

# 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on **Prevention and Control of Infection**

"Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control  
towards a healthier, safer world"

22 – 23 November 2024 | Sofitel Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

CONFERENCE BOOK



The largest gathering of infection prevention community in the region



Accredited by the European Council for Continuing Medical  
Education (EACCME®) and is designated for a maximum of  
**13.00 European CME credits** (ECMEC®s).

# Table of Contents

<b>03</b>	WELCOME MESSAGE
<b>04</b>	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
<b>05</b>	CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES
<b>06</b>	GENERAL INFORMATION
<b>07</b>	CME ACCREDITATION
<b>08</b>	CONFERENCE SPEAKERS
<b>11</b>	SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM
<b>15</b>	POSTER PRESENTERS
<b>16</b>	SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY
<b>34</b>	SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS
<b>35</b>	ABOUT ABU DHABI



# Welcome Message



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing and scientific committee, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the **6th International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection**, taking place from **November 22 to 23, 2024**, at the Sofitel Hotel in the vibrant city of Abu Dhabi, UAE.

This year's theme, "**Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control Towards a Healthier, Safer World**," reflects our shared commitment to advancing the field of infection prevention and control. As we gather, we have a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, collaborate on innovative initiatives, and develop solutions that will shape a healthier and safer future.

The global healthcare landscape has been forever transformed by the challenges we have faced in recent years. Now, more than ever, it is crucial for us to unite and share our knowledge, expertise, and innovative ideas. This conference will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful dialogue, fostering cross-disciplinary partnerships, and inspiring the development of cutting-edge strategies and technologies.

We are excited to bring together world-class experts from academia and industry at the ICPCI Conference. They will share their latest research findings and enlighten esteemed delegates on current trends in infection prevention and control. We are proud to host an outstanding faculty of speakers from the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, creating a unique opportunity for international collaboration among scientists, researchers, and specialists in infectious diseases from leading universities and research institutions. This conference will facilitate the sharing of experiences, foster collaboration between industry and academia, and evaluate emerging technologies globally.

We are committed to providing high-quality scientific and educational opportunities, along with an exceptional networking platform that will enable you to strengthen existing connections and forge new ones. We believe this unique learning experience will offer fresh perspectives, deepen your understanding of infection prevention and control, and inspire you to enhance the care you provide to your patients.

We encourage you to engage in thought-provoking discussions, participate in interactive workshops, and network with some of the brightest minds in the industry. Together, we will explore the latest research, delve into best practices, and uncover new pathways to improve infection prevention and control practices in the UAE, the region, and beyond.

Your presence at this conference is invaluable, and we look forward to the insights and perspectives you will contribute. Let us embark on this journey of "Fostering Connections, Enabling Effective Collaboration, and Nurturing the Creation of Innovative Solutions," leaving a lasting impact on the healthcare landscape.

We thank you once again for your participation and look forward to a successful conference and an unforgettable learning experience.

**Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi**

President of ICPCI conference  
Chair, IDIC Council, Pediatric Infectious  
Diseases Consultant, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City;  
Senior Advisor, Hayat Biotech, Abu Dhabi, UAE

**Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf**

Conference Chair  
President APIC Chapter UAE,  
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager,  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

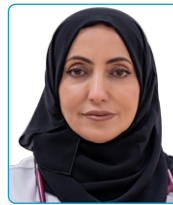


## Scientific Committee



**Dr. Stefan Weber**

Chair of Scientific Committee,  
Director of Medical Operations,  
Purelab South, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi**

President of ICPCI conference  
Chair, IDIC Council, Pediatric Infectious  
Diseases Consultant, Sheikh Khalifa  
Medical City; Senior Advisor, Hayat Biotech,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf**

Conference Chair  
President APIC Chapter UAE,  
Prevention and Control of Infection  
Manager, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Carol McLay**

Infection Prevention Consultant  
Lewisville, North Carolina,  
USA



**Dr. Emmanuel Fru Nsutebu  
(in memoriam)**

Consultant Physician and Chair of the  
Infectious Disease Division,  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE

## Organizing Committee



**Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf**

Conference Chair  
President APIC Chapter UAE,  
Prevention and Control of Infection  
Manager, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



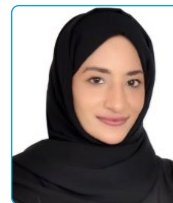
**Dr. Jehad Abdalla**

Infectious Diseases Consultant,  
Head of IPCC - SKMC,  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego**

Infection Preventionist Nurse  
Education and Support  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Hajar Ali Aldhanhani**

Infection Prevention and  
Control Regional Manager  
Al Ain region, SEHA



**Mr. Elias Tannous**

Sr. Infection Control Professional  
International director, and test committee  
member. Certification Board of Infection  
Control and Epidemiology CBIC.  
Member: Education and Guidelines  
committees, Society for Healthcare  
Epidemiology of America (SHEA)  
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Jency Suraj**

Senior Infection Preventionist and  
IPC Program Lead  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh**

Infection Prevention and Control Manager  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Ahmed Al Hammadi**

Consultant Internal Medicine -  
Infectious Disease  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Jaincy Samuel Ottapakkal**

Infection prevention and control officer  
Al Rahba Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

## Conference Objectives

- Explore the latest advancements and updates in infection prevention and control practices.
- Discuss regional surveillance updates and their implications for effective infection control strategies.
- Examine cutting-edge research in the field of infection prevention and control, and understand its practical applications.
- Review innovative and evidence-based measures for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) such as CLABSI, CAUTI, VAP, VAE, and SSI.
- Identify and understand the essential components required for developing and managing effective infection prevention and control programs.
- Gain insights into emergency preparedness and disaster management plans specifically tailored for infectious diseases.
- Analyze current patterns and trends of antimicrobial resistance in the UAE, and explore strategies to address this growing challenge.
- Familiarize yourself with guidelines and best practices for environmental infection control in healthcare settings.
- Recognize the fundamentals of infection prevention and control during construction projects, and learn how to mitigate associated risks.
- Review best practices for the reprocessing of flexible endoscopes, ensuring patient safety and preventing healthcare-associated infections.
- Gain comprehensive knowledge of best practices for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization in all healthcare settings.
- Learn about regulatory requirements and guidelines related to infection prevention and control, and ensure ongoing compliance.

## Program Highlights

- Surveillance Update
- Cutting-Edge IPC Research Update
- Innovative Measures for HAI Prevention focusing on key areas such as CLABSI, CAUTI, VAP, VAE, and SSI.
- Effective IPC Program Management
- Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management for Infectious Diseases
- Current Patterns and Trends of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and MDRO prevention
- Waste management from cradle to grave
- Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Settings
- Infection Prevention and Control during Construction & Renovation
- Best Practices for Reprocessing of Flexible Endoscopes
- Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization Best Practices
- Compliance with Regulatory Bodies in Infection Prevention and Control
- Food safety
- JAWDA indicators
- Animal infection control

## Target Audience

- Healthcare providers
- Physicians
- Nurses
- Infection Preventionists
- Quality officers
- Microbiology
- Infectious disease consultants
- Public health officers
- Internal medicine
- Hospital Administrators
- Operating Theatre Personnel
- Pharmaceutical Personnel
- Emergency Response Personnel
- Critical Care Personnel who are involved in Infection Control
- Respiratory Therapists
- Lab Technicians
- Occupational Health
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Quality Director
- Chief Quality Officers
- Risk Management Professional



# General Information

## VENUE

An iconic luxury 5-star hotel on the Abu Dhabi located in the prime district of Abu Dhabi centre. A glittering seafront landmark, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche seamlessly fuses French style with lavish Arabian hospitality. In a prime location with captivating views of the Gulf, there's no better place from which to experience the city.

## NAME BADGES

Participants are required to wear their name badges throughout the meeting in order to be admitted to the lecture halls and other scheduled activities. Kindy ensure to scan in and scan out in the session halls attended.

## REFRESHMENT AND LUNCH

Refreshment and lunch will be offered in accordance with the breaks indicated on the Agenda.

## MOBILE PHONES AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Participants are kindly requested to keep their mobile phones silent mode in the conference hall and refrain from taking photographs with flash during sessions.

## SPEAKERS' ROOM

Myrtle Boardroom (P2 Level)

## FRIDAY PRAYER

Transportation will be available at the Sofitel Hotel lobby at 12:30 Hrs, and the bus will depart promptly at 12:50 Hrs. It will take the delegates to the nearest mosque and bring back to the hotel afterward.

## ABSTRACT

Abstract Posters will be on display the entire day of the conference from 22nd - 23rd November, 2024.



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## CME Accreditation

The 6th International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) and is designated for a maximum of **13.0 European CME credits** (ECMEC@s).

EACCME® certificates of attendance will be ready maximum 7 days post conference at MENA Conference website ([www.menaconference.com](http://www.menaconference.com)).

DAY 1, Friday 22/11/2024 is Accredited for 06.0 CME Hours

DAY 2, Saturday 23/11/2024 is Accredited for 07.0 CME Hours

## Certificate of Attendance

- Please ensure to scan in and scan out your name badge in the session halls attended.
- CME points are accumulated based on attended hours.
- A notification containing the link and instructions on how to download the certificates will be sent to your registered email address.
- Please note that you are required to complete the online evaluation of the conference before you can access the link to download your CME certificates. It is your responsibility to download and retain a copy of the certificate for your records.
- Each medical specialist should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

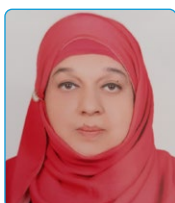


# Conference Speakers



**Dr. Stefan Weber**

Chair of Scientific Committee,  
Director of Medical Operations,  
Purelab South, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Faiza Ahmed**

Senior Analyst, Healthcare Quality  
Healthcare Quality Advisor / Epidemiologist  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Fatima Salmeen Almaawali**

Director of Quality  
Abu Dhabi Region, UAE



**Mr. Ahmed Madyan**

Director Clinical Solutions  
Cepheid Middle East, Africa & CIS



**Dr. Mohamed Adawee**

Director, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology  
University of Michigan Health-Sparrow, USA



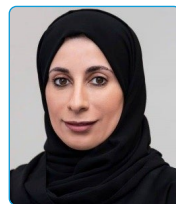
**Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew**

SEHA STMC Hospital  
Senior Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi UAE



**Ms. Nicole Bond**

Senior Infection Control Practitioner  
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE



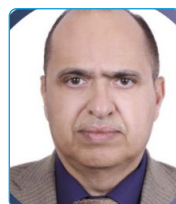
**H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani**

Executive Director Communicable Diseases,  
Abu Dhabi, Public Health Center (ADPHC), UAE



**Dr. Tania Bubb**

PhD, RN, CIC, FAPIC  
APIC President / Senior Director,  
Infection Prevention & Control  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA



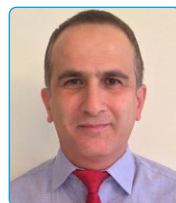
**Dr. Ahmed Khudhair Abbas**

Tuberculosis Program Specialist  
Infectious Diseases Sector,  
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre,  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE



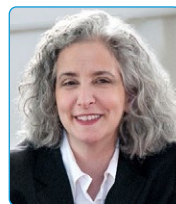
**Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq**

Consultant Internist & Head of Medical Department  
Al Kuwait Hospital Dubai  
Head of Infection Prevention and  
Control Central Committee, UAE



**Dr. Jehad Abdalla**

Infectious Diseases Consultant,  
Head of IPCC - SKMC,  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Janet Haas**

Consulting Epidemiologist  
Innovative Infection Prevention, USA



**Dr. Saleema Wani**

Consultant Obstetrics and  
Gynecology and Deputy CMO  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



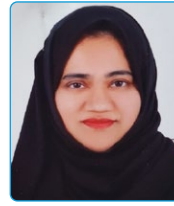


# Conference Speakers



## Dr. Tehmina Khan

Consultant, Chief of Infectious Diseases  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Dr. Fouzia Jabeen

Consultant Microbiologist in  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Dr. Timothy Anthony Collyns

Consultant Medical Microbiologist &  
Laboratory Chair  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi  
PureLab, UAE



## Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf

Conference Chairperson  
President APIC Chapter UAE  
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Dr. Hafis Ibrahim Ponnambath

Consultant Neonatologist  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Ms. Jessica Dangles

Executive Director  
Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology  
(CBIC), Virginia, USA



## Ms. Priya Mohanan

Infection Preventionist  
NMC Royal Hospital, Sharjah, UAE



## Ms. Prameela Maniamma

Senior Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh

Infection Prevention and Control Manager  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



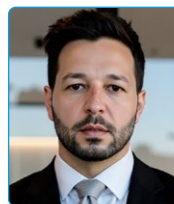
## Engr. Mhd Samer Abdalhadi Ksibati

Rawan Water Treatment Equipment  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Dr. Carol McLay

DrPH, MPH, RN, CIC FAPIC, FSHEA  
Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control  
Healthcare Epidemiology and Public Health  
Lewisville, North Carolina, USA



## Mr. Safwan Abdallah

Global Chief Product Officer for MicroSafe Group  
Dubai, UAE



## Workshop Speakers



**Ms. Tabrikah Mohammed Ali**

Infection Control  
National Rehabilitation Center (NRC),  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego**

Infection Preventionist Nurse  
Education and Support  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Jennifer Calapan Dequito**

Infection Preventionist Nurse  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija**

Senior Infection prevention & control officer RN, CIC  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Jancy Varghese**

Senior Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Sheena Kabeer**

Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Hanan Farag Rashed**

Infection Preventionist Officer  
SEHA - Ambulatory Healthcare Services,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Ahmed Khudhair Abbas**

Tuberculosis Program Specialist  
Infectious Diseases Sector,  
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre,  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Oral Presenters



**Mr. Alvin Arzadon**

Manager, Infection Prevention and Control  
Amana Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Vineet Gupta**

Consultant Neonatologist & HOD  
Danat Al Emarat Hospital for Women & Children



**Ms. Sawsan Mubarak**

Infection Control Program Manager  
King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan



**Ms. Rozina Roshan**

Senior Manager IPC and QPS  
The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH),  
Pakistan



**Ms. Sheena Rajan**

Senior Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
SEHA Kidney Care, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Tala Kardas**

MSPH, CIC  
Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner  
Danat Al Emarat Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Jency Suraj**

Senior Infection Preventionist and  
IPC Program Lead  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Ms. Lamya Kanakaveli  
Lakshmanan**

Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
Ambulatory Health Care Services, UAE



# Scientific Program

DAY 1 – NOV 22, 2024 – FRIDAY

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:30-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome Speech	Ms. Abeer Khallaf
<b>SESSION 1</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Mouza Al Hassani & Dr. Shafii Mohamed	
09:00-09:20	Antimicrobial Resistance: Regional Update	Dr. Stefan Weber, UAE
09:20-09:40	UAE public health agenda and related update	H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani, UAE
09:40-10:00	JAWDA Update	Dr. Faiza Ahmed, UAE
<b>10:00-10:20 Official Inauguration</b>		
10:20-10:30	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break	
<b>SESSION 2</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Janet Haas & Ms. Obaida Merheb	
10:45-11:15	KEYNOTE: Fostering Success and Inclusivity in Infection Prevention & Control	Dr. Tania Bubb, USA
11:15-11:35	Enhancing Quality in Infection Prevention: A Path to Safer Healthcare	Ms. Fatima Salmeen Almaawali, UAE
11:35-11:55	Tuberculosis Program	Dr. Ahmed Khudair Abbas, UAE
11:55-12:15	The Power of Prevention: A Practical approach to Screening for HAI Pathogens	Mr. Ahmed Madyan, UAE
12:15-12:25	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
12:25-13:55	Prayer & Lunch Break   Exhibition & Poster Viewing	
<b>SESSION 3</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Jehad Abdalla & Dr. Mohamed Adawee	
13:55-14:15	National Infection Prevention and Control Update	Dr. Najiba Abdulrazzaq, UAE (Virtual)
14:15-14:35	APIC Toolkit for Patient Hand Hygiene	Dr. Mohamed Adawee, USA
14:35-14:55	Better Antimicrobial Stewardship, Better outcomes	Dr. Jehad Abdalla, UAE
14:55-15:15	Infection prevention and control staffing, quality or quantity, which one is better to make your program stronger?	Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew, UAE
15:15-15:25	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
15:25-15:35	Coffee Break	



## Scientific Program

DAY 1 – NOV 22, 2024 – FRIDAY

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
SESSION 4 Moderators: Dr. Tania Bubb & Ms. Obaida Merheb		
15:35-15:55	Infection Prevention and the Healthcare Built Environment: Why Every Aspect Matters	Dr. Janet Haas, USA
15:55-16:15	Striving for Excellence: Enhancing Surgical Bundle Compliance through Collaborative Reflection and Lessons Learned	Ms. Nicole Bond, UAE
16:15-16:35	Multimodal approach to prevent surgical site infections among cesarean section	Dr. Saleema Wani, UAE
16:35-16:55	What clinicians need to know about Monkeypox	Dr. Tehmina Khan, UAE
16:55-17:05	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session

## SESSION 4 | PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

## Turquoise B

15:35-17:05 (1.5 hrs)

Implementation of the Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) Standard for Tuberculosis Control in Abu Dhabi: Enhancing Healthcare Outcomes and Sector Compliance

Ms. Hanan Farag Rashed, UAE

Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija, UAE

Dr. Ahmed Khudair Abbas, UAE

SESSION 5 Moderators: Dr. Stefan Weber & Dr. Janet Haas		
Oral Presentations (Part 1)		
17:05-17:45	Vaccine effectiveness of Sinopharm booster dose: A retrospective observational study among healthcare workers in the United Arab Emirates	Mr. Alvin Arzadon, UAE
	Reducing dialysis access related blood stream infections by implementing a set of infection of prevention and control core interventions at SEHA Kidney Care (SKC)	Ms. Sheena Rajan, UAE
	Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of the Kaiser Permanente Sepsis Risk Calculator in Neonatal Early Onset Sepsis Management - A prospective Study	Dr. Vineet Gupta, UAE
	Upskilling Infection Prevention Link Nurses Using the APIC Competency Model: An Assessment of Effectiveness	Ms. Tala Kardas, UAE
17:45-17:55	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
17:55	CLOSING & END OF DAY 1	

# Scientific Program

DAY 2 – NOV 23, 2024 – SATURDAY

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome Speech	
<b>SESSION 6</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Mohamed Adawee & Dr. Hafis Ibrahim	
09:00-09:20	Using molecular panels for infection control	Dr. Fouzia Jabeen, UAE
09:20-09:40	Catching CRABs and some other tricky beasts	Dr. Timothy Anthony Collins, UAE
09:40-10:00	Eliminating MDRO- IP Strategy challenges and success	Ms. Abeer Khallaf, UAE
10:00-10:10	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
10:10-10:25	Coffee Break	
<b>SESSION 7</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Timothy Collins & Ms. Abeer Khallaf	
10:25-10:45	A roadmap to central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) reduction	Dr. Hafis Ibrahim Ponnambath, UAE
10:45-11:05	The Value of CBIC Certification	Ms. Jessica Dangles, USA
11:05-11:25	Reducing CLABSI Rates in a Long-Term Care Unit Using CUSP and DMAIC Methodologies: A quality Improvement Initiative	Ms. Priya Mohanan, UAE
11:25-11:35	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
11:35-12:05	SYMPOSIUM: Strategies for Preventing Hospital Acquired Infections Through Optimal Disinfectant Use	Mr. Safwan Abdallah, UAE
12:05-13:05	Prayer & Lunch Break   Exhibition & Poster Viewing	
<b>SESSION 8</b>		
Moderators:	Dr. Fouzia Jabeen & Ms. Obaida Merheb	
13:05-13:25	Multidisciplinary team-based QI approaches Prevention of Surgical site infection	Ms. Pameela Maniamma, UAE
13:25-13:45	Right approach: Improvement in cleaning and Disinfection of Medical Equipment in Use: Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City (SSMC) Experience	Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh, UAE
13:45-14:05	Legionella in hospital water systems	Dr. Stefan Weber, UAE
14:05-14:25	Strategies for legionella Prevention in healthcare the IP role	Ms. Abeer Khallaf, UAE
14:25-14:45	Water treatment strategy to prevent legionella in healthcare water system	Engr. Samer Abdalhadi Ksibati, UAE
14:45-14:55	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
14:55-15:15	KEYNOTE: APIC's new research agenda	Dr. Carol Mclay, USA
15:15-15:25	Panel Review Discussion	Dr. Stefan Weber, UAE Dr. Mohamed Adawee , USA

## Scientific Program

DAY 2 – NOV 23, 2024 – SATURDAY

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
SESSION 9 Moderator:		
Oral Presentations (Part 2) Dr. Stefan Weber		
15:25-16:05	GAIHN-HAI Point Prevalence Survey on Healthcare-Associated Infections at King Hussein Cancer Center, An International Partnership with the U.S. Center for Disease and Prevention	Ms. Sawsan Mubarak, Jordan
	Proactive risk assessment and water management program to prevent and control Legionella growth and spread	Mrs. Jency Suraj, UAE
	Testing readiness to deal with infectious patients at the point of entry Pre-COVID and Post-COVID Era in LMIC hospitals through mystery Mock drills	Ms. Rozina Roshan, Pakistan (Virtual)
	Primary care approach to the pandemic	Ms. Lamya Kanakaveli Lakshmanan, UAE
16:05-16:15	Q & A / Panel Discussion	All Speakers Session
SESSION 9   PARALLEL WORKSHOPS		
Turquoise A		
15:25-16:55 (1.5 hrs)		
CIC exam: Your Way to Success		
Ms. Tabrikah Mohammed Ali, UAE		
Turquoise C		
15:25-16:10 (45 mins)		
HAI and CLABSI surveillance workshop		
Ms. Jancy Varghese, UAE		
Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego, UAE		
16:10-16:55 (45 mins)		
Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) Surveillance Workshop		
Ms. Sheena Kabeer, UAE		
Ms. Jennifer Calapan Dequito, UAE		
End of the Conference		



## Poster Presenters

POSTER #	ABSTRACT TITLE	PRESENTER NAME
01	Monkeypox Vaccine Acceptance among Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Dr. Mohamad Assker, UAE
03	Evaluation of Infection Preventionists' Competencies using the APIC Competency Model in Tertiary Care Government Hospitals, Bahrain	Mr. Saleh Sowar, Bahrain
04	Innovative Approaches and Best Practices in Global Infection Prevention and Control	Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew, UAE
05	Against the Odds: A Rare Case of Neonatal Listeriosis in a Preterm Infant from the United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Dr. Sirine Saleh, UAE
07	Pott's Disease in a Paediatric Patient	Dr. Mena Mohammed AlKubaisi, UAE
08	De-escalation of Antibiotics in Patients Admitted with Sepsis in the ICU and Medical Ward	Dr. Vikram Satish Lakshman, UAE
09	Latent Syphilis in Early Pregnancy: An Incidental Finding at 7 Weeks Gestation	Ms. Shahd Abouelenen, UAE
10	Integrating Nurses to ASP Activities in a Meaningful and Sustainable way	Dr. Sruthy Rajagopal, UAE
11	Sharps Safety: Reducing Injuries and Improving Compliance	Mrs. Wilmalyn Rebuyas, UAE
12	Tracking Antibiotic-Related Safety Events in Critical Care Settings - A Monitoring Framework for Adverse Events	Dr. Tarun Wadhwa, UAE
13	The Epidemiology of Multidrug-Resistance (MDR) Pathogens among Hematopoietic Stem Cells Transplant (HSCT) Patients at a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Jordan: Five Year Retrospective Study	Ms. Sawsan Mubarak, Jordan
14	Reducing Surgical Infections Through Quality Improvement Project	Ms. Shacemol Thomas, UAE
15	Impact of Secret Shoppers in enhancing hand Hygiene Compliance in a tertiary care hospital in Karachi, Pakistan	Mrs. Rozina Roshanali Essani, Pakistan
16	Revisiting Hand Sanitizer During an Economic Crisis and Maintaining Quality and IPC Outcomes	Mrs. Rozina Roshanali Essani, Pakistan
17	A multidisciplinary approach to enhance safety through proper waste segregation through introduction of mobile trolleys	Mrs. Nazleen Virani, Pakistan
18	Reducing Needle Stick Injuries and Blood Exposure Incidents among Healthcare Workers in the UAE: A Focus on Safety Protocols, Reporting, and Prevention Strategies	Ms. Hanan Farag Rashed, UAE
19	Improvement of Hand Hygiene Compliance Using the Plan-Do-Study-Act Method: Quality Improvement Project in behavioral health facility.UAE	Ms. Sara Al Balooshi, UAE
20	Recommendations For Staff Awareness Sessions on Needle Stick injuries: A Report From a Substance Use Rehabilitation Center	Mr. Ahmed Maouloud, UAE



## Speakers' Biography

## Speakers' Biography



**Dr. Stefan Weber**

Chair of Scientific Committee,  
Director of Medical Operations,  
Purelab South, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Stefan Weber is the Medical Director of Purelab-South Abu Dhabi. He is consultant pathologist at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, and focuses on subjects such as clinical microbiology, antibiotic stewardship and infection control. He received his medical degree from the University of Cologne, Germany. His experience includes medical director of Bioscientia, a medical laboratory in Germany, and the medical Director if the Institute for Microbiology and Hospitaal Hygenie in Hoyerswerda Hospital, Germany.



**H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani**

Executive Director Communicable Diseases,  
Abu Dhabi, Public Health Center (ADPHC), UAE



Her Excellency Dr Farida Al Hosani, Executive Director of Infectious Diseases at Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre.

Member of WHO PIP Framework Advisory Group. Adjunct Associate Professor UAEU, Board Member of Rahma Cancer Care Association, Official spokesperson for the UAE Health Sector during the COVID pandemic.

In her role, she is focused on setting the Centre's strategic plans and overseeing their implementation in line with the goals and objectives of the Communicable Diseases Sector and the UAE and Abu Dhabi's strategy. Building on her extensive experience and knowledge in the healthcare sector H.E. Dr Farida lead the operational and planning elements of communicable diseases surveillance and monitoring including E-Notifications, Premarital Screening, Malaria Control, Vaccinations, Occupational and Environmental Health and outbreak response and management at ADPHC.

As the Official Spokesperson for the UAE Health Sector, H.E. Dr. Farida held the responsibility of communicating the latest updates along with public health and safety measures to the community. Leading pandemic preparedness and vaccination initiatives, her role has supported the UAE's accomplishments as an expert in addressing the pandemic.

H.E. Dr. Farida AlHosani is the first Emirati female to join World Health Organization's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group in 2022. She is serving in her personal, expert capacity, for a period of three years. Her key goal as a member is to improve and strengthen the sharing of information about influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, and to increase the access to vaccines and other pandemic related supplies for developing countries. As a leader in health strategic planning and public health excellence in Abu Dhabi, H.E. Dr. Farida has held numerous leadership positions over the past 12 years, enhancing her comprehensive perspective of the rapidly transforming public health industry.

H.E. Dr. Farida served as the Head of the UAE Abu Dhabi Research Committee for COVID-19, and the Head of the Executive Team for the COVID-19 vaccine in Abu Dhabi. She holds a Master's degree and PhD from the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA and a Master's degree in Security and Strategic Studies from the UAE National Defense College.



## Speakers' Biography



### Dr. Faiza Ahmed

Senior Analyst, Healthcare Quality  
Healthcare Quality Advisor / Epidemiologist  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE



- MD (MBBS) and MSc, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- COVID-19 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates –UAE) Public Health analytical and advisory role
- Implementation of the Abu Dhabi, UAE healthcare quality monitoring and improvement framework [Muashir] – through active engagement with the providers
- Healthcare quality (Jawda) indicators development and automation of the data collection and processing
- Leading the Women and Children's Health program in Abu Dhabi, UAE; also conducted the maternal care study with NHS UK consultants and infant mortality study with CNMC USA
- Design and evaluation of electronic public health surveillance systems in Abu Dhabi; driving healthcare reforms and policies through epidemiological reporting to senior management.
- Received "International Scholars Award" at Congress of Epidemiology, Seattle USA
- Skills: Healthcare quality improvements, epidemiological analysis and reporting, health policy, strategic planning, project planning, budgeting and management, research, stakeholder engagement, teaching
- Technology literacy: SAS Visual Analytics, SPSS
- Committees (current): Chair Women and Child Health Advisory Group, Member Healthcare Quality Technical Subcommittee



### Dr. Tania Bubb

PhD, RN, CIC, FAPIC  
APIC President / Senior Director,  
Infection Prevention & Control  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA



Dr. Tania Bubb is the Senior Director of Infection Prevention & Control at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. She has worked as an Infection Preventionist at major academic medical centers with responsibilities spanning the continuum of care. She has served on both the local and national APIC board of directors. Prior to serving at the national level, Dr. Bubb chaired the APIC Professional Development Committee, was a member of the American Journal of Infection Control Editorial Review Board, and a member of APIC's Practice Resources Editorial Panel. She is an experienced speaker and author, having presented at local and national APIC events as well as other conferences, and authored publications related to the field of infection prevention and control. Most recently, Dr. Bubb co-chaired APIC's Health Inequities and Disparities Taskforce and is the 2024 APIC President.



### Ms. Fatima Salmeen Almaawali

Director of Quality  
Abu Dhabi Region, UAE



Ms. Fatima Salmeen Almaawali has over 10 years of experience at SEHA, with a background in the Quality, Strategy, Business Intelligence, and Performance departments. She has been serving as the Director of Quality since 2022 and previously held the role of Corporate Quality Manager in the Customer Service Improvement Section from 2006.

## Speakers' Biography



**Dr. Ahmed Khudhair Abbas**

Tuberculosis Program Specialist  
Infectious Diseases Sector,  
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre,  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE



- MBBS, 1990, Al Mustansiriyyah college of medicine, Iraq
- Master's degree in public health, Al Mustansiriyyah college of medicine, Iraq 1995
- Have accumulative experience of 29 years in different fields of Public health, Health planning, Primary Health care and infectious disease control programs.
- Currently work at Abu Dhabi Public Health Center as TB program lead and acting section head, Infectious diseases programs section



**Mr. Ahmed Madyan**

Director Clinical Solutions  
Cepheid Middle East, Africa & CIS



B.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty of Clinical Pharmacy ; Tanta ; Egypt. Year 2000  
TQM ( Total Quality Management ) Diploma : American University Hospital ; Cairo ; EGYPT. Year 2007; Master of Business Administration ( MBA ) Northampton University ; U.K. Year 2020.



**Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq**

Consultant Internist & Head of Medical Department  
Al Kuwait Hospital Dubai  
Head of Infection Prevention and  
Control Central Committee, UAE



- Consultant Internist with many years of versatile experience in handling patients. Currently functioning as the Head of Internal Medicine/Cardiology Department in AL Kuwait Hospital-Dubai.
- Head of COVID 19 isolation wards at Al Kuwait Hospital Dubai
- Head of Central Infection prevention and Control committee in Emirates Health Services
- Chair of National Antimicrobial Resistance committee in UAE
- Graduated from UCD Ireland and Fellow of the Royal College of Physician UK
- Associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine University of Sharjah
- Well versed in the management of patients with various medical illnesses.
- Delivered various lectures in in many conferences and symposiums.
- Highly active and experienced in conducting patient education campaigns
- Member of Various committees in EHS, Ministry of Health and Prevention, DHA and other National committees
- UAE Focal point for Antibiotic in the human sector for WHO
- Member of GCC AMR Committee
- Participated in researches in various medical fields
- President of International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance-ICAMR

## Speakers' Biography



### Dr. Mohamed Adawee

Director, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology  
University of Michigan Health-Sparrow, USA



Mohamed Adawee MSN-IPC, RN, CIC, CPHQ, FAPIC

Mohamed Adawee is the Director of Infection Prevention and Epidemiology at the University of Michigan-Sparrow Hospital, Michigan, United States. He has over 24 years of clinical experience in Infection Prevention and critical care settings. Adawee is active with APIC, where he has served on several APIC committees, such as the Practice Guidance Committee and as a liaison with the ASHRAE and FGI. Adawee participated in the writing of codes, standards, and guidelines, as well as reviewing standards for many national professional organizations in the United States. He was recognized by the American Standards Institute for his contribution to the first national UV light standard. Adawee earned a master's degree in Infection Prevention and is currently a Ph.D. student in Epidemiology. He is certified in infection control (CIC) and healthcare quality (CPHQ), a fellow of APIC (FAPIC), and a published author in the field.



### Dr. Jehad Abdalla

Infectious Diseases Consultant,  
Head of IPCC - SKMC,  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



- Present - Infectious Diseases Consultant, Head of IPCC - SKMC, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 02/2015 - Infectious Diseases consultant, Al Rahba Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 07/2004- 01/2015 - Infectious Diseases consultant, The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg, Orangeburg, SC and the Hope HIV clinic in Florence and Orangeburg, SC.
- 07/2002- 6/2004 - Fellow in the Department of Infectious Diseases, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.
- 07/1999-6/2002 - Resident in the Department of Medicine, Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, NY.
- 04/1994-12/1997 - Resident in the Department of Internal Medicine, Jabal Al-Zaitoon Hospital, Jordan.
- 1986-1994 - Doctorate of Medicine, Tishreen University School of Medicine, Lattakia, Syria.

#### Professional Memberships:

- Infectious Diseases Society of America, member
- Jordan Medical Association, member

#### Certification:

- August 2012 - American Board of Internal Medicine
- October 2015 - American Board of Infectious Diseases



## Speakers' Biography



**Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew**

SEHA STMC Hospital  
Senior Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi UAE



I am deeply passionate about Infection Prevention and Control, bringing over 17 years of dedicated experience to the forefront of healthcare initiatives in JCI-accredited hospitals. I have devoted my career to advancing the field of infection prevention and control through education, certification, and active participation in professional organizations. My unwavering commitment to reducing healthcare-associated infections and improving patient safety has been a guiding principle throughout my 17-year journey in this field.

Education and Certifications:

Master of Science in Nursing: Specialized in Infection Prevention and Control.

Fellowship in Infectious Disease:

Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control (CIC®): Certified in 2016

DOH License Holder: Privileged as an Infection Control Nurse.

Basic Life Support (BLS)

Professional Contributions:

APIC 2024 Prevention Strategist Panel Member

Reviewer: For Certification Companion 1ST Edition : Mastering the Certification in Infection Control (CIC®) Exam (APIC)

Publications and Presentations:

Poster Presentation: Delivered at the 2024 International Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference in Dubai, focusing on Bundle Approach to reduce blood Culture contamination reduction

Published Article: "Reducing Blood Culture Contamination: A Comprehensive Prevention Strategy" in APIC Prevention Strategist, Summer 2024 edition.

My commitment to infection prevention and control is demonstrated through ongoing education, certification, and active participation in professional communities, all aimed at promoting health and safety in healthcare settings.



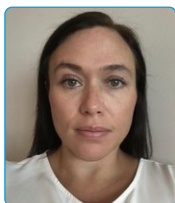
**Dr. Janet Haas**

Consulting Epidemiologist  
Innovative Infection Prevention, USA



Janet Haas is the CEO and principal consulting epidemiologist at Innovative Infection Prevention, LLC; a firm that provides infection prevention, quality and COVID-19 related help to healthcare, and the public and private sectors. She is also an associate editor of the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC) and was the 2018 president of APIC. Prior to her consulting role, Dr. Haas was the director of Epidemiology at Lenox Hill Hospital, in New York City, and she has led Epidemiology departments at other hospitals in New York. Dr. Haas earned a PhD in Nursing from Columbia University in New York, and a MS in Epidemiology from the State University at Albany, New York. Her interests are in informatics for epidemiology, environmental disinfection, motivation for hand hygiene and preparing for the future of infection prevention.

## Speakers' Biography



**Ms. Nicole Bond**

Senior Infection Control Practitioner  
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE



With over 16 years of experience in Critical Care and Infection Control in both the UK and the Middle East, I have developed a specialized skill set and profound expertise in the complex domain of surgical site infections. This area has become a particular passion of mine, and I am presently leading a project focused on preventing surgical site infections at CCAD. This initiative is conducted in collaboration with a dedicated multidisciplinary team, including some of the foremost surgeons, anaesthetists, and nurses in the Middle East.



**Dr. Saleema Wani**

Consultant Obstetrics and  
Gynecology and Deputy CMO  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Saleema Wani is Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Chair of the Academic Affairs Department. She obtained her MBBS & Doctor of Medicine (MD) Degree from India. Dr. Wani has practiced obstetrics and gynaecology at Corniche Hospital for the last 27 years. Her areas of clinical expertise include high-risk pregnancy conditions and prenatal diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. During her work at Corniche, Dr. Wani managed medically and/or surgically a large number of pregnant women with high risk pregnancies and placental abnormalities. She is well known for her patient centred care.



**Dr. Tehmina Khan**

Consultant, Chief of Infectious Diseases  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Tehmina Khan is an Infectious Diseases Consultant at SKMC, she joined SKMC since July 2013. She completed her medical degree from Pakistan, Nishtar Medical College in 2004. Completed Internal Medicine residency from Lutheran Hospital Center, New York. She completed her Infectious diseases Fellowship training from Louisiana State University, New Orleans, U.S.A. She is American Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Medical Quality. She is Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at College of Medicine and Health Science and Member of Infectious diseases society of America (IDSA). She is Chair of Antibiotic stewardship program at SKMC and an active member of Infection control committee. Her expertise include diagnosis and treatment of full range of infectious diseases including but not limiting to HIV, TB, Bone Infections and other complicated and uncomplicated Infectious diseases. She is Clinical core faculty of Internal Medicine residency program and has great passion for teaching.

## Speakers' Biography

**Dr. Fouzia Jabeen**

Consultant Microbiologist in  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



I am a Consultant Microbiologist in Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi. I obtained my medical degree in India and undertook post graduate training in both Clinical Microbiology and Virology in the East and West Midlands, UK over a period of 7 years. I have worked as a Consultant in Clinical Virology in Nottingham, UK for 4 years before joining Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Ajman in 2017. Particular interests include infections in the immunocompromised hosts and blood borne viruses.

**Dr. Timothy Anthony Collins**

Consultant Medical Microbiologist &  
Laboratory Chair  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi  
PureLab, UAE



Tim Collins trained as a Clinical Microbiologist in England; working as a Consultant for the 2,500 bedded Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust for over 15 years; with the last four years including being Lead Infection Control Doctor. He served on various local, regional and national committees, including for Nice and Public Health England. In 2019, he relocated to Tawam Hospital in Al Ain; and since the birth of Union71 Laboratories, now part of purehealth, in 2020; has been the Chair of the Union71 laboratories in the Al Ain Region.

**Dr. Hafis Ibrahim Ponnambath**

Consultant Neonatologist  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Hafis Ibrahim is a consultant neonatologist working at the Corniche Hospital in Abu Dhabi. He graduated from India and underwent post graduate training in paediatrics from the prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. He moved to the UK in 2001 and sub specialised in neonatology, obtaining his CCT in 2009. Subsequently he worked as a consultant neonatologist at the Liverpool Women's Hospital which was then the largest neonatal unit in Europe. His main interests other than clinical neonatology includes medical research, medication safety, quality improvement, neonatal infections and infection control. He has led many quality improvement projects during his career. He currently works as one of the consultant neonatologists at Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi where he leads on medication safety in new-born infants, member of REC, member of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and is also the chair of the hospital infection control Committee.

## Speakers' Biography

**Ms. Jessica Dangles**

Executive Director  
Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology  
(CBIC), Virginia, USA



Jessica Dangles is the Executive Director with the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC). She began her career in certification at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, working on the nurse licensure examination NCLEX. From there she accepted a position at the American Osteopathic Association, serving as the Certification Director for the American Osteopathic board of Family Physicians, Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics. Prior to working with CBIC, she was the Accreditation Standards Manager at the American College of Surgeons within the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Arts in Women and Gender Studies, a Master of Science in Human Resources, a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and her Master of Business Administration. She believes certification is essential to patient safety and public protection and enjoys working with the CBIC board and staff to positively impact infection control practices.

**Ms. Priya Mohanan**

Infection Preventionist  
NMC Royal Hospital, Sharjah, UAE



"I am Priya Mohanan, an Infection Preventionist with 14 years of experience in the healthcare field, specializing in quality improvement and infection prevention. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Nursing, a Master's degree in Hospital Administration, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases (UNSW, Australia), along with Board Certifications in Infection Control (CIC), Patient Safety (CPPS), and Healthcare Quality (CPHQ). My work is focused on advancing high standards in safety and quality across healthcare settings.

I have led multiple initiatives to reduce infection risks, including a recent project to lower CLABSI (Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection) rates in a long-term care unit. By applying CUSP (Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program) and DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) methodologies, I successfully achieved sustainable improvements in infection control practices.

I am committed to fostering safer healthcare environments through evidence-based strategies and promoting a culture of continuous quality improvement.



## Speakers' Biography

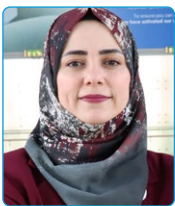


### **Ms. Prameela Maniamma**

Senior Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Prameela Maniamma is Infection Preventionist working at SSMC. She started her career as a registered nurse in 2001. Joined Mafraq Hospital in 2008 as a staff nurse. She started her practice in infection control in 2010. She completed Bachelor Science degree in Nursing (BSN) from Kerala University, India in 2001. She is certified in Infection Control (CIC) from American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology in 2011 and recertified in 2017 and in 2021. Prameela served as organizer and as a member of scientific committee in Mafraq Infection Prevention & Control Workshop in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017. Also served as a speaker in Mafraq Infection Prevention & Control Workshop in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 and in SEHA International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection 2017 and 2018; also served as speaker in ICN regional conference and NAT Infection Prevention and Control Conference in 2018. She is a trained internal auditor for Occupational Safety Health Management System (OSHMS) and is also co-lead for MDRO Taskforce. She also Co-author for peer review article- How clean is clean "in British medical journal- Quality in 2015.



### **Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh**

Infection Prevention and Control Manager  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Reham is a highly experienced healthcare professional with over 19 years of experience in nursing and infection prevention. She started her career in nursing at Mafraq Hospital in the UAE in 2005 and earned her Diploma of Health Science in Nursing in 2004. Reham's passion for healthcare and evidence-based practice led her to specialize in infection prevention and control, becoming certified by the American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology in 2012. She holds a professional Diploma in Infection Control and Medical Waste Management and completed a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Wollongong in Dubai. In June 2023, she earned her master's degree in healthcare management from Lincoln University, Al Sharjah.

Currently, Reham serves as the Manager of five clinical services: Infection Prevention and Control, wound management, Pain management, Urinary Catheter, and vascular access specialty team at SSMC Hospital in Abu Dhabi.



### **Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf**

Conference Chairperson  
President APIC Chapter UAE  
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Abeer Khallaf, CIC

- Regional Infection Prevention and control Manager, SKMC and ARH – SEHA
- APIC-UAE Chapter President
- Vice-chair of the infection prevention and control committee SKMC.
- Certified professional in Infection Control and Epidemiology CBIC, Certification # 101605
- Registered RN – New York board of Nursing

## Speakers' Biography



**Engr. Mhd Samer Abdalhadi Ksibati**

Rawan Water Treatment Equipment  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Engineer Mhd Samer Abdalhadi Ksibati is currently working at Rawan Water Treatment Equipment in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



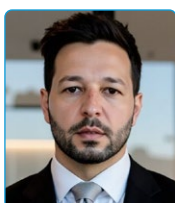
**Dr. Carol McLay**

DrPH, MPH, RN, CIC FAPIC, FSHEA  
Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control  
Healthcare Epidemiology and Public Health  
Lewisville, North Carolina, USA



Dr. Carol M. McLay, DrPH, MPH, RN, FAPIC, CIC is a consultant in the fields of infection prevention and control, healthcare epidemiology, and public health. She has contributed to clinical practice, research, and education in the field of infection prevention for more than 25 years. Carol is passionate about certification, education and mentoring the next generation and enjoys speaking at state, national, and international conferences. She is the author of The Infection Prevention Competency Review Guide, 4th edition, and APIC's Certification Study Guide, 5th to 7th editions.

Dr. McLay is the 2024 APIC President-Elect and also presides as Director on the International Federation for Infection Control (IFIC) and AJIC Editorial Boards. She is certified in infection prevention and control and is a Fellow of APIC and SHEA. She holds certification as an ISO 9001 Lead Auditor. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Ottawa, (Canada), her Master of Public Health degree from Emory University (USA), and her Doctorate of Public Health degree from the University of Kentucky (USA).



**Mr. Safwan Abdallah**

Global Chief Product Officer for MicroSafe Group  
Dubai, UAE



Mr. Safwan Abdallah is a seasoned expert in the field of infection control regulations, with extensive experience working alongside prominent regulatory agencies such as the U.S. FDA, U.S. EPA, European CE/MDR, and Australian TGA. His expertise has been instrumental in testing and obtaining approvals for both environmental disinfectants and human antiseptic products. Currently, Mr. Abdallah serves as the Global Chief Product Officer for MicroSafe Group. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing territories that include North America, the European Union, Australia, and the MENA region. Before co-founding MicroSafe Group in Dubai, Mr. Abdallah served as a district sales manager for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in California, a role he excelled in for nearly a decade. His leadership and commitment to excellence have positioned him at the forefront of infection control, where he continually engages with renowned healthcare institutions across the EMEA region to address the escalating challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

## Workshop Speakers' Biography



**Ms. Tabrikah Mohammed Ali**

Infection Control  
National Rehabilitation Center (NRC),  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Tabrikah Mohammed, is an accomplished nursing professional with a diverse educational background and vast experience in infection control. Tabrikah holds a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Sharjah University, which she obtained in 2011, and a master's in healthcare administration from the Royal College of Surgeon Ireland, which she completed in 2013. Tabrikah has furthered her expertise by obtaining certification as a CIC in 2018 and a CPHQ in 2021. She is also the founder of the IPQ Academy, where she imparts her knowledge and experience to other healthcare professionals. As the co-founder, head of the scientific committee, and infection control expert of MENA FHSS, she has made significant contributions to the healthcare sector.

Recently, founded the Emirates Infection Prevention and Sterilization Society (EIPSS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of infection prevention and sterilization practices in UAE. EIPSS operates under Emirates Nursing Association (ENA). Currently, Tabrikah serves as an Infection Control Officer in The National Rehabilitation Centre, where she applies her skills and knowledge to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers. She is also a member of the 2023 editorial advisory board in Infection Control Today, a testament to her reputation as an expert in infection control.

Tabrikah's contributions to the field of infection control have been recognized through several awards, including the IP Idol from CBIC in 2021 and Best IPC Influencer by SSIPC in 2023. She is also an international speaker at various conferences and conducts workshops.

Tabrikah's commitment to advancing infection control practices and improving patient outcomes is evident in her work and contributions to the healthcare sector.



**Ms. Jancy Varghese**

Senior Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Jancy Varghese is currently working as senior infection preventionist nurse Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. She started her practice in infection control in 2011. She completed Bachelor Science degree in Nursing (BSN) from Punjab University, India. She is certified in Infection Control (CIC) from American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology in 2012 and recertified in 2018 and in 2022.

She is a Certified OSHAD internal auditor. She is member in QPS committee, Infection prevention and control committee, Water safety committee and PCI and FMS chapter of JCI. Also a member of CLABSI taskforce team in SSMC and in SEHA.

Jancy served as a speaker in Seha International Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Conference (SINMAC) 204, 9th Annual Dubai International Conference on Infectious Diseases & Vaccination in 2024, in SEHA International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection in 2018, in Mafraq Infection Prevention & Control Workshop in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017. Also served as organizer of Mafraq Infection Prevention & Control Workshop in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017. She is also Co-author for peer review article- How clean is clean "in British medical journal- Quality in 2015.

## Workshop Speakers' Biography



### **Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego**

Infection Preventionist Nurse  
Education and Support  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Joselita Rego is a dedicated healthcare professional with a diverse nursing and infection control background. She graduated with a BSc in Nursing in 2009 from Rajeev Gandhi University of health science and later pursued an MBA in hospital administration in 2024 from St York John University UK. She is certified in Infection Control (CIC) from American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology.

A result-driven professional, offering 14 years of diversified experience in the areas of Health care sector, A highly skilled and detail-oriented Infection preventionist with experience in developing, implementing, and monitoring infection prevention protocols across healthcare settings. Worked in various hospital as Infection control field NMC Hospital, Mediclinic Hospital and currently working at SSMC hospital.

Joselita served as organizer of Infection control workshop at SSMC and as a member of Organizing committee in APIC Prevention & Control Workshop also contributed as a speaker in various National and International conferences and workshops. She is also co-lead of VAE task force.



### **Ms. Sheena Kabeer**

Infection Preventionist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Sheena Kabeer is an Infection Preventionist working at SSMC. She started her career as registered nurse in 2004. Joined Mafrq Hospital in 2009 as a staff nurse. She started her practice in infection control in 2019. She completed Bachelor Science degree in Nursing from M.G. University, India in 2003. She is certified in Infection Control (CIC) from American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology in 2019, Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) from National association for Healthcare Quality, Certified OSHAD internal auditor and Six sigma yellow belt. She is a member in CAUTI Prevention champion group, Sharp injury taskforce, Infection prevention and control committee, PCI chapter of JCI and OSHAD internal auditing.



### **Ms. Jennifer Calapan Dequito**

Infection Preventionist Nurse  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Jennifer Dequito is an Infection Preventionist working at SSMC. She started her career as registered nurse in 1999. Joined Mafrq Hospital in 2006 as a staff nurse. An active member of Infection control link nurse in Mafrq. She started her practice as infection control nurse in 2018. She completed Bachelor Science degree in Nursing from San Pablo Colleges, Philippines in 1998. She is certified in Infection Control (CIC) from American Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology. She is a member in the MDRO and CLABSI taskforce, Infection prevention and control committee PCI chapter of JCI and OSHAD internal auditing. She is the coordinator for SSMC infection prevention and control link Nurse Programme.



## Workshop Speakers' Biography



### **Ms. Hanan Farag Rashed**

Infection Preventionist Officer  
SEHA - Ambulatory Healthcare Services,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Hanan Farag Rashed is an Infection Preventionist Officer with Ambulatory Health Service, with over a decade of experience dedicated to patient safety and healthcare quality. She leads initiatives to automate infection control tools and establish comprehensive dashboards for continuous monitoring and reporting. In her role, she has pioneered infection control audits, overseen the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for infection control in homecare, and played a critical role in ensuring compliance with Department of Health (DoH) and JCIA standards.

In addition, she is the Co-Chair of the Emiratis Infection Prevention and Sterilization Society (EIPSS), advancing infection prevention at the national level. Previously, she served as Infection Control Manager at Health Plus and led several data automation projects at SEHA's corporate office. Hanan holds a Master's in Healthcare Management from Collège de Paris, is CBIC-certified, and has received the "Rising Star" award from SEHA for her impactful contributions.



### **Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija**

Senior Infection prevention & control officer RN, CIC  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Seham has been a Senior infection prevention & control officer in the Quality division at Shaikh Khalifa medical city [SKMC], Abu Dhabi since 2011. She is dedicated to ensuring high quality, safe, cost effective patient care through effective infection prevention & control program strategies. Seham has excellent experience in infection control audits, overseen the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for infection control, and played a critical role in ensuring compliance with Department of Health (DoH) and JCIA standards.

Seham worked as Professional nursing Tutor at Nusayba Al- Maziniyah College of Nursing-MOH -Jordan. With extensive expertise in infection control [IPC], Seham is a recognized leader in her field, she holds Certified infection control [CIC] credential from the Certification of Infection Control & Epidemiology, USA which demonstrates advanced competence in IPC practices. She is certified infection preventionist [CIC] from Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC)/USA. Seham earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Jordan university of Science & technology, she also holds Diploma in infection control from German Jordanian University & Diploma in nursing education from institute of specialized nursing studies/ both in Jordan. She is Seha certified trainer. Her commitment has led to measurable improvement in infection rates and enhanced staff training programs. She is member of APIC USA, UAE APIC chapter, Seha IDIC council, Jordanian nursing council, Emirates nursing association.

## Oral Presenters' Biography



**Mr. Alvin Arzadon**

Manager, Infection Prevention and Control  
Amana Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE



I'm Alvin Arzadon, Infection Prevention and Control Manager at Amana Healthcare. With more than 10 years experience in the healthcare industry, I specialize in preventing the transmission of preventable infections in healthcare facilities, epidemiology and public health. My background is nursing, currently hold a Post-graduate diploma in Infection control as well as a Masters degree in Public Health both from Essex University, United Kingdom. I am also Certified in Infection Control (CIC) from the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc (CBIC). My goal is to promote a safe and healthy environment for patients, healthcare workers and visitors, leveraging my expertise in Public health and Infection control.

In addition to my professional endeavours, I am also very committed to health, fitness and mental wellbeing. I firmly believe that health should encompass the individual as a whole, regardless of disabilities and infirmities. This guides my approach to both my work and personal life. Outside of work, you can find me engaging in health and fitness activities, hiking mountains or looking for good coffee. I'm always excited in new opportunities, learning or otherwise.



**Ms. Sheena Rajan**

Senior Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
SEHA Kidney Care, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Sheena completed Bachelor Degree in Nursing from Sacred Heart College of Nursing, India in 1998 and Completed Masters in Nursing from Vinayaka Mission University in 2009. Started her career as Paediatric speciality Nurse. Joined Infection Prevention & Control in 2012. Completed Certification in Infection Control and Epidemiology in 2015 and CPHQ (certified professionals in health care quality). Worked as a frontline Infection Preventionist during COVID Pandemic and member of SEHA Infection Control and Infectious Disease Council. Currently working as Senior Infection prevention & Control Officer at SEHA Kidney Care.

## Oral Presenters' Biography



**Dr. Vineet Gupta**

Consultant Neonatologist & HOD  
Danat Al Emarat Hospital for Women & Children



Dr. Gupta began his medical journey at Goa University, India, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in the year 2000. He then obtained a Degree of Doctor in Medicine (MD) in Pediatrics & Neonatology from India's premier institute of national importance, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India. His pursuit of excellence led him to the UK, where he completed a fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge in 2013. He also holds a post graduate qualification in Medical Education from Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, UK. Additionally, he has full accreditation in Echocardiography imaging and reporting in congenital heart disease from the European Academy of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI). Dr. Gupta has been a member of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health since 2013 and became its Fellow in 2018. He also served as an honorary consultant in Pediatric Cardiology at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital in London. He was a clinical tutor for medical students from Queen Mary University London & Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, UK.

### Experience

Dr. Gupta brings over 20 years of specialized expertise in Pediatrics and Neonatology. Prior to joining Danat Al Emarat, Dr. Gupta worked as a Consultant Pediatrician & Neonatologist and was the Head of Neonatal Services at the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, UK. Dr. Gupta has been acknowledged for his remarkable advancements in medical education and honored with the prestigious title and position of "International Visiting Professor of Pediatrics & Neonatology" by DMIHER University. He currently serves as a visiting professor at two esteemed medical colleges in Nagpur and Wardha, India.



**Ms. Tala Kardas**

MSPH, CIC  
Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner  
Danat Al Emarat Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Tala Kardas is currently an Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner at Danat Al Emarat Hospital in Abu Dhabi, UAE. She has over a decade of experience in infection prevention and control in acute and tertiary care, with particular focus on Pediatric and Women's Health. Her scope of practice includes, but is not limited to, surveillance of HAIs, outbreak investigation and management, developing and monitoring the implementation of policies, and hospital-wide education on infection prevention.

She holds a Certification in Infection Control (CIC), a Master's of Science degree in Public Health, with a specialization in Healthcare Policy, Innovation, and Management from Maastricht University, and a Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental Health from the American University of Beirut.

## Oral Presenters' Biography

**Ms. Sawsan Mubarak**

Infection Control Program Manager  
King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan



Sawsan Mubarak, RN, M.Sc. HCIP HCRM,

Is a leader, expert, trainer, and surveyor in the field of infection prevention within healthcare settings in Jordan and the region. With over 20 years of experience as an infection control specialist, she serves as the Manager of Infection Prevention at the prestigious King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan. She is a member of various national committees, including the National Surveillance Committee, National Infection Control Committee, and National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Stewardship Committee. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Jordan and a Master's degree in Epidemiology from the Jordan University of Science & Technology. She has publications and presentations in the fields of infection control and epidemiological research.

**Ms. Jency Suraj**

Senior Infection Preventionist and  
IPC Program Lead  
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Jency Suraj is a CIC Certified Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) professional with more than 15 years of professional experience in IPC. She has obtained her Master in Public Health and Bachelors in Nursing and Midwifery. She is currently working as Senior Infection Preventionist and IPC Program Lead in SEHA Corniche Hospital. During her professional path she led a successful IPC program in various Health Care settings in the UAE including acute care tertiary hospital, Established the first IPC risk assessment and Program for Ambulatory HealthCare Network and Specialised Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Neonatal Hospital. She is highly passionate about teaching and mentoring and trained several novice IPs to obtain their CIC certification. Additionally, she was involved in the mentoring program of newly certified IPs under the guidance of Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC). During her career, she has successfully initiated and completed several Quality Improvement projects to ensure patient safety which is evidenced by significant reduction of Health Care Associated Infections and ensured highest compliance to regulatory and accreditation standards. These projects were presented in several international conferences.



## Oral Presenters' Biography



### **Ms. Rozina Roshan**

Senior Manager IPC and QPS  
The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH),  
Pakistan



Rozina Roshan is the Senior Manager Quality, Patient Safety (QPS), Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi (AKUH, K). She has over 27 years of experience working at AKUH, K. She is one of the lead and internal auditors for Joint Commission International (JCI) and ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems (QMS). She has completed an American based Certification in Infection Control (CIC) from Certification Board of Infection Control (CBIC) and Epidemiology Inc. She a lead nurse and works directly with the leadership of AKUH, K to bring changes at the bedside that are driven in the light of JCI hospital standards particularly in infection prevention and control. She is a joint faculty at AKU-SONAM and involved in teaching the BScN and MScN programme, clinical practicum etc. She translates this passion into action through honorary service within the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). She is a Board Director at Aga Khan Health Services, Pakistan (AKHS, P) beginning 2012. More recently, she is involved in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as front-line nurse leader AKUH, K. In which she is been involved in developing COVID-19 related guidelines for healthcare and support services. Educational materials including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and raising awareness amongst staff.



### **Ms. Lamya Kanakaveli Lakshmanan**

Infection Prevention and Control Officer  
Ambulatory Health Care Services, UAE



Lamya is an inspiring Infection Preventionist with over 15 years of diverse healthcare experience, ranging from ambulatory care to high-stakes emergency units. Known for her forward-thinking approach, she combines clinical expertise with an unwavering commitment to patient safety and infection control excellence. A Certified Infection Control (CIC) professional, Lamya also holds PALS and BLS certifications from the American Heart Association, with additional training in disaster management. She earned her Bachelor's in Nursing and a Master's in Hospital Administration, equipping her with a unique blend of clinical and strategic leadership skills. Since 2014, she has been a pillar at Ambulatory Health Services in Abu Dhabi, where her innovative infection prevention strategies helps to set new standards of care. Driven by a passion for learning and teaching, Lamya continues to push boundaries in infection prevention, inspiring safer, healthier future in healthcare. Her expertise and vision make her a leading force in transforming care environments worldwide.

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## About Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, occupying 84 per cent of the national landmass territory. It has 200 islands and a long coastline stretching 700km. Its total area is 67,340 sq. km. Abu Dhabi city in the emirate is the federal capital of the UAE.

### Population

According to Abu Dhabi Statistics Centre The estimated population of the emirate around mid-2016 was 2,908,173 (comprising 1,857,618 males and 1,050,555 females). 551,535 were UAE nationals and 2,356,638 were expatriates. The average annual population growth rate for the years from 2010 to 2016 was 5.6 per cent.

### Location and Geography

The emirate of Abu Dhabi lies on the coast of the Arabian Gulf and is bordered by Sultanate of Oman to the east, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the south and the west and the emirate of Dubai to the northeast. The three main regions of the emirate are:

- the city of Abu Dhabi
- Al Ain in the east
- Al Dhafrah (earlier known as Al Gharbia) in the west.

In the eastern region, to the south of Al Ain city is Jebel Hafeet - the emirate's highest peak (1,240 metres).

Al Dhafrah has seven main cities: Liwa, Madinat Zayed, Ghayathi, Ruwais, Mirfa, Sila and Delma Island.

The city of Abu Dhabi is connected to the mainland by four bridges: Maqta bridge, Mussafah bridge, Sheikh Zayed bridge and Sheikh Khalifa bridge.

### Economy

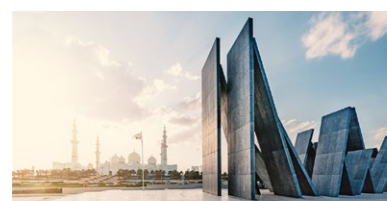
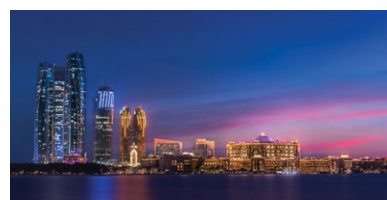
Over the recent decades, the emirate of Abu Dhabi has undergone a significant transformation in economic growth. Due to the vision of Abu Dhabi's leaders and the abundance of oil and natural gas reserves, the emirate has grown to become a dynamic hub and major competitor on the global stage. While recognising the success of the oil sector, Abu Dhabi is working hard to reduce its hydrocarbons reliance and broaden the emirate's economy. Investment in infrastructure, tourism, transport, health and education is continuing, in line with the government's 2030 economic plan. Tourism is playing an integral role in Abu Dhabi's economic development. Major investment in new luxury resorts and business hotels is underway. Abu Dhabi has many things to offer to its visitors and residents: a versatile landscape, thriving investment hub, and a friendly environment boasting one of the highest per capita incomes and one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

### Touristic Importance

Abu Dhabi has become a centre for world-class sporting events such as: the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, the prestigious Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge cross-country rally and the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

In addition, the city will soon house the world's largest concentration of premier cultural institutions which will include the Sheikh Zayed National Museum, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is rich in natural wonders too. While the emirate's famous Liwa oasis in the south of the emirate is home to some of the largest and most beautiful sand dunes in the world, the garden city of Al Ain in the foothills of Jebel Hafeet is home to several heritage sites.





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