

4th Interdisciplinary

World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Innovation - Collaboration - Transformation

CONGRESS BOOKLET

Faculty of Medicine “Ibn Al-Jazzar”

Sousse, Tunisia

April 13-16, 2026

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4th. Interdisciplinary World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region

This Congress will continue our mission of promoting impactful health research, fostering institutional collaboration, and shaping solutions for global and regional health challenges. Professionals, educators, and policy-makers from over 25 countries across five continents will use this powerful platform to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and create sustainable health strategies.

ORGANIZED BY



Global Health Research
Management & Solutions



University of Sousse



Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar

Congress Host

Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar was founded in 1974 and named after the renowned 10th-century physician Ibn Al-Jazzar. It is a leading medical institution with over 6,000 students and 600 faculty, it offers top-tier medical and doctoral education meeting Tunisia's clinical excellence and research needs in public health, community medicine, and tropical diseases.



Why in the MENA Region?

Healthcare delivery systems in the Arab World and the MENA Region are facing unique challenges including regional conflicts, research underfunding, healthcare disparities and climate change. This Congress is a platform for strategic action, allowing these countries to lead their own health agendas with global support.

Why Attend?

- **Engage Global Experts** in public health policy, climate health threats, chronic and communicable diseases, AI in healthcare, and mental health.
- **Network with local and International Leaders**
- **Enhance Your Skills** by attending workshops on:
 - Biostatistics
 - Motivational interviewing
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Mental health
 - Research funding and publication
- **Participate in High-Impact Sessions** e.g. plenary sessions, panels, workshops, and strategic fora



Congress Themes

- Global collaboration in mental health
- Chronic & communicable disease prevention
- Climate change & health
- Artificial intelligence in health systems
- Community engagement in health research
- Health systems in conflict-affected regions

Congress Scientific Venue

Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar, Sousse University, Tunisia's premier medical institution with a legacy of excellence in education and research.

Accommodation

5-star luxury at Mövenpick Resort & Marine Spa Sousse, offering Mediterranean beachfront access, pools, and spa facilities. The hotel package includes:

- Lodging in a deluxe sea front room
- All meals during congress days
- Gala Dinners
- Transportation to/from congress scientific venue
- Welcome reception

Who Should Attend?

Over 500 participants are expected, providing outstanding networking and collaboration opportunities. The Congress is intended for:

- Maternal and child health
- Simulation-based health education
- Policy-informed research & publication
- Research funding and capacity building
- Student exchange & interdisciplinary education
- Academics
- Practitioners
- Researchers and Scientists
- Healthcare Educators
- NGOs
- Students
- Public health professionals
- Mental health Professionals
- Dentists
- Epidemiologists
- Nurses
- Pharmacists



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SPEAKERS

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

AND LOGOS

SPEAKERS

Aline Germani MPH	Director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Instructor of Health Management and Policy at AUB	American University of Beirut-Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Jihad (Judy) Makhoul	Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health at AUB	American University of Beirut-Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Abla Mehio Sibai	Professor of Epidemiology and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB	American University of Beirut-Faculty of Health Sciences
Joumana Kalot MPH	Instructor of Public Health Practice, Affiliate of the Department of Health Promotion & Community Health	American University of Beirut-Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Robert Otok	Managing Director	Global Network for Academic Public Health
Dr. Henrique Barros	Professor of Epidemiology and President of the Institute of Public Health	Global Network for Academic Public Health
Haneen Taweel MPH	Public Health Researcher specializing in Nutrition and Epidemiology	Birzeit University
Dr. Mouhanad Hammami	President and CEO of Global Health Consultants and Global Public Health Leader	County of Santa Barbara Health
Dr. Adnan Hammad	President & CEO of Global Health Research, Management & Solutions and Adjunct Clinical Professor	Global Health Research Management and Solutions
Dr. Laura Magaña	Founding President, Global Network for Academic Public Health President & CEO, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health	Global Network for Academic Public Health

Dr. Mohamed Ben Dhiab	Professor of Forensic Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Abba Wakil	Professor of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Mental Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences	University of Maiduguri, Nigeria
Dr. Adelard Kakunze	Technical Officer and Lead of the Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Unit	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
Dr. Ahmed Loghmari	Assistant Professor of Urology, Associate Vice-Dean for Research and Expertise Valorization	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Amina Aounallah	Professor of Dermatology, Vice-Dean for Clinical Affairs	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Amira Zairi	Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Head of the Department of Basic Sciences A	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Asma Zorgati	Professor of Emergency Medicine and Vice-Dean for Partnership and International Cooperation	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Saoussen Layouni	Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Associate Vice-Dean of Information and Communication Technology	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Abir Romdhani	PhD Student in Healthcare Sciences and Emerging Health Researcher	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

John Zervos JD	Executive Director, Henry Ford Health System Global Health Initiative	Henry Ford Health
Dr. Jed Magen	Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry	Michigan State University
Dr. Rebecca Malouin	Associate Dean, Global Health and Director, Institute for Global Health	Michigan State University Global Health Institute
Yasmine Oussama Attia	Research Associate	Qatar University
Dr. David Bishai	Clinical Professor of Public Health and Director of the School of Public Health	School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong
Dr. Ken Resnicow	Professor Emeritus of Health Behavior and Health Equity	University of Minnesota and University of Michigan
Dr. Jane Meza	Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor in the Department of Biostatistics	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Iqbal Ahmad	Professor and Associate Dean, University of Nebraska Medical Center	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Katie Willet	Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Security Clinical Fellowship Program Director	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Matthew Rizzo	Reynolds Professor and Chair of Neurological Sciences, and Director of the Mind & Brain Health Laboratories	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Ali Ghassani	Physician and Public Health Specialist	AMEL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Bochra Saguem	Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Chair of the International Partnership Committee	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Chanez Makni	Assistant professor of Forensic Medicine	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Fatma Ben Fredj	Professor of Internal Medicine, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital Sahloul, Sousse	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Hamed Chouaieb	Associate professor of Parasitology - Mycology	Faculty of Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Hassan Farhat	Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York
Dr. Helmi Ben Saad	Professor of Physiology and Functional Explorations, consultant	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Helmi MARDASSI	Professor of Microbiology, General Director, Unit for the Management of Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programs	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Tunisia
Dr. Hichem ROMDHANI	Chief of the International Relations Office and Senior Administrative Officer	University of Sousse
Dr. Iheb Ghariani	Medical Doctor (General Practitioner and Geriatrician) President of the Tunisian Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology (STGG)	Private medical practice in Tunis
Dr. Ismail Dergaa	Biological Sciences: Sports medicine and Exercise Science. (M.Sc) Exercise Physiology and Exercise Biomechanics, Professor (Assistant)	High Institute of Sport and Physical Education, University of Manouba

Dr. Diana Maddah	Assistant Professor of Public Health	Qatar University
Dr. Dinah Ayna	Instructor of Clinical Specialty at AUBMC and Mental Health Consultant at UPA	American University of Beirut and United Palestenian Appeal
Dr. Farha Abbasi	Assistant Professor of Psychiatry; Director, Muslim Mental Health Consortium	Michigan State University
Dr. Georgina Aoun Nouime	Assistant Professor of Medicine and Board Certified Hospitalist Physician	UMass Chan Medical School
Dr. Hanan Abdul Rahim	Dean, College of Health Sciences; Public Health Research Leader	Qatar University
Dr. Hassan Bencheqroun	Professor of Economics	Department of Economics at McGill University in Montréal
Dr. Hassan Fehmi	Service Chief, Nephrology & Hypertension; Senior Staff Physician	Henry Ford Hospital
Dr. Iman Nuwayhid	Professor of Public Health; Former Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences	American University of Beirut
Dr. Jad Jadallah	Director of the Arab American Orthopedics Center	Premier Specialty Hospital in the West Bank, Palestine
Dr. Jiab Suleiman	Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon	Premier Orthopedics, Dearborn, MI
Dr. John Lowe	Director, Global Center for Health Security, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Health Security Training and Education	University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health

Dr. Sabri Belgacem	Founder/Head of the Tunisian Association for the Defence of the Right to Health	Independent public health expert and civil society leader
Dr. Sihem Hmissa	Professor of Pathology and Director of the Doctoral School of Health Sciences	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Soraya Seedat	Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Executive Head of the Department of Psychiatry	Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Dr. Soumaya Mougou	Professor of cytogenetics, Histology and Embryology , Vice-Dean for Research and Expertise Valorization	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Taiwo Lateef Sheikh	Professor of Psychiatry	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria
Dr. Wejdene Mansour	Associate Professor of Microbiology	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Ahlem Mtiraoui	Professor of Psychiatry, Chair of the Committee on Research Structures, Head of the Department of Community Health B	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Ahmed MAALEL	Associate Professor in Computer Science, Regional Representative for EURAXESS Africa, IEEE Senior Member, President & Co-founder of the Association of Scientific	Higher Institute of Applied Science and Technology of Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Ambroise Wonkam	Professor of Genetic Medicine, Director of the McKusick Nathans Institute and Department of Genetic Medicine	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dr. Kristine Ajrouch	Research Professor in the Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research	University of Michigan
Dr. Kwalombota Kwalombota	Public Health Specialist	(Alumnus of) Queen Margaret University, UK
Dr. Linda Jaber	Professor of Pharmacy Practice	Wayne State University
Dr. Mary Kay Smith	Director of the Learning and Assessment Center (LAC) and Assistant Professor	Michigan State University
Dr. May Yassine Darwish	Chief Program Officer	Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)
Dr. Mona Makki	Director, Community Health and Research Center	ACCESS
Dr. Nawar Shara	Founding Director, AI CoLab and Chief of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Applications	Georgetown University
Dr. Paul Kilgore	Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Director of Research	Wayne State University
Dr. Phil Levy	Co Director, Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases	Wayne State University
Dr. Renee Canady	Assistant Vice President for Translational Sciences and CI Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)
Dr. Rima Habib	Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health	American University of Beirut

Dr. Bassem Charfeddine	Professor of Clinical Biochemistry, Director of the Higher School of Health Sciences and Techniques of Sousse	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Carol Labor	Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Global Mental Health Expert	Women's Wellness Institute
Dr. Neila Fathallah	Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Hassen Ghannem	Professor of Preventive and Community Medicine, Former Head of the Department of Epidemiology	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Imed Chouchene	Professor of Medical Intensive Care and Vice-Dean for Professoral Affairs, Medical Education and Professional Development	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Jean Claude Mbanya	Professor of Medicine, Postgraduate Dean of Doctoral School of Life, Health and Environmental Science	Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
Dr. Jessica Smith	Professor of Anthropology and Dean's Fellow for Earth and Society Programs	Colorado School of Mines, Engineering, Design & Society Department
Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya	Consultant Physician (specialized in Internal Medicine/Endocrinology) and Chief Executive Officer	Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Dr. Lamia Chenik	Medical Doctor and Health Policy & Quality Expert	Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies
Dr. Latifa Lassoued	Professor & Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Reproductive Medicine & Medical Education	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Dr. Sally Villaseñor	Assistant Clinical Professor at the College of Nursing	Wayne State University
Dr. Sam Mossallam	Vice President and Medical Director, International	Henry Ford Health System
Dr. Shane Quinonez	Initiatives Clinical Geneticist and Pediatrician (MD)	University of Michigan Health System
Dr. Victoria Wadman	Emergency Medicine Physician	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Naiema Taliep	Associate Professor and Senior Researcher	University of South Africa
Dr. Ghouwa Ismail	Senior Researcher	University of South Africa
Seneca James	PhD Candidate	University of South Africa
Nicole Rinquest	Research Intern	University of South Africa
Najuwa Arendse	Program Manager	University of South Africa
Dr. Jason Langenfeld	Program Director, Emergency Medicine	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dr. Abir Romdhani	PhD Student in Healthcare Sciences and Emerging Health Researcher	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Dr. Nadia Ghariani	Associate Professor of Dermatology, Chair of the Committee for Master's Programs and Continuing Education Certificates	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Neirouz Ghannouchi	Professor of Internal Medicine, Director of the Medical Education Training Center	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Radhouane Gouiaa	Specialist in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Member of the European Academy for Medicine of Ageing	Polyclinique CNSS, Sfax, Tunisia
Dr. Rym Benkhalifa	Research Group leader at the Laboratory of Biomolecules, Venoms and Theranostic Applications, and Biosafety/ Biosecurity Coordinator	Pasteur Institute of Tunis
Dr. Sahbi Mtaouaa	Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Head of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Kairouan	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Sihem Ben Fredj	Associate Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Wael Garnaoui	Clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor Associate	Higher School of Health Sciences and Techniques, University of Sousse
Dr. Wejdene Mansour	Associate Professor of Microbiology Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Olfa Bouallegue	Professor of Microbiology, Vice-President of the University of Sousse, UNESCO Chair Holder	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Rim Ghammam	Associate Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine, Chair of Ethics Committee	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Dr. Aline Saad	Director, Faculty Development, Coordinator, Interprofessional Education, Associate Professor of Pharmacy	Wayne State University
Dr. Vijaya Arun Kumar	Professor and Director of Research in Emergency Medicine	Wayne State University School of Medicine
Dr. Abdullatif Hussein	Professor of Public Health and Director of the Institute of Community and Public Health	Birzeit University
Dr. Akihiro Seita	Director of Health and WHO Special Representative	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
Dr. Ashish Joshi	Dean and Distinguished University Professor of the School of Public Health	University of Memphis
Dr. Basim Dubaybo	Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs	Wayne State University
Dr. Cynthia Arfken	Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences	Wayne State University
Dr. Robert Malinkowski	Assistant Professor of Medical Education and Associate Director of Assessment	Michigan State University
Dr. Rouba Ali-Fehmi	Professor and Vice Chair of Pathology; Director, Surgical Pathology Fellowship	University of Michigan
Dr. Sabri Belgacem	Founder/Head of the Tunisian Association for the Defence of the Right to Health	Independent public health expert and civil society leader
Dr. Salim Adib	Professor of Public Health Practice	American University of Beirut

Jeannie Leesman MPH	Principal Member of Technical Staff	Sandia Laboratories New Mexico USA
Dr. Jihed Anoun	Associate Professor of Internal Medicine	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Jorge Batista Da Rocha	Specialist in Pharmacogenomics and Bioinformatics Capacity Building, Ensembl Outreach Project Leader,	European Bioinformatics InstituteTeam at EMBL EBI in Cambridge, UK
Dr. Khaled Maaref	Professor of Anatomy and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Lilia Cheniti	Associate Professor in Computer Science and Head of the Pedagogical Innovation and Digital Learning Unit	Higher Institute of Computer Sciences and Communication Technologies, University of Sousse
Dr. Makhlouf Belguith	Professor of Medical Intensive Care	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Manel Stambouli	Assistant Professor of Psychiatry	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Meriam Ghardallou	Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine, Phd	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Mohamed Boussarsar	Professor of Intensive Care Medicine, Head of Intensive Care Unit, University Hospital Farhat Hached, Sousse	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Mohammed Abdulaziz	Head of NCDs, Injuries and Mental Health Division	Africa CDC
Dr. Nizar Naouar	Anesthesiology	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr wissal Rouabah	cardiac surgeon	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Dr. Leila KNANI	Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Continuing Professional Development	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Lotfi Belkacem	Professor, Quantitative Methods, Director, Lab for Economy, Management & Quantitative Finance (LaREMFiq)	University of Sousse
Dr. Maha Ben Fredj	Professor of Biophysics and Nuclear Medicine, Vice-Dean for Information Technology and Communication	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Maher Maoua	Professor of Occupational Medicine, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Mary Nyamongo	Founder Director and Technical Adviser	African Institute for Health and Development, Nairobi, Kenya
Dr. Amal Daly	Assistant professor of Forensic Medicine	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr. Mohamed Zahir	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied sciences	Dar Essalem Tanzania
Dr. Naeem Dalal	Mental Health Specialist and Psychiatrist	Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI)
Abdel Raheem Taha	Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Amar Alserkal	Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dana Driss	Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Imane Rho Unbazi	Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Moulay Selmane	Medical Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Raoudha Touzi	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Anissa Ouahchi	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Nadia Amara	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Chaima Sridi	Phd Student, Assistant Professor of occupational Medicine	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Ghaya ben Khelifa	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Meriem Mtibâa	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Taha Mâatoug	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Ikram Jendoubi	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Rayâan Hasni	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Asma Hamdouni	Phd Student	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse
Dr, Nabiha Missaoui	Associate Professor, Phd	Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Sousse, University of Sousse

Local Coordinators

WORKSHOP 1	Dr. Rim Ghammam
WORKSHOP 2	Dr. Bochra Saguem
WORKSHOP 3	Pr Ahlem Mtiraoui
WORKSHOP 4	Pr. Imed Chouchene
WORKSHOP 5	Pr. Amira Zairi
WORKSHOP 6	Pr. Imed Chouchene
WORKSHOP 7	Pr. Asma Zorgati
WORKSHOP 8	Drs. Chahnez Makni and Amal Ben Daly
WORKSHOP 9	Pr. Mariem Ghardallou

Participating Institutions

Africa CDC – Africa Center for Disease Control, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
AmEL – AmEL Association, Lebanon
AUB – American University of Beirut, Faculty of Health Sciences, Beirut, Lebanon
Arab ACCESS – Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Dearborn, MI, USA
ASPHER – Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, Brussels, Belgium
BZU – Birzeit University, Palestine
CDU – Chouaib Doukkali University, Casablanca, Morocco
County Health – County of Santa Barbara Health, CA, USA
FMS – Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar, Sousse, Tunisia
FPHM – Faculty of Pharmacy, Monastir University, Tunisia
GU – Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA
GHRMS – Global Health Research, Management & Solutions, USA
GNAPH – Global Network for Academic Public Health
HFH – Henry Ford Health, Detroit, MI, USA
ILMA – International Lebanese Medical Association
MPHI – Michigan Public Health Institute
MSU – Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA
NAAMA – National Arab American Medical Association, MI, USA
QU – Qatar University, Doha, Qatar
HKU – The University of Hong Kong, China
UofM SPH – The University of Memphis School of Public Health, TN, USA
UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
UPA – United Palestinian Appeal, USA
UA – University of Alexandria, Egypt
UOM – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
UMN – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA
ISPP – University of Porto, Portugal
UNMC – University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA
UNISA – University of South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
WSU – Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA
WHO – World Health Organization, Tunis

Congress Organizers and Partners

Ministry of Health - Tunisia



Scientific Patrons



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on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Innovation - Collaboration - Transformation

**CONGRESS AT A GLANCE
AND SESSIONS BY DAY**



The Faculty of Medicine of Sousse (FMSO) Floor plan



Meeting Rooms by Color Code



	April 13, 2026	April 14, 2026	April 15, 2026	April 16, 2026					
08:30 AM	<p>WS 2 : - Introduction to Motivational Interviewing: A Skills-based 1 day workshop</p> <p>WS 1 : Biostatistics</p> <p>WS 7 : Inter-professional Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Response</p>	<p>Plenary A - Reflections on Public Health Research and Education Challenges in the Arab World</p>	<p>Plenary C - Epidemiology and Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases in Africa.</p>	<p>WS 9 - Public Health Instruction for the MENA Region - Delivering Essential Public Health Functions</p>					
10:00 AM				<p>Podium Presentations 1</p>	<p>Podium Presentations 2</p>	<p>Podium Presentations 3</p>			
10:30 AM							<p>PANEL XIII - From Classroom to Community: Faculty, Student, and Community Perspectives on Community-Engaged Teaching to Advance Public Health Practice</p>	<p>PANEL XIV - Health Research at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse: Highlights from research Laboratories and Doctoral School</p>	<p>PANEL XV - Health Security: Implementation of Clinical Fellowship and Impacts of Year One Training For Featther Health Preparedness</p>
12:00 PM							<p>LUNCH and POSTER PRESENTATIONS</p>		
01:30 PM	<p>WS 4 - Competency-Based Education (CBE)</p> <p>WS 8 - Ethical Responsibility in Biomedical Research</p> <p>WS 5 - Parallel Medicine: Phytotherapy and Acupuncture</p> <p>WS 6 - Adult ECMO</p>	<p>PANEL I - Migration and Health</p> <p>PANEL II - Precision Medicine Equity and Accessibility</p> <p>PANEL III - AI in the Arab World Challenge and Achievements</p> <p>PANEL VII - Preparing the Public Health Workforce to be Health Diplomats</p> <p>PANEL VIII - International training programs and best practices for Learners</p> <p>PANEL IX - Mental Health Disorders and Mental Health Promotion in Africa</p>	<p>Podium Presentations 1</p> <p>Expert Presentations 1</p> <p>Podium Presentations 2 (FMS)</p> <p>Podium Presentations 1 (FMS)</p>	<p>Podium Presentations 2 (FMS)</p> <p>Podium Presentations 1 (FMS)</p>					
2:00 PM					<p>LUNCH</p>				
3:00 PM					<p>PLENARY B - The Critical Role of Bio-risk Management</p>				
3:30 PM					<p>Table-Top Team Building Meetings</p>				
4:00 PM	<p>OPENING CEREMONY</p>	<p>PANEL IV - Financial Opportunities in Project Implementation: Networking Dimensions in MENA</p>	<p>PANEL VI - Transforming Global Health Research Through Digital Mentorship - The GHRC Model</p>	<p>PANEL X - Artificial Intelligence in Global Medicine : Building Bridges Across Data, Care, and Discovery</p>					
5:00 PM					<p>WS 3 - Educating Health care Professional on Mental Health</p>	<p>PANEL XI - The Journey of International Medical Students in FMSO</p>	<p>Podium Presentations 2 (FMS)</p>		
7:00 PM								<p>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION</p>	
	<p>WELCOME RECEPTION</p>	<p>PANEL V - Advancing Healthy Longevity: Perspectives from the MENA Region</p>	<p>PANEL X - Artificial Intelligence in Global Medicine : Building Bridges Across Data, Care, and Discovery</p>	<p>WS 3 - Educating Health care Professional on Mental Health</p>					
					<p>CLOSING EVENTS</p> <p>Optional Visit to Mosaics Museum Start of Post-Congress Extension Tour</p> <p>RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS</p>				
		<p>GALA DINNER</p>		<p>PILLARS OF HOPE DINNER</p>					

Day 1 : April 13, 2026

Time	Session	Location (Color code)
8:30 Am -3:30Am	Workshop 1:Biostatistics - Evidence-Based Practice	Forum of the FMSo HADRUMETE Room
8:30 Am -3:30Am	Workshop 2: Introduction to Motivational Interviewing: A Skills-based 1 day Workshop	Forum of the FMSo AGHLABIDES Room
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM	WORKSHOP 7: Inter-professional Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Simulation-Driven Approach to Building Institutional Resilience	Forum of the FMSo TAKROUNA ROOM
10:30 AM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 4: Competency-Based Education (CBE)	Forum of the FMSo CILLIUM Room
10:30 AM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 8: Ethical Responsibility in Biomedical Research	Socio-Scientific Complex FMSo Conference Room
01:30 PM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 5: Parallel Medicine: Phytotherapy and Acupuncture	Forum of the FMSo JUSTINIA Room
01:30 PM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 6:Adult ECMO	Simulation Center FMSo
4:00 PM	OPENING CEREMONY	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
5:00 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION	Socio-Scientific Complex FMSo

Day 2 : April 14, 2026

Time	Session	Location (Color code)
8:30 Am (90 min)	PLENARY A: Reflections on Public Health Research and Education Challenges	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL I: Migration and Health	IBN SINA Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL II: Precision Medicine Equity and Accessibility	IBN ROCHD Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL III: Artificial Intelligence in the Arab World: Challenges and Achievements	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
12:00 PM	POSTER SESSION	HALL of the FMSo
12:00 PM	LUNCH	Socio-scientific Complex FMSo - Restaurant
12:30 PM	TABLETOP TEAM BUILDING MEETINGS - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING	
1:30 PM (90 min)	Plenary B: The Critical Role of Biorisk Management	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
03:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL IV: Financial Opportunities in Project Implementation: Networking Dimensions in MENA	IBN SINA Amphitheater
03:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL V: Advancing Healthy Longevity: Perspectives from the MENA Region	IBN ROCHD Amphitheater
03:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL VI: Transforming Global Health Research Through Digital Mentorship - The GHRC Model	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater

Day 3 : April 15, 2026

Time	Session	Location (Color code)
8:30 Am (90 min)	PLENARY C: Epidemiology and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases in Africa	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	EXPERT PRESENTATIONS 1: Innovation and Intervention	IBN SINA Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL VII: Preparing the Public Health Workforce to be Health Diplomats	IBN ROCHD Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL VIII: International Training Programs and Best Practices for Learners	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
12:00 PM	POSTER SESSION	HALL of the FMSo
12:00 PM	LUNCH	Socio-Scientific Complex FMSo - Restaurant
12:30 PM	TABLETOP TEAM BUILDING MEETINGS - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING	
1:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL IX: Mental Health Disorders and Mental Health Promotion in Africa	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
1:30 PM (90 min)	EXPERT PRESENTATIONS 2: Community Health Strategies	IBN SINA Amphitheater
1:30 PM (90 min)	PODIUM PRESENTATIONS FMSo (1)	Forum of the FMSo HADRUMETE Room
1:30 PM (90 min)	PODIUM PRESENTATIONS FMSo (2)	Forum of the FMSo AGHLABIDES Room
3:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL X: Artificial Intelligence in Global Medicine: Building Bridges Across Data, Care and Discovery	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
3:30 PM (90 min)	PANEL XI: The Journey of International Medical Students in FMSO	IBN SINA Amphitheater
3:30 PM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 8: Educating Health Care Professionals on Mental Health	Forum of the FMSo HADRUMETE Room ₂₇

Day 4 : April 16, 2026

Time	Session	Location (Color code)
8:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL XII: International Capacity Development Initiatives and Best Practices for Institutions	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
8:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL XIII: From Classroom to Community: Faculty, Student, and Engaged Teaching to Advance Public Health Practice	IBN SINA Amphitheater
8:30 AM (90 min)	PODIUM PRESENTATIONS (Session 1)	IBN ROCHD Amphitheater
8:30 AM (90 min)	WORKSHOP 9: Public Health Instruction for the MENA Region - Delivering Essential Public Health Functions	Forum of the FMSo HADRUMETE Room
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL X IV: Health Research at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse: Highlights from Research Laboratories and Doctoral School	IBN SINA Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PANEL XV: Health Security: Implementation of Clinical Fellowship and Impacts of Year One Training for Further Health Preparedness	SOUAD YAAKOUBI OUAHCHI Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PODIUM PRESENTATIONS (Session 2)	IBN ROCHD Amphitheater
10:30 AM (90 min)	PODIUM PRESENTATIONS (Session 3)	Forum of the FMSo HADRUMETE ROOM
12:00 PM	POSTER SESSION	HALL of the FMSo
12:00 PM	LUNCH	
12:30 PM	TABLETOP TEAM BUILDING MEETINGS - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING	Socio-Scientific Complex FMSo - Restaurant
12:30 PM	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION	Socio-Scientific Complex FMSo – Conference Room
2:00 PM	CLOSING EVENTS - OPTIONAL VISIT TO MOSAICS MUSEUM	

4th Interdisciplinary

World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Innovation - Collaboration - Transformation

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

MONDAY APRIL 13, 2026

**PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS
AND EVENTS**

08:30 AM - WORKSHOP 1 (ALL DAY)**Moderator - Dr. Jane Meza, UNMC****Biostatistics - Evidence-Based Practice****Faculty - Drs. Rim Ghammam, Meriam Ghardallou and Sihem Ben Fredj, FMS****Session Summary**

Discover how to bridge the gap between research and real-world practice. This session examines the evidence-based practice (EBP) process, including comprehensive literature review. Participants will engage in exercises to integrate best research evidence, clinical expertise, and patient/population values and translate clinical practice guidelines into actionable recommendations. The workshop also explores decision-making in both clinical and policy contexts, emphasizing comparative effectiveness research and strategies for resource-limited settings. Finally, attendees will learn simple tools for assessing the impact of practice changes and ongoing EBP development, ensuring that evidence-based care becomes a continuous and sustainable process.

08:30 AM - WORKSHOP 2 (ALL DAY)**Moderator - D. Ken Resnicow, UNM and UOM****Introduction to Motivational Interviewing: A Skills-based 1 day Workshop****Faculty- Dr. Bochra Saguem, FMS- D. Ken Resnicow, UNM and UOM****Session Summary**

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a patient-centered counseling method effective in promoting various health behaviors. This approach emphasizes client empowerment, allowing individuals to engage with their own psychological processes rather than receiving directive advice. Counselors prioritize establishing motivation before planning action, collaborating with clients to address resistance and ambivalence. Clients explore their motivations and hesitations regarding behavior change in alignment with their life goals and values. An interactive workshop is offered, covering MI principles such as autonomy support and essential techniques like effective questioning and reflective listening, making MI accessible to participants without prior training and supporting an environment conducive to health behavior change.

08:30 AM - *WORKSHOP 7 (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Aline Saad & Vijaya Arun Kumar, WSU*

Inter-professional Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Simulation-Driven Approach to Building Institutional Resilience

Faculty - *Drs. Sally Villaseñor, Jessica Smith, Linda Jaber and Paul Kilgore, WSU, and Pr. Asma Zorgati, FMS*

Session Summary

This 4-hour workshop in the MENA region focuses on enhancing disaster response planning and collaboration among medical and emergency professionals. Participants will identify risks, understand roles, and review plans through lectures, simulations, and discussions. Expected outcomes are improved preparedness, coordination, professional networking, and access to resources, with emphasis on simulation training and cultural adaptation.

10:30AM - *WORKSHOP 4 (90 min)*

Moderator - *Dr. Neirouz Ghannouchi, FMS*

Competency-Based Education (CBE)

Faculty - *Drs. Imed Chouchene, Latifa Lassoued and Nadia Ghariani, FMS*

Session Summary

The changing work environment requires an innovative educational model, as traditional rote memorization no longer suffices. Competency-Based Education (CBE) is presented as a solution, highlighting skill mastery and real-world application. This workshop delves into CBE's principles, advantages, and challenges in implementation. Participants will tackle key questions about CBE's definition, rationale, and strategies for effective adoption. They will engage in group activities and discussions, ultimately evaluating their learning experience and identifying suitable assessment methods by the workshop's conclusion.

10:30 AM - *WORKSHOP 8 (90 min)*

Moderator: *Dr. Iqbal Ahmad, UNMC*

Workshop 8: Ethical Responsibility in Biomedical Research

Faculty - *Dr. Iqbal Ahmad, UNMC, Chahnez Makni, Amal Ben Daly, FMS*

Session Summary

In this workshop, speakers will discuss how to interpret, decide, and apply ethical rules that regulate biomedical research through real case studies. The workshop format will be similar to the responsible conduct of research (RCR) format recommended by the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA.

01:30 PM - *WORKSHOP 5 (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Bassem Charfeddine & Asma Zorgati, FMS*

Parallel Medicine: Phytotherapy and Acupuncture

Faculty - *Drs. Amira Zairi and Sahbi Mtaouaa, FMS*

Session Summary

Phytotherapy and acupuncture are key elements of traditional medicine, recognized in public health and research. Phytotherapy uses antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effects of medicinal plants for prevention and treatment. Acupuncture stimulates body points to restore balance and relieve pain. The session covers integrative medicine, scientific evidence, and applied phytotherapy, detailing key medicinal plants. Targeted acupuncture addresses meridians for pain management, coupled to practical demonstrations. The "Photoshop-Acu Synergy" approach integrates phytotherapy with acupuncture for conditions like knee osteoarthritis, concluding with a hands-on workshop for interactive learning.

01:30 PM - *WORKSHOP 6 (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Makhlouf Belguith & Imed Chouchene, FMS*

Adult ECMO

Faculty - *Drs. Makhlouf Belguith, Imed Chouchene, Nizar Naouar, Wissal rouabah ,FMS*

Session Summary

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) is vital in critical care for patients with severe respiratory or cardiac failure, demanding specialized knowledge and teamwork. This workshop offers healthcare professionals a practical, immersive training experience with high-fidelity simulations, enabling hands-on management of complex scenarios involving ECMO initiation, daily care, and complications. Participants, including physicians, nurses, perfusionists, and respiratory therapists, will gain skills in a controlled setting, enhancing their confidence in ECMO patient care. The workshop schedule includes small group sessions on ECMO types (VV-ECMO for respiratory support, VA-ECMO for cardiac support, indications, circuit components, and patient management strategies, supplemented by hands-on practice, acupuncture point locating, phytotherapy application, and interactive case-based learning.

4:00 PM - OPENING CEREMONY

5:00 PM - WELCOME RECEPTION

4th Interdisciplinary

World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Innovation - Collaboration - Transformation

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2026

CONGRESS SESSIONS

AND ACTIVITIES

08:30 AM - *PLENARY A (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Adnan Hammad, GHRMS
& Mohamed Ben Dhiab, FMS*

Reflections on Public Health Research and Education Challenges

Keynote Speaker - *Dr. John Lowe, UNMC*

The New Health Security Imperative: From Global Dependency to Strategic Autonomy

The talk discusses the impact of reduced global health funding on Low/Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), especially in the MENA region, under the U.S.'s "America First" strategy. It explores the need to shift from dependence on global aid to achieving strategic autonomy in health security. Key points include innovative financing, utilizing domestic resources, and local production of essential health necessities, to create a resilient, regionally-led health security framework against future threats.

Keynote Speaker - *Dr. May Yassine Darwish, MPH*

Confronting the Second Pandemic of Misinformation: Public Health Costs, Health Literacy, and the Preventive Power of Truth

Misinformation is spreading across communities, like a viral threat, undermining clinical care, research, and public health practice. This keynote examines its population-level impact, highlights health literacy as a protective factor, and offers strategies for promoting truth, restoring confidence in science, and preventing harm.

Keynote Speaker - *Dr. Abdullatif Husseini, BZU*

Determinants of Population Health under Prolonged Military Occupation: The Case of Palestine

This review synthesizes available evidence on population health indicators, health system performance, and unmet health needs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with particular attention to the recent escalation of hostilities in Gaza beginning in October 2023 and its implications for public health. The presentation concludes with evidence-informed considerations for strengthening health system resilience and improving population health outcomes in protracted conflict settings.

10:30 AM - *PANEL I (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Henrique Barros, and Robert Otok, ASPHER, GNAPH*

Migration and Health

Panelists - *Ms. Mona Makki, ACCESS, Drs. Sabri Belgacem, WHO, Iman Nuwayhid, AUB, Rima Habib, AUB, Wael Garnaoui FMS and Teresa Leão (ISPUP)*

Session Summary

This session addresses complex public health issues related to migration, highlighting how international public health programs address the specific health needs of migrant populations through capacity building, networking, policy changes and leadership.

10:30 AM - *PANEL II (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Soumaya Mougou and Mohamed Boussarsar, FMS*

Precision Medicine Equity and Accessibility

Speakers - *Drs. Mohamed Zahir, Ambroise Wonkam, Jorge Batista Da Rocha, Ismail Dergaa,UM, and Shane Quinonez (UOM)*

Session Summary

This Congress centers on "Precision Medicine: Equity and Accessibility," exploring if advancements in precision medicine will benefit or exacerbate existing health disparities. The session features a distinguished panel of experts from human genetics, biology, sports medicine, and physiology, who bring insights from both developed countries and the MENA region. The discussion will address the societal, ethical, and practical challenges of ensuring that precision medicine is accessible to diverse populations, framing the conversation as one about justice, inclusivity, and the future of global health.

10:30 AM - PANEL III (90 min)

Artificial Intelligence in the Arab World: Challenges and Achievements

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Nawar Shara, GU (25 min)

From Importing Algorithms to Owning Intelligence: AI's Arab Moment

The Arab World stands at a pivotal moment to move from consuming AI to shaping and owning its intelligent future. This talk outlines a strategic path for MENA to lead during this unprecedented opportunity, drawing lessons from AI adoption in U.S. healthcare to accelerate progress while avoiding common pitfalls. Achieving owned intelligence requires strong foundations: ethical, high-quality, accessible data; scalable computing capacity; and multidisciplinary collaboration across healthcare, data science, engineering, and policy. Equally vital is proactive governmental and societal stewardship to ensure human-centered, ethical AI as agentic systems mature. Through real-world healthcare examples, we demonstrate how urgent needs can drive AI from early innovation to scalable impact—positioning the Arab World as a resilient, globally relevant owner of its AI destiny.

Keynote Speaker - Drs. Diana Maddah, Kwalombota Kwalombota, Doha, Qatar (25 min)

Towards Responsible AI in Humanitarian Settings: Ethics, Governance, Implementation and the Role of Government and Policies in Integrating AI into Healthcare Systems

Our project focuses on enhancing responsible use of AI in humanitarian settings, particularly in health and education. A Technical Working Group synthesizes insights from various stakeholders into a comprehensive evidence base. Key outcomes include ethical guidelines and governance principles for AI in humanitarian contexts, addressing equity, data protection, and inclusion. The project offers sector-specific recommendations and use-cases to leverage ethically grounded AI to strengthen health systems, conduct needs assessments and improve education access in challenging environments. This initiative aims to provide actionable guidance for integrating ethical AI into humanitarian practices across all phases.

Drs. Adnan Hammad, Reema Hamasha, Dalya Saleem, and Jody Platt, GHRS and UOM (10 min)

Engaging with the Arab/MENA Community: AI in Healthcare Deliberation Insights

Abir Romdhani PhD, FMS (10 min)

Artificial Intelligence in healthcare: Impact of AI on Improving OR Performance at Farhat-Hached University Hospital in Sousse, Tunisia

Panel Discussion (20 min)

12:00 PM - *POSTER SESSION*

12:00 PM - *LUNCH*

12:30 PM - *TABLETOP TEAM BUILDING MEETINGS - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING*

1:30 PM - *Plenary B (90 min)*

Moderators: *Drs. Mohamed Ben Dhiab
& Amira Zairi, FMS*

The Critical Role of Biorisk Management Session Summary

With increasing global connectivity, management of biological risks became paramount. This session will delve into the critical role of biorisk management, a cornerstone of public health and global security. We will hear from leading experts who will share best practices from African biorisk management networks and discuss the strategic use of artificial intelligence in preparing for and responding to bioterrorism in this region. This session highlights the multidisciplinary nature of biorisk management and its vital importance in protecting MENA communities.

Speakers

Ms. Jeannie Leesman (Sandia Laboratories, New Mexico USA)

Africa Biorisk Management Trainers' Networks Best Practices and Accomplishments

Dr. Hassan Farhat (Manager, Group Quality, Patient Safety and Risk Management, Doha Qatar)

Strategic, Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence, Preparedness, and Response to Bioterrorism in MENA

Dr. Rym Benkhalifa (Senior Investigator, Lab. Biomolecules, Venom and Theragnostic Applications, LBVAT), (PIT)

Developing a Responsible Research Culture Through Proactive Biorisk Management

Moderators: *Drs. Olfa Bouallegue, US,
Amira Zairi & Soumaya Mougou, FMS*

03:30 PM - *PANEL IV (90 min)*

Financial Opportunities in Project Implementation: Networking Dimensions in MENA

Session Summary

Current transformation in the MWNA region is driven by economic diversification. Success relies on access to finance and strategic networking. This session focuses on financial opportunities for projects, highlighting new financial instruments, public-private partnerships, and sustainable financing models that facilitate investment. Additionally, it examines essential networking relationships among governments, financial institutions, private investors, and project managers needed to navigate regional complexities. Understanding these opportunities and networks is crucial for mobilizing capital and executing impactful projects in the MENA region partners.

Speakers

Dr. Helmi MARDASSI (WIDERA National Contact Point (NCP), expert in European collaborative research programs, MHESR):

Requirements for a Successful Multilateral Grant Proposal

Dr. Ahmed MAALEL, PhD, HDR. (Regional representative for Africa EURAXESS Worldwide):

Opportunities through EURAXESS and Horizon Europe for the MENA Region

Mr. Hichem ROMDHANI (Head of International Relations Office, University of Sousse):

European Commission–Funded Pathways for Health Research and Education in the MENA Region

03:30 PM - *PANEL V (90 min)*

Moderators - *Drs. Abla Mehio Sibai, AUB
& Fatma Ben Fredj, FMS*

Advancing Healthy Longevity: Perspectives from the MENA Region

Panelists - *Drs. Laura Magaña, ASPPH&GNAPH, Jihed Anoun, FMS, Lamia Chenik, MOHT, Radhouane Gouiaa, Iheb Ghariani, and Kristine Ajrouch, UOM*

Session Summary

This panel will introduce the ASPPH Healthy Longevity Framework which emphasizes equity, prevention, resilient systems, and public health's role in promoting well-being. Following the presentation, experts will engage in a discussion on aligning the framework with local priorities, sharing insights from policy and advocacy experiences, and redefining aging narratives in the MENA region. The session aims to merge regional with global public health vision, fostering innovations in research, policy, and collaboration, analyzing data from 2020-2024. Key innovations cited include multi-tiered mentorship model, technology integration, and targeted specialized tracks, driving significant growth in participant engagement and research outputs.

03:30 PM - *PANEL VI (90 min)*

Moderator - *Vijaya Arun Kumar MD, WSU*

Transforming Global Health Research Through Digital Mentorship - The GHRC Model

Panelists - *Drs. Paul Kilgore, Rouba Ali Fehmi, Cynthia Arfken, WSU, Lilia Cheniti, US, Maha Ben Fredj, FMS*

Session Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred a rise of virtual platforms for global health research training, exposing advantages and challenges in online mentorship. A needs assessment at Global Health Research Collaborative (GHRC) underscored demands for mentorship in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This panel explores GHRC's scalable online mentorship model, analyzing data from 2020-2024. Key innovations cited include multi-tiered mentorship model, technology integration, and targeted specialized tracks, driving significant growth in participant engagement and research outputs.

7:00 PM - GALA DINNER

4th Interdisciplinary

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CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2026

CONGRESS SESSIONS

AND ACTIVITIES

**Moderators - Drs. Hassen Ghannem, FMS
& Basim Dubaybo, WSU**

08:30 AM - Plenary C (90 min)

Epidemiology and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases in Africa Session Summary

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for 37% of deaths in Africa, exacerbated by urbanization, aging populations, and lifestyle changes. North Africa has high diabetes and CVD rates, while Southern Africa faces obesity and hypertension. Key risk factors include unhealthy diets, inactivity, tobacco use, and pollution. Limited healthcare and data hinder prevention. Community interventions, policy reforms, and awareness are essential to address NCDs, requiring collaboration among governments, NGOs, and international partners.

Speakers

Dr. Hassen Ghannem (FMS, Tunisia)

The Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Africa: Current Epidemiological Trends and Regional differences

Dr. Jean Claude Mbanaya (University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon)

The Social Determinants of NCDs & Multi sectorial approach in African Contexts

Dr. Mohammed Abdulaziz (NCDs, Injuries and Mental Health Division, Africa CDC)

ACDC strategy for NCD Prevention in Africa

Dr. Adelard Kakunze (NCDs, Division of Disease Control and Prevention, ACDC, Ethiopia)

Approaches to NCD Surveillance and Data Collection in Africa

Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya (CEO & Consultant Physician, Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Tanzania)

Integrating NCD Prevention and management into Primary Healthcare Systems

Dr. Mary Nyamongo (Chair, NCD Alliance, Kenya)

Community-Based Interventions and role of NGOs for NCD Prevention in Africa

Innovation and Intervention

Dr. Renée Branch Canady, MPH

Using Innovation and Equity to Move from Leadership Performance to Leaders Performing

Today, a substantial number of models exist for people aspiring to lead in public health. However, we fear the profession has embraced a performative orientation. It seems leading in public health is being rendered into a set of activities—communicating, partnering, connecting. To explore whether our concern had merit, this study clarifies and presents numerous ways in which leaders successfully adapted and innovated as they led for equity.

Dr. Phillip Levy, WSU

Public Private Partnerships to Improve Population Health

Public funding is essential for health initiatives, but government capacities often limit outcomes. Therefore, partnerships with private entities, including non-profits, corporations, academia, and health systems, are crucial for success. This collaboration often involves competitive grant applications, yet there's a growing trend toward co-development and collaborative implementation to align on goals and success metrics. The talk will showcase Michigan's efforts to enhance population health through innovative, place-based service delivery, highlighting a cross-sector initiative that established a mobile health infrastructure national model.

Dr. Kristine Ajrouch, UOM

Alzheimer's Disease Risk and Resilience: The Case of Arab Americans

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a growing concern for older adults, their families and healthcare providers as populations experience longer life expectancies. Arab ancestry groups living in the United States have largely been invisible in aging research generally, and AD research specifically. This presentation will introduce the Detroit-Aging and Memory Project (D-AMP), the very first data collection meant to assess prevalence levels of dementia and mild cognitive impairment among those of Arab ancestry aged 65 years and above living in metro-Detroit, home to the largest most visible concentration of Arab Americans in the United States. This project investigates the role of immigrant factors and social experiences to better understand AD risk and resilience and provides key information to inform knowledge about health disparities and better develop intervention strategies for effective management of this growing and high-cost disease.

10:30 AM - *PANEL VII (90 min)*

Moderator - Dr. Laura Magaña, ASPPH, GNAPH

Preparing the Public Health Workforce to be Health Diplomats

Panelists - Drs. Ashish Joshi, Diana Maddah, Jihad (Judy) Makhoul, and Mouhanad Hammami NAAMA

Session Summary

Public health is confronted with complex and interconnected challenges that need to be addressed urgently by fostering enhanced collaboration, coordination and communication across diverse sectors & stakeholders. Strengthening health diplomacy at informal and multi-stakeholder levels can create pathways to improved health outcomes and promote well-being. Schools and programs of public health educate and train future public health workforce who must develop competencies in health diplomacy to confront present and future challenges. This session will explore the critical role of public health diplomacy and highlight the importance of equipping public health students with the knowledge, skills, and expertise needed to navigate this evolving field effectively.

10:30 AM - *PANEL VIII (90 min)*

Moderator - Dr. Rebecca Malouin, MSU

International Training Programs and Best Practices for Learners

Panelists - Drs. Mary Kay Smith, and Robert Malinowski, MSU

Session Summary

Experts in global health describe targeted medical education strategies with proven outcomes and address the applicability of these models in diverse settings.

12:00 PM - *POSTER SESSION*

12:00 PM - *LUNCH*

12:30 PM - *TABLETOP TEAM BUILDING MEETINGS - INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING*

01:30 PM - *PANEL IX (90 min)*

Moderator - *Dr. Mohammed Abdulaziz, Africa CDC
& Ahlem Mtiraoui, FMS*

Mental Health Disorders and Mental Health Promotion in Africa Session Summary

Mental disorders impact over 116 million people in Africa, including 10–20% of children. Approximately 85% of those with depression in low-income areas receive no treatment, while Africa has only 1.4 mental health workers per 100,000 people. With 970 million globally affected, youth in sub-Saharan Africa show high rates of depression 26.9%, anxiety 29.8%, and suicidal thoughts 20.8%. Key risk factors include poverty and stigma. Emerging strategies involve community-based interventions, primary care integration, and digital health innovations, emphasizing the need for improved policies and training.

Speakers

Dr. Taiwo Lateef Sheikh (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria)

The Burden of Mental Disorders in Africa: Epidemiology and Trends

Dr. Soraya Seedat (Stellenbosh University, Cape Town, South Africa)

Social and Cultural Determinants of Mental Health in Africa

Dr. Mohammed Abdulaziz (NCDs, Injuries and Mental Health Division, Africa CDC)

Africa Mental Health Leadership Programme AMHLP

Dr. Naeem Dalal (Zambia National Public Health Institute, Zambia)

Approaches to Mental Health Surveillance and Data Collection in Africa, with a Focus on Youth Mental Health

Dr. Abba Wakil (University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria)

Integrating Mental Health into Primary Healthcare

Dr. Carol Labor (Mental Health Secretariat, Sierra Leone)

Community-Based Interventions and role of NGOs for Mental Health Promotion and Prevention in Africa

01:30 PM - EXPERT PRESENTATIONS 2 (90 min)

Community Health Strategies

Dr. Georgina Aoun Nouaime, *ILMA*

Innovation in Medicine: Hospital at Home

Hospital-at-Home (H@H) is a revolutionary model delivering acute, hospital-level care in patients' homes, driven by tech like wearables, telemedicine, and AI for remote monitoring, improving comfort, reducing costs, and lowering readmissions, especially for chronic conditions, with the CMS waiver program accelerating adoption post-COVID-19. Innovations include portable monitoring, virtual care centers, integrated mobile teams, AI for data analysis, and point-of-care diagnostics, making acute care more accessible and patient-centered than traditional inpatient settings.

Dr. Akihiro Seita, *UNRWA*

Emergency Response for Displaced Populations and Refugees

Emergency response for displaced populations and refugees involves rapid deployment of aid for immediate needs like shelter, food, water, and medical care, coordinated by agencies like UNRWA, with an immediate focus on protection, basic services (nutrition, health, education), cash assistance, and long-term solutions.

Mouhanad Hammami MD, *NAAMA*

Now More Than Ever, Public Health Matters!

Over 150 years, public health systems were influenced by scientific advancements and public acceptance of the responsibility of disease control. COVID-19 highlighted the need for robust health systems and finances, and exposed the politicization of public health. Workforce shortage, fragmentation of funding, misinformation, health inequities, and reduced trust necessitate analysis of changes in U.S. public health system and global effects.

01:30 PM - Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar
Student Presentations (1)

Moderators : *Drs. Maha Ben Fredj
and Saoussen Layouni*

	Title	Authors	Affiliation
1	<i>Evolving Patient Centred Care: "From PDSA to S-PDSA": An Integrative Approach Using Epidemiology, Quality Improvement, and Artificial Intelligence Computing Techniques in the Pre-hospital Setting</i>	Hassan Farhat	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse and Ambulance Service, Hamad Medical Corporation
2.	<i>AI-generated algorithm for early detection of bipolar depression</i>	Lobna Barouni, Bochra Saguem, Yosra Kilani et Jaâfar nakhli	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
3	<i>DRESS Syndrome: Clinical, Biological, and Pharmacological Features in 81 Patients</i>	Mariem Maaref, Nadia Ghariani Fetoui, Haifa Mkhinini, Maha Lahouel, Sarra Saad, Jacem Rouatbi, Sana Mokni, Amina Aounallah, Najet Ghariani, Mohamed Denguezli	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
4	<i>Predictors of brain death and barriers to organ donation in north African intensive care units: a multicenter prospective study on severe coma patients</i>	Imen Slama, Imed Chouchene	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
5	<i>Night Work Among Women: Balancing Family and Professional Life</i>	Imene Kacem, Asma Aloui, Rania Bannour, Maroua Bouhoula, Mohsen Marnaoui, Jihen Sahli, Olfa El Maalel, Ali Mtiraoui	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
6	<i>Prevalence and Correlates of Suicidal Ideations Among Health Sciences Students in Sousse, Tunisia.</i>	Chaima, Halleb Bochra Nourhène Saguem, Yosra Saidi, Jâafar Nakhli	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
7	<i>Prosodic Signs of Depression in Tunisian Arabic Speech: A Neurolinguistic Pilot Toward Early Detection</i>	Alya Ettoumi, Nadia Bouchhioua	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
8	<i>Changing Minds: A Tunisian Initiative to Reduce Mental Health Stigma</i>	Amal Rhouma, Bochra Nourhène Saguem, Sami Ouanes, Jâafar Nakhli	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
9	<i>Epidemiological, Clinical, and Evolutionary Profiles of NSTEMI in Diabetic Patients in the Emergency Department</i>	Dhikra Hosni, Mariem Tlemceni Ines, Kchaou, Safia Othmani, Hana Hedhli, Sarra Jouini	Faculty of Medicine of Tunis
10	<i>Assessment of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase and xanthine oxidase activities for human phenotyping in plasma</i>	Saad Saguem, Mokni Yassine, Laouani Aicha, Nouria Manel	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse

01:30 PM - Faculty of Medicine Ibn Al-Jazzar Student Presentations (2)

Moderators : *Drs. Leila Knani and
Ahmed Loghmari*

Title	Authors	Affiliation
1 <i>The Tunisian EIOS-based digital intelligence model for early warning and response, July-September 2025</i>	Emna Gara, Sonia Dhaouadi, Hejer Letaief, Aicha Hechaichi, Mouna Safer, Sondos Derouich, Leila Bouabid, Ilhem Boutiba, Rim Mhadhbi, Sami Fitouri, Ahlem Fourati, Fatma Ben Youssef, Nissaf Bouafif ép Ben Alaya	National Observatory of Emerging and Reemerging Diseases, Tunis
2 <i>Intentions of Migration Among Nursing Students in Central Tunisia</i>	ASMA Chouchane, Imen Jemmeli, Amal Ghenim, Asma Gaddour, Asma Aloui, Marwa Bouhoula, Imène Kacem, Houda Kalboussi, Olfa El Maalel, Souheil Chatti	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
3 <i>The Relationship Between Interpersonal Communication and Work Organization in Operating Rooms of Two University Hospitals in Sousse: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study</i>	Badra Bannour, Ameni Fhal , Nawres zaag, Ons Salah, Fatma ABBES , Imene Bannour	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
4 <i>DINS Socio-GENOMICS: Integrative Socio-Genomic Study of Non-Syndromic Intellectual Disabilities in Tunisia</i>	Dorra H'mida	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
5 <i>Assessing the Educational Environment using the DREEM Inventory in a Tunisian Medical School</i>	Chayma Sridi, Mayssa Aribi, Latifa Lassoued, Nawres Gannoun, Farah Chelly, Narjes Belhadj, Imen Fki, Maher Maoua	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
6 <i>Bridging Policy and Practice: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Barriers to Sterilization Protocols among Dental Practitioners in Tunisia</i>	Alya Ettoumi, Hela Ghali, Sana Bhiri, Asma Ben Cheikh	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
7 <i>Patterns and Risks of Social Media use Among High School Students: A Cross-Sectional Study</i>	Hajer Ben Belgacem, Nesrine Jaballah, Amel Tej, Raoudha Kebaili , Marwa Abdelbari, Mouna Ben Guedria, Samia Tilouche, Najla Soyah, Lamia Boughamoura	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
8 <i>Antimicrobial resistance mitigation strategy: how AI is changing the game</i>	Amine Mosbah, Raouf dhaouadi	Enmv Sidi Thabet
9 <i>Perioperative Benefits of Hypnosis as an Adjunct to General Anesthesia in Urologic Surgery: A Randomized Controlled Trial</i>	Mohamed Ajmi, Raoudha chrigui, Habiba ben hameda, Souha guellim, zeineb shkiri, anis amri, amine youzbechi, mohamed kahloul, walid naija	Faculty of Medicine of Sousse
10 <i>Ethical governance and interdisciplinarity within the One Health framework: the experience of the C.R.Bt</i>	Mustapha Adnane SMADI	Biotechnology Research Center - Constantine , Algeria

03:30 PM - *Panel X (90 min)*

Moderator - Matthew Rizzo MD, UNMC

Artificial Intelligence in Global Medicine: Building Bridges Across Data, Care, and Discovery**Panelists** - Drs. Hassan Bencheqroun, NAAMA, Salim Adib, AUB, Khaled Maaref and Maher Maoua, FMS***Session Summary***

The panel discussion examines AI's impact on medical research, education, patient care and its role in managing health data, enhancing training, and supporting precision care while emphasizing interoperability across systems. Key topics include integrating real-world and synthetic data, digital twin technologies, AI in clinical trials and AI's role in continuous learning and improvement, alongside ethical and environmental considerations to achieve equitable health outcomes globally.

03:30 PM - PANELXI (90 min)

Moderator - Dr. Neila Fathallah, FMS

The Journey of International Medical Students in FMSO**Panelists** - Drs. Abdel Raheem Taha, Dana Driss, Amar Alserkal, Moulay Selmane, and Imane Rho Unbazi, FMS***Session Summary***

International medical students face significant challenges during adjustment period, including language barriers, cultural differences, new teaching methods, and social isolation. This stressful phase adversely affects their well-being and academic performance. However, with resilience, mentorship, peer networking, & cultural associations, they get a sense of belonging, personal and professional growth, becoming skilled medical professionals and culturally competent global citizens.

03:30 PM - *WORKSHOP 3(90 min)*

Moderator: Dr. Jed Magen, MSU

Educating Health Care Professionals on Mental Health**Faculty** - Dr. Farha Abbasi, MSU, Ahlem Mtiraoui, and Manel Stambouli, FMS***Session Summary***

Educating healthcare professionals on mental health is crucial to improving patient care and preventing provider burnout. This education should encompass recognizing and managing common mental health issues, practicing self-care and stress management, and utilizing available resources like peer support programs and organizational employee assistance programs. Training should be integrated into undergraduate and postgraduate programs and offered as continuing education, employing multimodal teaching methods and reinforcing learning through practical application and mentorship.

7:00 PM - PILLARS OF HOPE DINNER
SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MEDICAL RELIEF MISSIONS

4th Interdisciplinary

World Health Congress

on Health Research and Education in the MENA Region
Innovation - Collaboration - Transformation

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2026

CONGRESS SESSIONS

AND ACTIVITIES

08:30 AM - *PANEL XII (90 min)*

Moderator - *Mr. John Zervos, HFH &
Dr. Georgina Aoun Nouaime, ILMA*

International Capacity Development Initiatives and Best Practices for Institutions

Panelists - *Drs. Usamah Mossalam, John Zervos, HFH, and Joud Jarrah, KHCC*

Session Summary

International capacity development for community health focuses on strengthening technical and institutional abilities via training, knowledge sharing, and best-practice visits, supported globally by WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA. Best practices include ownership of health programs, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and tailoring interventions to local contexts enhancing decision-making and health services sustainability.

08:30 AM - *PANEL XIII (90 min)*

Moderator - *Aline Germani MPH, AUB*

From Classroom to Community: Faculty, Student, and Community Perspectives on Community - Engaged Teaching to Advance Public Health Practice

Panelists - *Drs. Laura Magaña, ASPPH&GNAPH, Jihad Makhoul, AUB, and Ali Ghassani, AMEL*

Session Summary

Community-engaged teaching (CET) plays a critical role in advancing public health practice by cultivating socially responsible learners who can critically engage with real-world health challenges through meaningful work with communities. The session will highlight CET as a core pillar of public health education, demonstrating how it supports transformative learning and the development of practice-oriented competencies. It further shows how CET generates value for communities by aligning educational activities with community priorities and shaping public health practice on the ground. Together, the panel illustrates how CET links learning, partnership, and action to advance public health practice across diverse contexts.

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM PODIUM PRESENTATIONS (Session 1)

Moderator: Drs. Hassan Fehmi, NAAMA and Amina Aounallah, FMS

Jason Langenfeld MD, Katie Willet MD, UNMC

Simulation Increases Confidence in Critical Access Hospital Disaster Response Among Interprofessional Learners

Haneen Taweel MPH, Birzeit University

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption among Palestinian Undergraduate Students: An Online Cross- Sectional Study at Birzeit University, West Bank, Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territory

Co-authors- Widad Zeidan, Rita Giacaman, Jamil Harb, Rula Ghandour, Abdullatif Hussein

Jiab Suleiman, DO , Orthopedic Surgery

Restoring Hope: Advances in Limb Reconstruction Amid Conflict in Gaza

Jad Jadallah Tawil, Scholars Without Borders

The Humanitarian and Medical Crisis in Palestinian Territories: The Plight of Patients with Congenital Bleeding Disorders

Ms. Yasmine Oussama Attia, QU

AI Readiness in Qatar's Humanitarian Ecosystem: Bridging Research, Training, and Practice

08:30 AM - *WORKSHOP 9 (90 min)*

Moderator - David Bishai PhD, HKU

Public Health Instruction for the MENA Region - Delivering Essential Public Health Functions

Faculty - Drs. Hanan Abdul Rahim, QU, and Iman Nuwayhid, AUB

Session Summary

This workshop addresses how a skilled public health workforce enhances health system resilience, particularly in MENA, focusing on WHO's Roadmap for National Workforce Capacity in Essential Public Health Functions (EPHFs). The workshop will examine key public health challenges and expectations in MENA, with particular attention to the relevance of EPHFs in areas experiencing conflict. Participants will explore strategies for implementing the Roadmap in the MENA context, learning from case studies of successful EPHF-integrated teaching. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to use the EPHF framework to inform competency-based instruction in public health.

Workshop Objectives:

1. **Understand & Apply:** Comprehend the WHO EPHFs framework and its critical role in building resilient health systems, achieving UHC, and strengthening PHC.
2. **Analyze & Adapt:** Identify key challenges and opportunities for implementing EPHFs within the specific contexts of MENA countries.
3. **Design & Co-create:** Apply principles of interactive learning design to develop a preliminary, context-specific training module focused on 1-2 critical EPHFs areas relevant to their local setting.
4. **Connect & Collaborate:** Engage in peer learning and initiate networks for ongoing regional collaboration in EPHFs-focused capacity building.

10:30 AM - *PANEL XIV (90 MIN)*

Moderators - *Drs. Helmi Ben Saad, Sihem Hmissa & Soumaya Mougou, FMS*

Health Research at the Faculty of Medicine of Sousse: Highlights from Research Laboratories and Doctoral School

Session Introduction: Drs. Wejdane Mansour and Soumaya Mougou

10h50 – 11h50: Speakers:

- Pr Mariem Ghardallou (LR12ES03) and Taha Mâatoug : Development and implementation of a digital tool aimed at integrating the migrant dimension into tuberculosis control programs and strategies in the MENA region, using Tunisia as a model.
- Pr Maha Ben Fredj (LR12ES02) and Ikram Jendoubi : "AMR & AI: A Synergy for a Healthy Environment – Genetic Mapping, Predictive Modeling, and Eco-Friendly Solutions against Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquatic Ecosystems."
- Dr Nabihha Missaoui (LR21ES03) and Rayân Hasni :RIP140 and Immunomodulation of the Tumor Microenvironment in Gastrointestinal Cancers: Towards a Novel Therapeutic Target

Poster/Pitch Presentations. 12h-12h30 (3' each):

Raoudha Touzi, -Anissa Ouahchi - Asma Hamdouni, Nadia Amara, Chaima Sridi, Ghaya Ben Khelifa, Meriem Mtibâa

10:30 AM *PANEL XV (90 MIN)*

Moderator - *Katie Willet MD, UNMC*

Health Security: Implementation of Clinical Fellowship and Impacts of Year One Training for Further Health Preparedness

Other Participants - Drs. Jason Langenfeld, John Lowe, Victoria Wadman

Session Summary

The University of Nebraska Medical Center launched a one-year clinical fellowship in Health Security in 2024 to cultivate professionals adept at managing health threats. This program aims to prevent, detect, and respond to events that jeopardize public health and healthcare services, addressing challenges like infectious diseases and climate-related crises. It includes comprehensive training, disaster simulations, and partnerships across sectors. It enhances global health preparedness and fosters a forward-thinking health security workforce.

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM PODIUM PRESENTATIONS (Session 2)

Moderators: Drs. Salim Adib, *AUB* and May Yassine Darwish, *MPHI*

Dr. Salim Adib, *AUB* *Cancer Screening in Lebanon*

Rouba Ali-Fehmi, MD, *UOM* *Digital Pathology Education*

Joumana Kalot MPH, *AUB*

Co-Producing Food Security: Researching Solidarity Kitchens as Practice of Collective Action in Crisis

CO-authors - Thurayya Zreik, Hala Ghattas, Julia Zaydan, Lea Al Rajji

Drs. Aline Germani, Anna Farra, Nuwar Joanna, Maria Farah, Celine Abou Nader, Andrea Tarabay, Lynn Nader, Emma Sleiman, Hiba Malaeb, *AUB*

TRACEMED: Innovation for Infection Control in LMICs Settings

Drs. Aline Germani, Joumana Kalot, Mayada Kanj, Sarah Jaber, *AUB*

Community Participation and Innovation: Catalysts for Effective Health Systems in Fragile Low- resource Settings

Drs. Jihad Makhoul, Lara Nasreddine, *AUB*

The corporate capture of public health in armed conflicts and crises

Ali Ghassani MD, AMEL Association

Walking a Tightrope: Navigating Operational and Research Challenges in War-Conflict: The Case of AMEL Association in Lebanon

12:00 PM - POSTER SESSION

12:00 PM - LUNCH

4/16/2026

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM PODIUM PRESENTATIONS
(Session 3)**

Moderators: *Drs. Naiema Taliep and Neila Fathallh FMS*

Drs. Naiema Taliep & Ghouwa Ismail

WOUNDS THAT ECHO: EXPLORING THE SOCIO-STRUCTURAL DETERMINANTS OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

Drs. Ghouwa Ismail & Naiema Taliep

REFLEXIVE INSIGHTS ON NETWORKING, SOLIDARITY, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM SPACES FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN POST-COVID-19 SOUTH AFRICA

Drs. Seneca James, Naiema Taliep, & Ghouwa Ismail

DEVELOPING A MOBILE APP TO MONITOR SAFETY AND PEACE IN COMMUNITIES: A FEASIBILITY STUDY

Drs. Nicole Rinquist, Naiema Taliep, Ghouwa Ismail, & Seneca James

GROUNDING POLICY IN PEOPLE: A COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO GBV PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH REFORM

Drs. Najuwa Arendse and A. van Niekerk

SUICIDE IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA: ANALYZING EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

12:00 PM - POSTER SESSION

12:00 PM - LUNCH

12:30 PM - *ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION*

Moderators: *Members of Scientific Committee*

Participants: *Invited Scholars*

2:00 PM - *CLOSING EVENTS*

OPTIONAL VISIT TO MOSAICS MUSEUM

START OF CULTURAL TOUR



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4th Interdisciplinary

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POST-CONGRESS CULTURAL TOUR

APRIL 13 - 16, 2026

PROGRAM AND DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAY1 – FRIDAY

APRIL 17, 2026

SOUSSE – EL JEM – KAIROUAN – TOZEUR

06:30 AM – Breakfast at the Movenpick Hotel Sousse

07:00 AM – Check-out and depart by bus to El Jem

08:00 AM – Arrival to El Jem

- Visit to the famous Roman Colosseum

09:00 AM – Depart to kairouan

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

- Visit to the Aghlabid Cisterns
- Discover the Mausoleum of Sidi Sahbi (the Prophet's barber)
- Visit to the Great Mosque of Okba Ibn Nafaa
- Stroll through the medina and stop at the Barouta well

01:00 PM – Typical lunch in Dar Zarrouk Kairouan

02:00 PM – Depart toward Tozeur

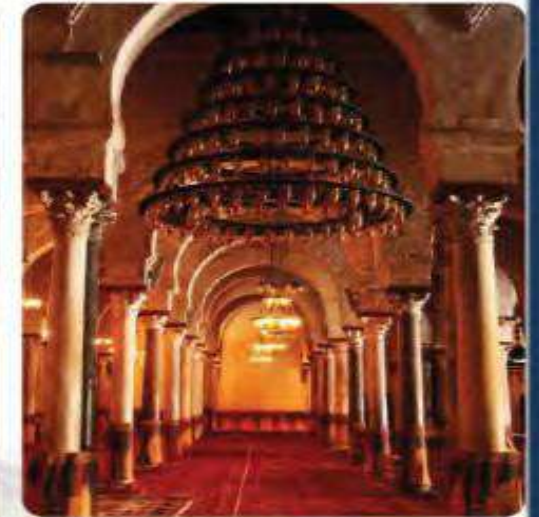
04:30 PM – 15-minute rest stop

06:00 PM – Arrival in Tozeur

- Visit the monument of abou el kacem chebbi

Check-in and dinner at the El Mouradi Hotel Tozeur

08:00 PM – Visit to Dar Cheraït, a museum showcasing the emblematic art and culture of Tunisia



DAY 2 – SATURDAY



APRIL 18, 2026
TOZEUR-DOUZ

07:00 AM – Breakfast at El Mouradi Tozeur Hotel

07:30 AM – Departure in 4x4 vehicles to explore the mountain oases

- **Chebika:** visit the ancient oasis, discover the waterfall and the cliffside village
- **Tamaghza:** stop for a panoramic view of the mountains
- **Mides:** walk through the heart of the canyon
Explore the Star Wars set (Mos Espa)
Photo stop at the Stone Camel site
- Pass by the Corbeille de Nefta, a stunning natural oasis

12:00 AM – Return to Tozeur

- Horse-drawn carriage ride through the medina and oases
- Lunch at Dar Tozeur restaurant

01:30 PM – Visit to Tozeur's souk

02:00 PM – Departure towards Douz

Stop at Chott el Jerid, Debebech, and Kebili for panoramic views and a photo session

05:00 PM – Arrival in Douz, the gateway to the Sahara

- Camel ride through the golden dunes
- Watch the sunset in the desert

07:00 PM – Check-in at El Mouradi Douz Hotel

08:00 PM – Dinner and free evening at the hotel

DAY 3 – SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 2026: DOUZ-MATMATA-GAMMARTH

- 07:00 AM – Breakfast at El Mouradi Douz Hotel
07:30 to 09:00 AM – Quad biking in the dunes of Douz
- A moment of adventure and freedom in the Saharan desert
 - Photo stop in a stunning natural setting
- 09:15 AM – Departure by bus to the Berber village of Tamazret, then to Matmata
10:30 AM – Arrival in Matmata
- Visit to the Berber Museum of Matmata: explore the culture
- 12:00 PM – Traditional luxury Berber lunch at Dar Ayed
01:30 PM – Visit to the Star Wars filming site in Matmata (Luke Skywalker's house)
- Visit to troglodyte houses
- 02:00 PM – Departure to Tunis – Gammarth
07:30 PM – 15-minute rest stop
07:30 PM – Arrival and check-in at El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel
- Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel



DAY 4 – MONDAY



APRIL 20, 2026

SIDIBOUSAÏD – CARTHAGE – BARDO

08:00 AM – Breakfast at the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel

09:00 AM – Departure to Sidi Bou Saïd

- Explore the iconic white and blue village
- Visit Dar El Annabi: A magnificent traditional house transformed into a museum, illustrating authentic Tunisian lifestyle
- Break at Café des Délices, famous for its view of the Gulf of Tunis
- Free time for a stroll and shopping in the picturesque streets

10:30 AM – Visit the Archaeological site of Carthage

- Explore the Antonine Baths, the Punic Quarter, the Tophets, and climb the Byrsa Hill

12:30 PM – Refined lunch at Fondouk El Attarine, located in the heart of the historic Medina

- Immerse yourself in an Arab-Andalusian ambiance with a revamped Tunisian gastronomy

02:30 PM – Walk through the Medina of Tunis

- Stop by the Zitouna Mosque, visit the souks, and the artisans

04:00 PM – Visit the Bardo National Museum

- One of the largest museums in Africa, famous for its Roman mosaics and ancient collections

06:00 PM – Return to the hotel in Gammarth

08:00 PM – Dinner and evening at the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel

DAY5 – TUESDAY

April 21, 2026

- Breakfast at the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel
- Departures from Tunis as per personal plans

