and research equity.

He is also the Co-founder and Chief Diversity Officer of DiversiTrials, an organization focused on enhancing diverse patient recruitment, protocol development, and stakeholder engagement in clinical research. His leadership ensures that Arab, North African, and South Asian communities, often overlooked in clinical trials, gain proper representation in medical research and drug development.

Nonprofit Leadership & Global Health Advocacy

Dr. Danawi's nonprofit work has had a profound global impact. Through organizations such as the Tropical Diseases Task Force and 1EightyDegs, he has championed initiatives to combat neglected tropical diseases, maternal and child health disparities, and infectious diseases. His efforts particularly target underserved communities across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, where healthcare access is often limited.

His leadership extends beyond advocacy—he actively collaborates

with governments, universities, and health organizations to establish policy-driven solutions for global health challenges. His work in disease prevention, vaccination programs, and epidemiological research has influenced international health policies, ensuring more equitable access to medical advancements.

Academic Contributions and Mentorship

As an esteemed academic, Dr. Danawi has held faculty positions at leading institutions, including: Walden University, Regis College, University of Texas, and Medical University of South Carolina.

He has designed curricula in epidemiology, biostatistics, and global health, mentoring students and young professionals in clinical research methodologies, research ethics, and public health interventions.

Additionally, Dr. Danawi has served on multiple Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), ensuring that clinical research follows the highest ethical standards and prioritizes participant safety and data integrity. His work in research compliance, study design, and protocol evaluation has strengthened the ethical foundation of clinical research globally.

Prolific Author and Thought Leader

Dr. Danawi is a widely published author, with over 200 research articles, books, and presentations covering topics such as epidemiology, maternal and child health, clinical trial diversity, and infectious diseases. His notable books include:

- "Encyclopedia of 123 Meditational Grids" – Exploring the intersection of health and mindfulness.
- "Lost in Causation: A Critical Examination of Epidemiological Research" – A deep dive into the complexities of epidemiological study design and interpretation.
- "Diversity in Clinical Trials: Advancing Health Equity for Arabs and Arab Americans" – A groundbreaking work advocating for increased Arab and South Asian participation in clinical research.

His research is frequently cited in academic and policy discussions, and he is a sought-after speaker at global health and clinical research conferences.

Vision for the Future of Healthcare and Research Equity

Dr. Danawi's career is driven by a commitment to transforming healthcare and research into a more inclusive and patient-centered system. He envisions a future where:

Clinical trials reflect the true diversity of global populations, ensuring that medical advancements benefit all communities.

Health policies prioritize equity, eliminating barriers to healthcare access for marginalized populations.

Scientific research is conducted with cultural competence, respecting the values and needs of diverse ethnic groups.

Through his visionary leadership, Dr. Danawi continues to push boundaries in global public health, clinical trial innovation, and epidemiological research. His work leaves a lasting legacy in shaping a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system for future generations.

SPEAKER

KEYNOTE

Dr. Pierre N. Khoury

A Dedicated Oncologist, Community Advocate, and Leader in Lebanese American Healthcare

Dr. Pierre N. Khoury is a distinguished oncologist at Millennium Physicians in The Woodlands, Texas, specializing in cancer diagnosis, treatment, and patient-centered care. He integrates cutting-edge therapies such as immunotherapy and precision medicine while prioritizing compassionate communication and individualized treatment plans. His expertise extends beyond medical treatment to patient education, ensuring that individuals and families make informed healthcare decisions. Recognized for his commitment to oncology, he continuously stays at the forefront of advancements to provide the highest quality care.

Beyond his clinical practice, Dr. Khoury is deeply engaged in community leadership. As National Treasurer of the American Lebanese Medical Association (ALMA), he plays a crucial role in managing financial resources to support healthcare initiatives, scholarships, and medical research for the Lebanese American community. Through ALMA, he fosters partnerships with healthcare institutions, promotes health awareness, and funds educational programs for aspiring medical professionals. His leadership extends to his role as President of the University of Saint Joseph Lebanon Houston Chapter, where he strengthens alumni connections, supports mentorship programs, and advocates for cultural and educational initiatives within the Lebanese diaspora.

Dr. Khoury is also an active mentor and advocate for medical education, frequently participating in conferences and public health discussions on cancer prevention and early detection. His work bridges medicine and cultural advocacy, emphasizing the importance of inclusive, patient-centered healthcare that respects cultural heritage. Through his dual roles as a physician and community leader, he is shaping a healthcare model that values not only medical excellence but also community well-being and cultural identity. His dedication to both medicine and cultural enrichment makes him a vital figure in both the oncology field and the Lebanese American community.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Nidal Moukaddam

Bridging Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine, and Public Health

Dr. Nidal Moukaddam, MD, PhD, is a leading psychiatrist, addiction medicine specialist, and public health advocate dedicated to advancing mental health care and equity. A professor at Baylor College of Medicine, she serves as Director of Harris Health Psychiatry Outpatient Services, where she has developed comprehensive psychiatric programs, including the Stabilization, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (STAR) program for psychotic disorders. She also leads Ben Taub Adult Outpatient Services, enhancing recovery-oriented care for individuals facing severe mental health challenges.

A pioneer in digital mental health, Dr. Moukaddam collaborates with Rice University on projects such as the "Smartphone & Online LiVe Depression (SOLVD)" assessment, which tracks depressive symptoms through smartphone technology. Her research explores bio-behavioral sensors to monitor cravings and emotional states in substance use disorder patients, advancing real-time addiction treatment strategies. She also leads opioid use disorder treatment initiatives and regional education conferences, focusing on evidence-based approaches, including substance use treatment during pregnancy.

As an advocate for global mental health, Dr. Moukaddam collaborates with the World Health Organization on mental health projects in conflict-affected regions, including Syria. She has organized public health conferences with the National Arab-American Medical Association (NAAMA), such as "Sound Mind, Sound Body" in Beirut, Lebanon, promoting advancements in psychiatry and addiction treatment.

Recognized for her contributions, she has received the Norton-Rose Award for Teaching, Houston Top 100 Doctor honors, and multiple faculty mentorship awards. Through her leadership in psychiatry, addiction medicine, and healthcare innovation, Dr. Moukaddam continues to shape an inclusive, technology-driven, and compassionate approach to mental health care, both in the U.S. and globally.

SPEAKER

KEYNOTE

Chef Fadi Dimassi

Culinary Innovator, Business Leader, and Community Advocate

Chef Fadi Dimassi is a celebrated culinary innovator, entrepreneur, and cultural advocate best known as the founder of Fadi's Mediterranean Grill. Born in Lebanon into a family with deep culinary traditions, he mastered Mediterranean cooking early on, embracing fresh ingredients, bold flavors, and balanced nutrition. In 1996, he opened the first Fadi's Mediterranean Grill in Houston, Texas, with the vision of providing authentic Mediterranean cuisine in a warm, family-friendly setting. His commitment to quality and authenticity has led to the restaurant's expansion across Texas, making it a go-to destination for fresh, heart-healthy Middle Eastern dishes.

Beyond his culinary success, Chef Fadi is a respected business leader, guiding his restaurant's growth with strategic vision while ensuring a consistently high-quality dining experience. His approach to Mediterranean cuisine highlights fresh vegetables, lean proteins, and olive oil, aligning with his mission to offer flavorful and nutritious meals. His leadership has earned Fadi's Mediterranean Grill numerous accolades and a devoted following.

In addition to his impact on the restaurant industry, Chef Fadi is deeply committed to his Lebanese heritage and community engagement. As President of the American Lebanese Cultural Center (ALCC) in Houston, he plays a vital role in promoting Lebanese culture through educational programs, cultural events, and community outreach. His dedication to philanthropy is evident in his involvement with local charities, mentorship of aspiring chefs, and support for initiatives that strengthen cultural ties.

Through his culinary expertise, business acumen, and commitment to cultural advocacy, Chef Fadi Dimassi has made a lasting mark in Texas, exemplifying leadership, authenticity, and community spirit. His journey is a testament to his passion for food, heritage, and service, making him a respected figure both in the culinary world and beyond.

SPEAKER

KEYNOTE

Dr. Suleman Lalani

A Leader in Geriatric Medicine and Community Health Advocacy

Dr. Suleman Lalani, MD, is a distinguished physician specializing in geriatrics, long-term care, and hospice medicine, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of aging populations. Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Care, and Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, he has been serving the Greater Houston area since 2004. Through his private practice and Sugar Land Geriatrics & Medical Associates, he provides comprehensive care for older adults, with a strong focus on chronic disease management, dementia care, and end-of-life support.

As a medical director for multiple healthcare facilities, including Richmond Healthcare and Silverado Assisted Living and Memory Care, Dr. Lalani has played a pivotal role in enhancing geriatric care programs. His leadership ensures that patients receive high-quality, individualized treatment that integrates preventive care, therapeutic interventions, and emotional support. His passion for Alzheimer's disease research has driven his advocacy efforts, leading him to serve as an ambassador to the National Alzheimer's Association from 2013 to 2019, where he worked with Congress to advance research funding and awareness.

Beyond clinical practice, Dr. Lalani is deeply engaged in community health initiatives. He serves on the boards of organizations such as the Exchange Club of Fort Bend and the Fort Bend Rainbow Room, supporting vulnerable populations. His work with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Aga Khan Foundation further underscores his commitment to public health and social impact. A sought-after speaker and researcher, he has contributed to medical literature on geriatrics and chronic disease management. Through his clinical expertise, advocacy, and leadership, Dr. Lalani continues to shape the future of geriatric medicine, ensuring that aging individuals receive compassionate, patient-centered care that preserves dignity and enhances quality of life.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Mirza I. Rahman

Advancing Pharmacovigilance, Patient Safety, and Global Health Equity

Dr. Mirza I. Rahman, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FACPM, is a leader in pharmacovigilance, patient safety, and preventive medicine with over 25 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. As Senior Vice President of Patient Safety & Pharmacovigilance at Cybin, he plays a crucial role in developing novel psychedelics while maintaining rigorous safety standards. He also serves as President of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) and co-founded the Guyanese Diaspora Charity, reflecting his commitment to global health equity.

Dr. Rahman has held key leadership positions in global pharmacovigilance at top pharmaceutical companies. As Vice President & Chief Safety Officer at Organon, he led a transformation of the Global Pharmacovigilance & Safety Sciences division, streamlining operations while enhancing compliance and patient safety. At Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, he built and led a $100 million pharmacovigilance organization with over 900 employees and founded the Otsuka-Columbia Center for Pharmacoepidemiology & Outcomes Research, advancing industry best practices.

A dedicated advocate for public health, Dr. Rahman is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University and the University of Guyana, mentoring students in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance. He also volunteers as an attending physician in Guyana and has been a faculty member at Bryn Mawr Family Practice Residency Program in Pennsylvania. His nonprofit work with the Guyanese Diaspora Charity improves healthcare access and outcomes for underserved communities.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rahman has shaped industry standards, including leading Otsuka's medical response during COVID-19. His numerous accolades, including awards from Merck, Johnson & Johnson, and ACPM, underscore his contributions to patient safety and healthcare innovation. His work continues to set the standard for pharmacovigilance and preventive medicine, ensuring a safer, more equitable healthcare system.

SPEAKER

KEYNOTE

Dr. Asim A. Shah

A Global Advocate for Community Psychiatry and Mental Health Innovation

Dr. Asim A. Shah, M.D., is a distinguished psychiatrist, global mental health advocate, and leader in community psychiatry. As the Executive Vice Chair and Chief of the Division of Community Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine, he has pioneered transformative initiatives that address mental health disparities, particularly in underserved communities. He oversees the Community Behavioral Health Program at Ben Taub Hospital and serves as Chair of the Mental Health Task Force for Fort Bend County, integrating culturally sensitive care models that make mental health services more accessible.

A dedicated researcher, Dr. Shah has led over 50 clinical trials exploring groundbreaking treatments for schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, and cognitive impairments. His work with digital therapeutics and esketamine for treatment-resistant depression demonstrates his commitment to advancing psychiatric care. His research collaborations span global institutions, emphasizing an inclusive approach to mental health innovation.

Dr. Shah's influence extends internationally, serving as a Visiting Professor at Dow University of Health Sciences in Karachi, where he advocates for destigmatizing mental health and improving psychiatric care in marginalized regions. His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic was pivotal in shaping public health strategies through the City of Houston's Health Equity Response Task Force, ensuring mental health remained a priority.

Recognized for his contributions, he has received numerous accolades, including the Ima Hogg Award from Mental Health America of Greater Houston and the "Most Eminent Pakistani Psychiatrist" award from the Pakistan Psychiatric Society. His vision focuses on expanding community-based mental health services, integrating digital therapeutics, and influencing public health policies to create a more inclusive and accessible mental healthcare system. Through his research, advocacy, and mentorship, Dr. Shah continues to shape the future of psychiatry and improve global mental health outcomes.

SPEAKER

Mitchell Hilbe

Driving Innovation, Diversity, and Equity in Clinical Research

Mitchell Hilbe is a clinical research leader dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical trials. As CEO and co-founder of DiversiTrials, he works to make clinical research more accessible and representative, particularly for underserved populations. His efforts focus on removing barriers to trial participation and ensuring that research outcomes reflect diverse patient demographics. Through strategic partnerships with sponsors, CROs, and community organizations, he promotes equitable and ethical research practices.

In 2022, he founded the Clinical Research Justice League, a professional group addressing ethics, inclusivity, and transparency in clinical research. The group provides a platform for industry professionals to discuss challenges, share best practices, and advocate for systemic change. His commitment to ethical research extends to his role as a conference panelist, where he speaks on investigator oversight, quality assurance, and site engagement at major industry events such as the Save Our Sites Conference and MAGI East.

With extensive experience as a lead and senior clinical research associate, he has managed Phase I through III trials across oncology, autoimmune diseases, women's health, and rare diseases. His background includes clinical operations, team leadership, and regulatory compliance, with a strong emphasis on data quality and patient safety. He has mentored and trained clinical research associates, ensuring adherence to protocols and industry best practices.

Before clinical research, he spent nearly a decade as a paramedic and EMS educator, equipping first responders with essential medical skills. He is currently completing a Master of Science in Health Science at Excelsior University. Through his work at DiversiTrials and beyond, Mitchell continues to drive meaningful change in clinical research, ensuring it is more ethical, inclusive, and patient-centered.

SPEAKER

Mazhar Jaffry

A Visionary in Clinical Research, Healthcare Innovation, and Community Empowerment

Mazhar Jaffry is a healthcare leader with over two decades of experience in clinical research, pharmaceutical management, and healthcare innovation. As president of Revival's Site Network, he oversees the strategic growth and operations of multiple clinical research sites, expanding into therapeutic areas such as neurology, psychiatry, and cardiology. His leadership has strengthened Revival's reputation as a trusted research collaborator by enhancing patient recruitment, regulatory compliance, and clinical trial execution.

In his role as senior vice president of business development at Wellvana Health, he focuses on advancing value-based care by developing frameworks that improve healthcare access, enhance patient outcomes, and optimize resource utilization. His strategic initiatives aim to align provider incentives with patient-centered care, reshaping healthcare delivery models to be more efficient and sustainable.

Before his current roles, he spent over 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry with companies like Johnson & Johnson and GlaxoSmithKline, where he led brand development, strategic marketing, and sales leadership. As a national product manager at GSK, he played a key role in launching and managing high-profile pharmaceutical brands, driving revenue growth, and expanding market reach.

Beyond his professional achievements, he is dedicated to community empowerment and education. He actively supports initiatives to improve educational opportunities for women in rural Pakistan, working to establish a school that provides resources for personal and professional growth.

He holds a Master of Health Administration from Cornell University and an MBA in marketing. His expertise in clinical research, healthcare operations, and strategic development continues to drive meaningful change, ensuring healthcare remains accessible, patient-focused, and innovative in meeting the needs of diverse populations.

SPEAKER

Dr. Muhammad Bilal Abid

Pioneering Research in Oncology, Transplant Infectious Diseases, and Global Health

Dr. Muhammad Bilal Abid, MD, MS, FACP, MRCP, FRCP, is a distinguished oncologist, hematologist, and infectious disease expert dedicated to advancing CAR-T cell therapy, stem cell transplantation, and cancer research. He serves in the Hematology/Oncology division at UT Houston McGovern School of Medicine and as a Clinician Scientist at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where his work bridges clinical innovation and global health.

Dr. Abid's expertise spans CAR-T therapy, hematologic malignancies, and transplant-related infections. He has held key positions at National Cancer Institute of Singapore, Penn State University, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Medical College of Wisconsin, contributing groundbreaking research on immune reconstitution, microbiome modulation, and infectious complications in CAR-T recipients. His studies have been published in high-impact journals, shaping advancements in immunotherapy and precision medicine.

A leader in global health and transplant research, Dr. Abid collaborates with CIBMTR, WBMT, EBMT, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, advocating for improved patient outcomes and equitable access to advanced therapies. As an Honorary Visiting Professor at Aga Khan University (Pakistan) and Nawaloka Hospitals (Sri Lanka), he mentors future medical leaders and supports cancer care development in underserved regions.

Dr. Abid has served as Associate Program Director for Internal Medicine at MCW, leading resident education and oncology research programs. A sought-after speaker at ASH, SITC, and ASTCT, he also contributes as Section Editor for Frontiers in Immunology and Frontiers in Oncology. His accolades include Texas Top Doctor 2024 and the Budding Infectious Diseases Clinician-Scientist Award.

Committed to patient-centered research and global healthcare transformation, Dr. Abid continues to pioneer CAR-T therapy innovations, infectious disease management, and cancer care advancements, shaping the future of oncology worldwide.

SPEAKER

Wessam Sonbol

Transforming Clinical Trials Through Digital Innovation and Patient-Centric Solutions

Wessam Sonbol is a healthcare and technology leader dedicated to transforming clinical trials through digital innovation and patient-centered solutions. As the founder and CEO of Delve Health, he has leveraged his expertise in digital health, product strategy, and clinical research to make trials more accessible, efficient, and inclusive. With over two decades of experience, he has driven advancements that streamline clinical research processes and improve patient engagement through technology.

Since founding Delve Health in 2018, he has led the development of digital health tools and decentralized trial models that enhance patient access and retention. His work integrates wearable technologies and real-time data collection to improve compliance and trial outcomes. Under his leadership, Delve Health has become a trusted partner in clinical research, known for its focus on transparency, regulatory compliance, and patient empowerment.

Before Delve Health, he served as director of business strategy transformation at Optum, where he led enterprise-wide initiatives to transition the organization to an agile, product-oriented approach. His work in product development, payment integrity, and pharmacy benefit management helped streamline operations and reduce costs. Prior to that, he was director of product and marketing at Remedy Informatics, where he developed life sciences solutions that accelerated translational medicine and patient registry systems, contributing to the company's acquisition.

Earlier in his career, he founded Clinical Systems Consultants, growing it into an international firm providing data management and analytics solutions to major healthcare clients before its acquisition. He has also served as an advisor to organizations such as Clinart MENA and Ergomed, guiding their data strategies and clinical operations. Through Delve Health and beyond, Wessam Sonbol continues to drive innovation, ensuring clinical trials are more adaptable, inclusive, and patient-focused.

SPEAKER

Dr. Omar Aldabagh

A Visionary in Public Health, Disaster Management, and Community Advocacy

Dr. Omar Aldabagh, Ph.D., M.S., CPH, is a public health leader and disaster management expert with over 20 years of experience in public service, international development, and community health. As a Staff Analyst and Public Health Advisor at the Houston Health Department, he manages CDC-funded projects totaling over $300 million, ensuring compliance, efficiency, and workforce development. His expertise spans public health infrastructure, epidemiology, and healthcare capacity building, strengthening partnerships across local, state, and federal agencies.

His extensive disaster management experience includes serving as a Recovery Manager for the American Red Cross during Hurricane Harvey, coordinating relief efforts across 60 counties. He also played a key role in New York's post-Hurricane Sandy recovery, managing housing programs and implementing sustainable solutions in collaboration with federal and state partners. His work reflects a commitment to public safety, resilience, and equitable disaster response.

As Founder and President of the Iraqi American Community in Houston, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Dr. Aldabagh advocates for marginalized populations by promoting healthcare access, academic support, and food security. His organization fosters civic engagement and social equity, ensuring vital resources reach underserved communities. His dedication extends to academia as a Doctoral Mentor at Strategic Education Inc. and an Adjunct Professor at Park University's School of Public Affairs, where he mentors students in public policy, disaster management, and leadership.

In 2023, he launched Al Palms Consulting LLC, offering strategic solutions in digital marketing, healthcare, and disaster management. Recognized for his contributions to Hurricane Harvey recovery and COVID-19 response, Dr. Aldabagh continues to drive initiatives that build sustainable public health systems and resilient communities. His vision centers on equity, innovation, and strengthening global health infrastructure.

SPEAKER

Dr. Terry Hartley

Innovating Healthcare Data Quality and Shaping the Future of Analytics

Dr. Terry Hartley, Ph.D., MBA, is a recognized leader in healthcare data quality, analytics, and governance, with over 25 years of experience transforming data into actionable insights to enhance patient care, operational efficiency, and compliance. As the Director of Healthcare Data Quality and Training at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Dr. Hartley has implemented a comprehensive data governance framework that ensures the accuracy and accessibility of healthcare data, significantly improving decision-making processes across the organization.

Before joining HHSC, Dr. Hartley served as Senior Manager of Data Analytics and Reporting at Centene Corporation, where he introduced strategic analytics frameworks that optimized data operations and supported executive decision-making. His work included the development of real-time reporting dashboards and multi-year data roadmaps, enabling Centene to maintain its reputation as a data-driven leader in managed healthcare.

Dr. Hartley's contributions extend to process improvement and workforce development, where he has led initiatives to standardize data quality practices and train teams in analytics, machine learning, and data governance. He has a strong focus on research, including studies on healthcare outcomes related to vaccination adherence within Texas Medicaid and the impact of chronic conditions on diverse populations.

As he transitions to academia, Dr. Hartley is committed to educating the next generation of healthcare and data science professionals, emphasizing practical skills in data analytics and informatics. His vision for the future of healthcare data includes fostering data literacy and integrating advanced analytics to proactively address patient needs. Dr. Hartley's career is marked by innovation, mentorship, and a dedication to using data to transform healthcare delivery and outcomes.

SPEAKER

MaryAnn Bowman

Revolutionizing Clinical Research Site Financial Management

MaryAnn Bowman is the founder and CEO of ClinGRO Solutions, a leader in clinical research site financial management. With over a decade of experience optimizing financial operations for independent research sites, she specializes in budget negotiation, Clinical Trial Management System (CTMS) optimization, and revenue cycle improvements. Her work empowers research-naive, minority, and underserved clinical sites across the United States, ensuring financial stability and operational efficiency in clinical trials.

In August 2024, she launched ClinGRO Solutions in Lake Worth, Florida, to address the unique financial challenges faced by clinical research sites. She has developed services focused on CTMS implementation, financial reporting, and audit preparation, providing research sites with the tools they need to streamline operations. By standardizing overhead fees, improving invoicing processes, and offering financial education, she has positioned ClinGRO as a trusted partner in clinical trial management.

Before founding ClinGRO, she co-founded Clinical Research Billing, Inc. in 2015, where she led financial operations and managed CTMS platforms to enhance invoicing and collections for research sites. Her career began at Atlantic Clinical Research Collaborative, where she implemented a centralized CTMS and managed financial operations for multiple research companies, contributing to over $15 million in revenue.

A dedicated mentor, she launched the ClinGRO Volunteer Program to educate site teams on financial best practices. She is an active member of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals and the Society for Clinical Research Sites, staying at the forefront of industry developments. Through ClinGRO Solutions, MaryAnn Bowman is driving financial transparency and equity in clinical research, ensuring that independent and underserved sites can thrive in a competitive landscape.

A BOOK BY
HADI DANAWI, Ph.D

DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIALS:

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY FOR ARABS AND ARABS AMERICANS

Hello مرحبا Salam سلام Thank you شكرا

ARAB BOARD FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

SPEAKER

Mr. Al Pacino

President at BlueCloudX at:
HealthCarePoint.com

Mr. Al Pacino is a recognized Key Opinion Leader (KOL) in healthcare and clinical research, with over 35 years of experience in the industry. A U.S. veteran and a 20-year head and neck cancer survivor, he is a dedicated advocate for patient diversity and data integrity in clinical trials.

As the Co-Founder and President of BlueCloud by HealthCarePoint, Mr. Pacino leads a global GDPR-based network of over 2.25 million healthcare and clinical research professionals across 500,000+ organizations. His work focuses on standardized training, education, and certifications in neurosciences, cardiovascular, CNS, and other therapeutic areas. He has pioneered tools like GDPRWallet® and Trust & Verify on BlueCloudX, empowering stakeholders to streamline compliance and operational efficiency while ensuring patient-centric care.

A past member of the ACRP Editorial Advisory Board and former Chair of the Central Texas Chapter, he has also served as VP for Collaborative Network Development at ACRES and remains an active leader at DTRA, SCRS, and the Association of Diversity in Clinical Trials. His efforts extend globally, collaborating with governments, universities, and nonprofits to modernize healthcare standards through education, compliance, and data protection laws.

Mr. Pacino introduced the concept of “TrialDrift”, bringing attention to issues of data variance and integrity in clinical trials. Through his extensive work in collaborative networks and standardization, he strives to reduce redundancies, waste, and inefficiencies in healthcare and clinical research. His ultimate mission is to modernize the ecosystem and ensure that no patient is left behind.

Vida Clinical Studies

Our Heritage, Our Health

Bridging Traditions, Advancing Science

At Vida Clinical Studies, we believe research should reflect the people it serves. Through **trust, education, and accessibility**, we are breaking barriers in medical research.

We are committed to:

- Expanding **representation** in clinical research.
- Breaking **barriers, misconceptions and stigma** about medical studies.
- Educating communities to make research **more accessible**.
- Ensuring **trust, quality, and scientific advancement.**

Recognized as a Top Enroller, We are Ensuring Broader Participation in Research.

Since 2017, Vida Clinical Studies has:

- Conducted **multispecialty clinical trials** in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, Michigan, contributing to medical advancements.
- Partnered with **community organizations** to improve awareness of clinical research and increase participation
- Led research efforts to bring **new medical treatments closer to the people who need them.**

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Healthcare!

Interested?

Please Visit Our Website or Contact us to Learn more!

Contact Us

Visit our Website: www.vidastudies.com

Our Location: 24326 W. Warren St Dearborn Heights, MI, 48127

A Leading Sponsor of the MENASA Clinical Research Summit

SPEAKER

Darian Trojacek

Leader in Clinical Operations
and Strategic Growth in Healthcare

Darian Trojacek, MSc, is a seasoned clinical research professional specializing in clinical operations, business development, and strategic partnerships. With a background in exercise physiology and a Ph.D. in Health Sciences (Exercise and Sport Science) in progress, Darian merges scientific expertise with strategic leadership to enhance efficiency and growth in clinical research.

As Partnerships Manager at DiversiTrials, Darian has been instrumental in expanding industry partnerships with Sponsors, CROs, and Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs). She oversees client accounts, cross-departmental projects, and business development efforts, strengthening the company's trial pipeline and market position. Her strategic insights into market trends, therapeutic area expansion, and operational innovations have significantly contributed to DiversiTrials' success.

Previously, Darian served as Associate Director of Operations at a business development firm in Dallas, Texas, where she doubled operational productivity, optimized cross-functional collaboration, and secured key partnerships with sponsors, CROs, and principal investigators. Her expertise in cost-cutting strategies, cross-departmental training, and policy development has enhanced clinical research operations and efficiency.

Darian's expertise spans cardiology, oncology, pediatrics, pulmonology, gastroenterology, hepatology, and medical devices. As a Clinical Trial Lead and Clinical Research Manager, she has managed research teams, ensured regulatory compliance, and upheld high standards in patient safety and data integrity.

Her research at UT Arlington on cardiac steatosis and skeletal muscle oxygen consumption has been published in leading journals like the American Journal of Physiology. Committed to patient-centric clinical research, Darian continues to drive innovation, operational excellence, and inclusivity in healthcare.

With a passion for advancing research standards and fostering collaborations, Darian is shaping the future of clinical operations and research management.

PATIENT-CENTRIC APPROACH

Our Unwavering Commitments to prioritizing patient well-being drives every aspect of our clinical research process.

Welcome to CIT's Current Studies, where your opportunity to shape the future of healthcare begins. By registering for our ongoing clinical studies, you become an essential participant in advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care.

Join us in this transformative endeavor and make a lasting impact on the world of medicine. Your journey to better health starts here.

CIT | Clinical Investigations *of* Texas

(972) 599-1530 | info@clinicalinvestigationsoftexas.com | clinicalinvestigationsoftexas.com

ANNAN RETINA EYE CENTER

Visit our Website
jaafarelannanmd.com

HOUSTON'S LEADING RETINAL EYE CENTER

At the Annan Retina Eye Center, we are committed to providing our patients with unrivalled world class individualized care and expertise.

SERVICES

- Cataract Surgery with Premium Lens Implant
- Retinal Laser
- Retinal Surgery
- Injections
- Diagnostic Testing

Schedule your appointment today:

6550 Mapleridge St.
Suite #125

SPEAKER

Dr. Qunoot Almecci

Transforming Medical Education and Championing Diversity in Clinical Training

Dr. Qunoot Almecci, Ed.D., is a transformative leader in medical education, dedicated to advancing diversity, innovation, and holistic student support. As the Director of Clinical Education at the American University of Antigua College of Medicine, she integrates data-driven strategies and educational innovations to enhance clinical training and residency advising. Her initiatives have strengthened mentorship, optimized residency placement, and improved student retention through appreciative advising techniques, fostering a supportive academic culture that empowers future physicians.

With a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, Dr. Almecci has championed programs that increase representation of underrepresented minorities in clinical training and research. Her tenure at National Medical Fellowships focused on bridging healthcare disparities by connecting marginalized communities with essential medical resources. She continues to advocate for culturally competent curricula, ensuring students develop the awareness and skills needed to serve diverse patient populations effectively.

A recognized innovator in medical education, Dr. Almecci has pioneered data mapping solutions and performance tracking systems to optimize learning outcomes. Her research, which includes peer-reviewed publications on mentorship and medical licensure preparation, informs best practices in medical education. She is an active member of AMEE and IAMSE, contributing to the advancement of global education standards.

Her leadership has earned her multiple accolades, including the “Innovation of the Year” award from Houston Community College. Passionate about mentorship, she supports students beyond graduation through alumni career development initiatives. Dr. Almecci’s vision for medical education prioritizes inclusivity, adaptability, and excellence, ensuring that future healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, empathy, and resilience to meet the evolving needs of the medical field.

SPEAKER

Dr. Mohanad Albayyaa

Advancing Clinical Science Through Research, Education, and Innovation

Dr. Mohanad Albayyaa, MD, MSc, PhD (expected December 2024), is a physician-scientist and clinical researcher dedicated to advancing medical knowledge through research, education, and innovation. As a faculty member and Clinical Research Scientist in the Department of Internal Medicine at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), he designs research protocols, recruits participants, and ensures adherence to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines. His research spans oncology, autoimmune diseases, and population health, with notable contributions in androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) for prostate cancer and its risks for rheumatic autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Albayyaa earned an MSc in Clinical Pathology and Research Studies and an MD from Al-Nahrain University and is completing a PhD in Clinical Science and an MPH at UTMB. He has received prestigious fellowships, including the NIH T32 Predoctoral Fellowship and the Innovative Drug Discovery and Development Fellowship from the Gulf Coast Consortia and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). As adjunct faculty at Lone Star College and Houston Community College, he teaches anatomy, physiology, and microbiology, mentoring future healthcare professionals.

His research has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Medicine Open and Cancer and Clinical Oncology, covering topics like racial disparities in bladder cancer mortality and hepatocellular carcinoma risk factors. Recognized for excellence in research and public health, his accolades include the NIH T32 Research Fellowship Award, the Best Clinical/Translational Research Award from Sigma XI, and the Excellence in Public Health Research Award.

Dr. Albayyaa actively engages in global health, leading breast cancer screening education programs in the Middle East and supporting telehealth initiatives. His work embodies a commitment to advancing clinical research, shaping healthcare policy, and improving patient outcomes worldwide.

MENASA GROUP

LEADING THE WAY IN TRANSFORMATIVE HEALTHCARE

منصة

MENASA SUMMIT

A platform to empower Arab, Persian/Farsi, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi-speaking physicians, from research-naive to seasoned professionals, to engage in clinical trials across the U.S. and globally.

MENASA CLINICAL RESEARCH

The first-ever clinical research site dedicated to non-traditional people of color.

MENASA JUNIOR CLINICAL RESEARCH ACADEMY

Inspiring the next generation of clinical research leaders.

MENASA CLINICAL RESEARCH REFERRAL CLUB

Empowering clinical researchers with connections, knowledge, and career support.

MENASA DIRECTORY & MAGAZINE

Showcasing the achievements of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian healthcare practitioners, building professional networks and a marketplace for their communities.

MENASA SITE NETWORK

Creating the most inclusive clinical research site network for underrepresented communities.

SPEAKER

Dr. Omar Aimer

A Leader in Pharmacovigilance, Risk Management, and Quality Assurance

Omar Aimer is a seasoned safety professional and global pharmacovigilance leader based in Montreal, Canada. He is the founder of InnoVigilance Pharma and also serves as an Executive Committee member of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP), Leader of the Medical Device Safety Special Interest Group (SIG), and President of the North American Chapter of ISoP (NASoP).

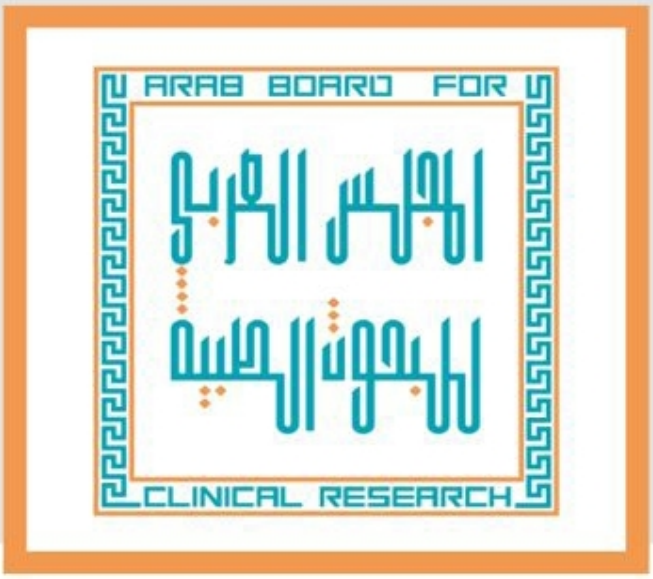
With leadership experience in regulatory and academic environments, as well as in pharmaceutical companies across Europe and Canada, he brings a comprehensive perspective to drug safety. Omar holds a degree in Pharmacy, a PhD in Pharmacology, and a Master's in Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety.

A frequent presenter at scientific forums, he is committed to advancing pharmacovigilance through the adoption of innovative technologies and the enhancement of global drug safety practices.

Leading the way in inclusive healthcare. Uniting to create a future of diversity and equity in clinical trials.

MENASA Group is a not-for-profit entity that includes six initiatives with the purpose of serving MENASA communities. We strive to serve through education, training, promotion, communication, referrals and business set ups.

menasagroup.org



Advocating for the inclusion of Arabs and Arab Americans in clinical research, staffing, education and the promotion of Decentralized Clinical Trials.

Our mission is to raise awareness about the importance of diversity in clinical trials and to supply resources and tools to help sponsors and investigators increase representation of underrepresented populations of Arab Americans and Arabs in the Arab world through best practice recruitment efforts, staffing, education and use of Decentralized Clinical trials tools.

ab4cr.com

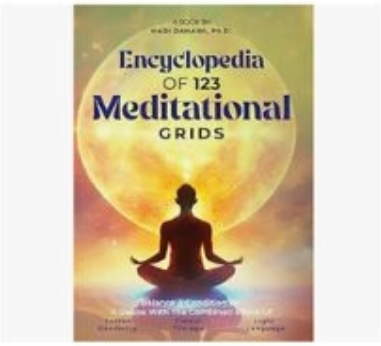
Your Zen Time

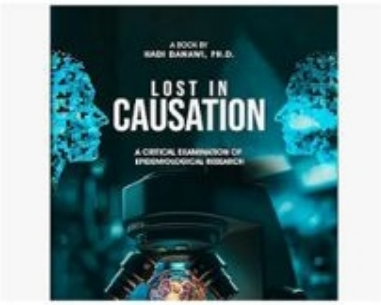
A Wellness Gift Package For Personal Transformations Blessings!

Achieve new levels with the combination of color balancing techniques, sacred geometric and embedded light language.

Indulge with the use of our 123 proprietary grids specifically and innovatively designed with YOU in mind!

YourZenTime.com





hadidanawi.com

SPEAKER

Farah Ahmad

Driving Innovation in Clinical Development, Business Strategy, and Patient Experience

Farah Ahmad, B.Sc., MBA, is a visionary leader in clinical development, business strategy, and patient experience, with over two decades of impact in healthcare and life sciences. As chairman of the board at PatientX, Inc. and executive vice president of business development at EVERSANA, she is reshaping clinical trial accessibility and commercialization strategies through innovation, patient advocacy, and operational excellence.

In 2024, she co-founded PatientX, Inc., a company dedicated to standardizing patient experience measurement in clinical trials. By addressing gaps in retention, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), she is helping bridge systemic disparities in clinical research. Through data-driven solutions and industry collaborations, she has positioned PatientX as a key player in transforming trial outcomes and patient engagement.

At EVERSANA, Farah leads commercial development, overseeing nearly half of the company's annual sales and supporting EVERSANA's COMPLETE Commercialization and Direct-to-Patient solutions. Her ability to integrate strategic vision with execution has strengthened the company's presence in small and mid-sized biopharma markets. Previously, as president of life sciences at Press Ganey, she pioneered standardized measures for patient experience in clinical trials, forming an Industry Advisory Council that set new industry benchmarks.

Her leadership at Syneos Health and Strategikon Pharma highlights her ability to drive business growth, having doubled early-phase sales at Syneos and built the sales and marketing division for Clinical Maestro, securing major pharmaceutical contracts. Recognized as one of Concordia University's Alumni 50 Under 50 in 2024, she holds an MBA from Concordia's John Molson School of Business and a B.Sc. in Honors Biochemistry from McGill University. Fluent in English, French, and German, Farah continues to lead industry transformation, advocating for patient empowerment, clinical trial innovation, and equitable healthcare solutions.

SPEAKER

Ina Burgstaller

Innovating Clinical Research Through Technology and Strategic Leadership

Ina Burgstaller, B.Sc., M.Sc., is a leader in clinical research and biopharmaceutical innovation, combining over 20 years of expertise in trial management with a passion for leveraging technology to modernize the industry. As the co-founder and CEO of Bionabu, she integrates AI and virtual reality into patient recruitment, site training, and trial execution, driving efficiency and inclusivity in clinical research. Her work spans Europe and North America, where she has helped optimize clinical trial design and implementation.

Her career includes leadership roles at global organizations like PAREXEL, Pharm-Olam, and PPD, overseeing feasibility assessments, site activation, patient enrollment, and clinical monitoring. She has worked across multiple therapeutic areas, including cardiology, oncology, endocrinology, infectious diseases, and rare diseases, addressing conditions such as chronic kidney disease, non-small cell lung cancer, amyloidosis, and COVID-19. Her ability to develop training programs, rescue struggling studies, and lead multidisciplinary teams has made her a sought-after consultant and industry expert.

Ina's dedication to healthcare extends beyond clinical trials. She has played a key role in humanitarian telehealth projects, particularly for Ukrainian refugees, and serves as a board trustee of Likarnya Online, a telemedicine initiative providing healthcare access to underserved populations. She holds a bachelor's degree in human medicine from Gomel State Medical University and a master's degree in clinical research from the University of Liverpool, where her dissertation on biotech licensing earned recognition as "Dissertation of the Year." Fluent in Russian, English, German, Belarusian, and Ukrainian, she excels in fostering international collaborations.

Through Bionabu, she continues to innovate, ensuring clinical research becomes more patient-centered, efficient, and technologically advanced. Her vision is shaping the future of clinical trials, helping bring new therapies to patients faster and with greater impact.

MENASA GROUP منصة

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICAN, SOUTH ASIAN

منصة الأقليات الطبية. پلتفرم اقلیت‌های پزشکی

طبی اقلیتی پلیٹ فارم **TIBBI AZINLIKLAR PLATFORMU**

चिकित्सा अल्पसंख्यक मंच. ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਅਲਪਸੰਖਿਆਕ ਪਲੇਟਫਾਰਮ

PRESENTS:

JUNIOR CLINICAL RESEARCH ACADEMY

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH LEADERS

Inspiring the next generation of clinical research leaders to be ambassadors in their schools and communities, preparing them for a future in clinical research.

- Hands-on Learning Opportunities in Clinical Research
- Guidance from Experienced Professionals in the Field
- Become a Community Ambassador for Clinical Research Awareness
- Build Skills for a Career in Science and Health"

EARN CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Contact us to learn how to get involved with earning volunteering hours for your school

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

JOIN US IN THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING FUTURE LEADERS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH!

To get started, contact 832-620-1210
or send an email to info@menasagroup.org

MENASA GROUP is a U.S. Federal Not-For-Profit 501 c(3) Tax Exempt Organization

SPEAKER

Nicole Holguin

A Visionary Leader in Clinical Research Operations

Nicole Holguin is a leader in clinical research operations with over a decade of experience in site management, trial execution, and team development. As co-founder and director of operations at Cornerstone Clinical Research Services, she plays a key role in optimizing site efficiency, ensuring regulatory compliance, and driving operational excellence. Her expertise spans resourcing, process innovation, and strategic growth, making her a trusted partner in the clinical research industry.

At CCRS, she leads efforts to enhance trial execution by managing teams, vendors, and systems to deliver high-quality results. She develops standardized procedures that streamline workflows, ensuring compliance with GCP, FDA, ICH, and HIPAA regulations. She also spearheads change management initiatives, guiding organizations through operational transitions with minimal disruption. Her strategic approach has helped build CCRS into a trusted partner for clinical research sites across the country.

Her career highlights include managing late-phase trials across large site networks, launching a clinical research site from scratch that grew to $3 million in annual revenue within six years, and supporting sites of all sizes in optimizing operations. She has led the adoption of Microsoft 365 and other technology solutions to enhance trial management and data integrity. Her expertise spans multiple therapeutic areas, including dermatology, cardiology, nephrology, COPD, asthma, and vaccine studies.

Recognized for her leadership, she has received the DaVita Core Value Awards for Fulfillment and Continuous Improvement. She is passionate about mentoring emerging leaders and fostering collaboration within the industry. Through her work at CCRS, she is transforming clinical site operations to ensure efficiency, accessibility, and patient-centered care, positioning the organization at the forefront of clinical research innovation.


"THIS SUMMIT IS A GROUNDBREAKING STEP TOWARDS A MORE FOCUSED CLINICAL RESEARCH AGENDA"
DR. HADI DANAWI, PH. D


MENASA منصة
BECOME A
SPONSOR
Support MENASA's goals for more representation in the future of medicine.
Showcase your brand to a targeted audience, gain visibility, and demonstrate your commitment to increase awareness and participation in a more culturally competent clinical trial landdscape
menasagroup.org.
menasasummit.net

SPEAKER

Dr. Preeti Dhaania

A Trailblazer in Clinical Research and Operational Strategy

Dr. Preeti Dhaania, MBBS, is a physician and clinical research professional with expertise in site development, operational strategy, and patient-centered research. As co-founder and director of site development at Cornerstone Clinical Research Services, she has played a key role in expanding the organization into a multi-site research service business. Her leadership focuses on optimizing clinical operations, enhancing site performance, and ensuring regulatory compliance while fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability.

Her clinical research journey began as a clinical research coordinator at a small Las Vegas site, where she gained experience in patient recruitment, data monitoring, and protocol adherence. She later joined DaVita Clinical Research, rising to senior regional clinical research coordinator, where she managed multiple sites and high-priority trials across nephrology, cardiology, and oncology. Her expertise spans study execution, team leadership, collaboration with investigators and sponsors, and site start-up. She has successfully launched new sites and exceeded performance targets, ensuring the seamless execution of clinical studies.

Before transitioning fully into clinical research, she worked as an area leader and business consultant for 7-Eleven, Inc., managing ten franchise locations. Her business acumen helped drive revenue growth, improve operational efficiency, and implement digital transformation initiatives. She increased merchandise sales, exceeded net earnings targets, and earned recognition as Rookie of the Year.

She earned her MBBS degree from Gian Sagar Medical College and Hospital in India, where she gained hands-on experience in internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics. Her ability to integrate medical expertise with business strategy has made her a leader in clinical research operations. Through her work at CCRS, she continues to drive innovation, expand research opportunities, and improve clinical trial accessibility while prioritizing efficiency and quality.

HOST

WORKSHOP

Jess Thompson

CEO & Founder of Clinical Research Project Management Association

Jess Thompson is the CEO & Founder of Clinical Research Project Management Association. Driven by her passion for the well-being and professional development of Clinical Research Project Managers (CRPMs), Jess established the Association of Clinical Research Project Managers (ACRPM) to bridge the gap between industry demands and the personal and professional growth of CRPMs. With years of hands-on experience in the field, she has witnessed firsthand the intense pressures, long hours, and high-stakes responsibilities that often lead to burnout, stress, and career stagnation.

Understanding these challenges, ACRPM's mission is to provide comprehensive education, professional development, and career advancement opportunities tailored specifically for CRPMs. Through expert-led training programs, mentorship initiatives, and access to cutting-edge industry insights, ACRPM equips its members with the knowledge and tools needed to excel in their roles while preparing for future leadership positions.

Beyond professional growth, Jess recognizes that CRPMs are the backbone of clinical research operations, yet their mental, emotional, and physical well-being is frequently overlooked. To address this, ACRPM is dedicated to fostering a supportive community where CRPMs can connect, share experiences, and uplift one another. The organization also prioritizes health and wellness initiatives by offering specialized resources, including stress management techniques, mindfulness workshops, work-life balance strategies, and personalized self-care practices. These initiatives are designed to combat burnout and ensure that CRPMs thrive not only in their careers but also in their personal lives.

By championing a culture of well-being and recognition, Jess is on a mission to redefine the role of CRPMs in the clinical research industry—ensuring they are valued as whole individuals, not just as facilitators of project delivery. Through ACRPM, she strives to empower CRPMs to reach their full potential, cultivating a future where their contributions are acknowledged, their voices are heard, and their well-being is prioritized.

APPNA

Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America

APPNA *as a family*

Raffia Qutab, MD

Liaison Committee Chair Dr. Raffia Qutab and her team excitingly want to share a joint venture between **APPNA** and **MENASA** group (Middle Eastern, North African and South Asian) promoting the inclusion of Non- Traditional People of Color **(NTPOC)** in US and global clinical trials landscape.

Dr. Raffia Qutab is committed to expand APPNA's influence by forging affiliations with key organizations such as the AMA and MENASA to drive active participation in advocacy, policy, academics, and research.

The purpose of this collaboration is to bridge the inclusion gap in clinical research for MENASA and APPNA population through legislation, partnerships, and advocacy.

This collaboration between APPNA and MENASA signifies a pivotal step towards enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical research, academia, and healthcare innovation for underrepresented communities.

Under leadership of President Humeraa Qamar, MD, the Liaison Committee has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MENASA Group to boost the professional and academic growth of APPNA. This will support a shared vision for inclusion and diversity in academia and research.

Liaison committee's philosophy this year is to strengthen APPNA's vision by building bridges with like minded organizations. The APPNA and MENASA groups jointly seek to drive meaningful social change and global impact.

This collaborations in turn will lead to:

1. **Greater representation of HCPs (Healthcare Professionals) from MENASA communities in research and academia**
2. **Advocate systemic changes to increase representation of MENASA populations in clinical trials, funding for minority health initiatives, and support for policies promoting health equity.**
3. **Improved external validity of study results ensuring inclusivity in clinical trials.**
4. **Enhanced Community Engagement and Outreach through APPNA's strong network of physicians and its influence in North America can complement MENASA's initiatives in engaging communities.**

In near future, Liaison Committee and MENASA collaboratively will be reaching out to different committees and local chapters of APPNA to have joint sessions and discussions to bring awareness in this field and providing a platform for high school and medical students in USA and abroad to know the importance of this very crucial subject.

For more information, visit
https://menasasummit.net/about-the-summit

HOST

WORKSHOP

Dr. Danial Hassan

Leading Expertise in Pharmacovigilance and Clinical Research

Dr. Danial Hassan is a medical doctor and pharmacovigilance specialist with over a decade of experience in drug safety, clinical research, and regulatory compliance. As Compliance Officer at the Revival Research Institute in Southfield, Michigan, he leads quality assurance, risk management, and regulatory adherence across 18 clinical research sites, ensuring operational excellence in diverse therapeutic areas, including cardiology, oncology, internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics.

Dr. Hassan has built and managed a Compliance Department with 21 professionals, implementing SOPs, audit readiness programs, and regulatory frameworks that have strengthened FDA, GCP, and industry-standard compliance. His training programs for clinical research coordinators and quality assurance staff have enhanced protocol adherence, data integrity, and patient safety. Under his leadership, the Revival Research Institute has successfully navigated FDA audits, demonstrating excellence in clinical trial oversight.

Previously, as Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance Specialist at MediPharm Solutions, Dr. Hassan monitored adverse events (AEs), serious adverse events (SAEs), and suspected unexpected serious adverse reactions (SUSARs) using Oracle Argus and ArisG. His expertise in safety reporting, medical coding, and risk management planning ensures compliance with global regulatory standards, safeguarding patient well-being throughout the drug development lifecycle.

Clinical Practice and Public Health Advocacy

Dr. Hassan has extensive clinical experience from Dr. Moopen Aster Hospital in Dubai, where he managed ICU, NICU, and emergency cases while performing advanced medical procedures. As a Medical Monitoring Specialist for the Ministry of Public Health, he contributed to patient safety policies, adverse event investigations, and competency evaluations, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Hassan holds a Master of Science in Clinical Research from Dresden University and certifications from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His research on psychosocial risk factors in cardiovascular disease highlights his commitment to evidence-based medicine. Through his leadership in pharmacovigilance, clinical research, and compliance, Dr. Hassan is shaping a safer, more transparent healthcare system that prioritizes patient safety and regulatory excellence.

HOST

WORKSHOP

Joshua Webber

Innovating Clinical Research Access and Project Management in Healthcare

Joshua Webber is a healthcare innovator and project management professional committed to transforming clinical research access through technology and education. As the founder and CEO of the Clinical Research Learning Network, he has developed a platform that provides low-cost, multilingual training modules for clinical sites, students, and patients. His work focuses on expanding access to clinical research education, ensuring inclusivity, and empowering participants with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about trial involvement.

With extensive experience in clinical research project management, he has held key roles at Massive Bio, Inc., Quotient Sciences, Sanguine Biosciences, and Elligo Health Research. At Massive Bio, he developed comprehensive project plans, managed risk, and applied Agile and Waterfall methodologies to streamline project delivery. At Quotient Sciences, he successfully managed multi-cohort phase 1 clinical trials with budgets up to $10 million, coordinating cross-functional teams to ensure projects remained on schedule. His tenure at Sanguine Biosciences involved overseeing translational studies and clinical trial projects across domestic and international markets, while at Elligo Health Research, he contributed to workflow improvements, team training, and the development of new operational roles.

His expertise includes clinical trial operations, process improvement, and project management methodologies. He holds Lean Six Sigma White and Yellow Belt certifications and has completed the Google Project Management Certificate, equipping him with both traditional and agile project management skills.

Joshua Webber envisions a clinical research landscape that is more accessible and inclusive. Through his leadership in education and site training, he is creating opportunities for diverse communities to engage in clinical research, making a lasting impact on healthcare accessibility and patient empowerment.

HOST

WORKSHOP

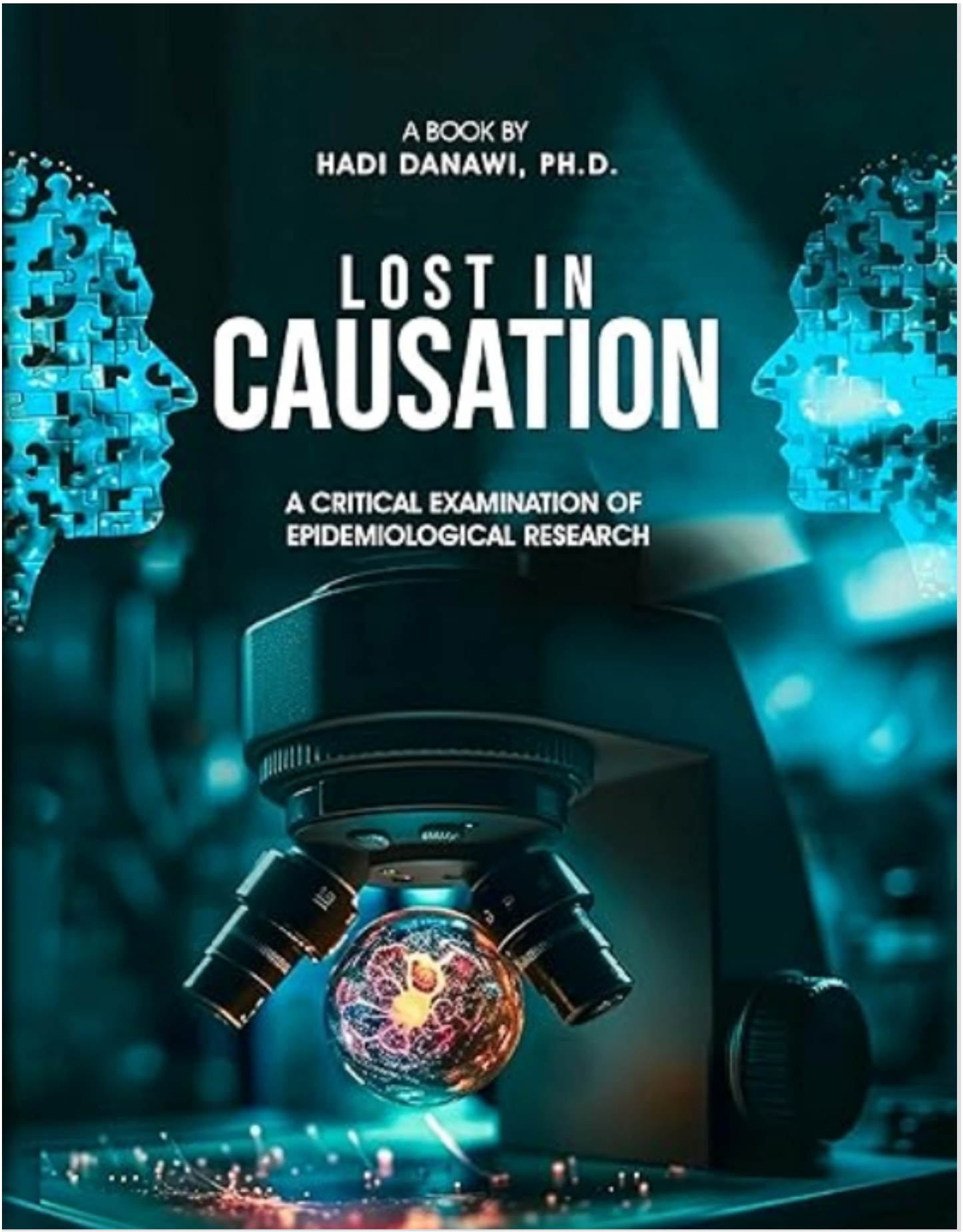
Barry Holmes Jr.

Journey of Resilience, Service, and Advocacy in Healthcare

Barry Holmes Jr., a remarkable individual with a diverse background, stands as a testament to resilience and achievement. A Navy war veteran serving 2 tours in Iraq, “Iraq and Enduring Freedom,” and a retired basketball player, his journey has been about dedication, discipline, and strong faith.

Career in healthcare began in 2012 garnering a medical assistant degree. Applying these skills, he acquired a contract clinical research assistant position at a small private practice. Engaging patients and learning real-time skills like how to understand and engage patients, learning the hardships and adversities they deal with daily in regard to their own and their families healthcare, it was the insight that was needed to realize the need for change in the healthcare industry. During this time he met his now fiancee, Gayna Whitaker, who is also the CEO of Genesis Medical Research Group. Her background of 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry, working in many major pharmaceutical companies, gave her insight into pharma’s “gaps” and lack of understanding of not only patient’s needs, but the needs of the sites serving the patients. It is from their tenure, knowledge, and wisdom they’ve been blessed with from their individual journey’s, that Genesis Medical Research Group was born.

Currently completing a degree in Business Strategy and Development, Barry serves as the Vice President of Genesis Medical Research Group. Co-authoring the diversity training platform that serves more than 500 learners currently, with more than 100 graduates of the curriculum. His journey that has taken him around the world, has allowed him insight into people, not just African Americans, and the ability to understand and communicate the awareness that clinical research professionals and patients both need to bridge the gap from the lack of trust that exists between the two, due to the many atrocities from the past, and the lack of knowledge and understanding of the laws and practices in place now to protect patients ensuring the past never repeats itself.


A BOOK BY
HADI DANAWI, PH.D.
LOST IN
CAUSATION
A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

HOST

WORKSHOP

Alisha Moore

Transforming Clinical Research Through Accessibility, Education, and Innovation

Alisha Moore is a visionary leader in clinical research, healthcare laboratory operations, and in-vitro diagnostics (IVD) with over 20 years of expertise in the field. As the CEO of Clinical Science Research Solutions, LLC, she is dedicated to bridging the gap between clinical trials and underrepresented communities while empowering healthcare professionals to transition successfully into the clinical research industry.

Passionate about expanding diversity in clinical trials, Alisha has made it her mission to introduce research opportunities to research-naive and underserved populations. Her groundbreaking efforts are reshaping the clinical trial landscape, ensuring that medical advancements are accessible to all, regardless of geographical or socioeconomic barriers.

With a background in clinical trial management, regulatory compliance, and laboratory sciences, Alisha has played a pivotal role in developing strategic partnerships with pharmaceutical companies, healthcare institutions, and research organizations. Her expertise extends beyond clinical research operations—she is also a sought-after speaker, mentor, and advocate for diversity and inclusion in medical research.

As a champion for health equity, Alisha actively works to educate communities and healthcare professionals about the importance of clinical research participation. Through her leadership, she continues to pave the way for a more inclusive, patient-centered approach to scientific discovery, ensuring that innovation reaches those who need it most.

HELP US BUILD THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

With your support and contribution, together we can work towards creating pathways for greater inclusivity in clinical trials.

The goals of our first global summit:

- Increase awareness among Non-Traditional People of Color about clinical research
- Advocate for the inclusion of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asians in the U.S. and globally in clinical research
- Connect, offer opportunities to train and certify healthcare professionals to become principal investigators in clinical research
- Provide feasibility studies and help with trials award

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

Responding to OMB directive 15

Responding to FDA DAP calls

Transforming Healthcare Equity for MENASA Communities

****Recognized MENA as a distinct demographic:****
Historic inclusion in 2030 U.S. Census via OMB Directive 15.

****Shaped FDA's Diversity Action Plan:****
MENASA now required in clinical trial subgroup analyses.

****Advancing personalized medicine:****
Better safety and efficacy profiles for MENASA populations.

****Mission:****
Equity, representation, and inclusion in global healthcare.

Join the Movement | Advocate for Change | Impact Lives

Professor Hadi Danawi, Ph.D.

The MENASA Group was founded on the historic groundwork of advocacy and action that led to the recognition of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) individuals as a distinct demographic category under OMB Directive 15, a milestone that will be reflected in the 2030 U.S. Census. Our efforts are also playing a key role in shaping the FDA's Diversity Action Plan, ensuring that MENA populations are included in clinical trials as a required subgroup for analysis. These critical advancements aim to improve the external validity of clinical trial findings, support the development of personalized medicine, and ensure safer and more effective medicinal profiles tailored to the MENA populations and South Asians communities as well.

At its core, the Middle Eastern, North Africans and South Asians (MENASA) Group is about building a future where representation leads to better outcomes. We champion participation in healthcare and research to address systemic gaps, improve drug safety for underserved populations, and create meaningful pathways for inclusion. By aligning public health goals with impactful innovation, we are laying the foundation for a healthcare system that not only acknowledges the unique needs of MENASA communities but ensures their voices shape the solutions of tomorrow.

The MENASA Group is on a groundbreaking mission to revolutionize healthcare equity by addressing the glaring underrepresentation of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) communities in clinical trials and healthcare systems. Our purpose is simple yet transformative: to ensure that people from these diverse backgrounds have a voice, access, and representation in medical research and innovation. By connecting minority patients with culturally and linguistically aligned physicians, empowering underrepresented doctors to lead clinical trials, and fostering sustainable healthcare ecosystems, we are building a future where health equity is no longer an ideal but a reality.

Our vision is bold yet clear: to create an inclusive global healthcare landscape where every patient, regardless of their ethnicity, is represented, valued, and served. Through initiatives like the MENASA Summit, a network of minority-focused clinical research sites, and a vibrant community-driven magazine, we are driving awareness, sparking partnerships, and inspiring change. MENASA Group is not just about healthcare - it's about creating a movement that celebrates diversity, fuels innovation, and transforms lives. Together, we aim to rewrite the narrative and leave an indelible mark on global health equity.

Bringing Your Vision to Life
With Creativity & Precision

We turn ideas into stunning visuals that captivate and inspire. Specializing in:

- **Business Consulting**
- **Digital Marketing**
- **Graphic Design**
- **Social Media**
- **Web Design**
- **Google SEO & SEM**
- **Event Organization**
- **Video Creation & Editing**

promo ads
Advertising • Marketing

Division of

Increase your sales with our new AI Operator:

- Booking Appointments
- Generating Qualified Leads
- Taking Orders
- Notifying Team Members
- Providing Customer Support
- Offering Product Information
- Taking Messages
- Engaging in Conversations

promo group
International LLC

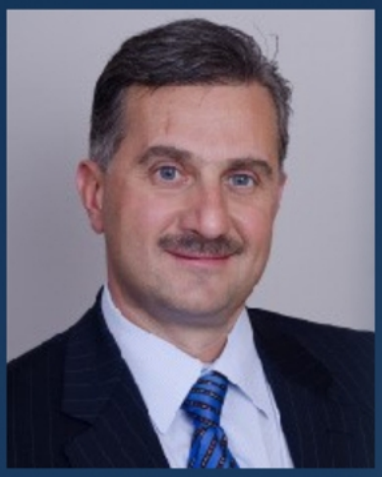
ACT NOW
UP TO 25%OFF

(346) 412-3282 info@promoads.org promoads.org

Millennium Physicians

Quality Care Close To Home

Dr. Samer S. Suki



Dr. Pierre N Khoury

Millennium Physicians has served the Greater North Houston area for the last 20 years offering the highest quality of care in the following specialties:

Medical Oncology & Hematology

Radiation Oncology

Diagnostic Services

Pharmacy

Research