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APIC UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

CBIC Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.

Destination Partner

abu dhabi Convention & Exhibition Bureau

8th International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection

"Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control towards a Healthier, Safer World"

Pre-Conference Workshop	Main Conference	Novotel Abu Dhabi
26 November 2026	**27-28 November 2026**	**Al Bustan, UAE**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — 16.15 CME HOURS — ACCREDITED

EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR CME — CME ON PROCESS — ACCREDITED



Conference Book

Welcome Message


Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi


Ms. Abeer Khallaf

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organising Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to the 8th International Conference on Prevention and Control of Infection (ICPCI 2026), taking place on 27–28 November 2026 at Novotel Abu Dhabi Al Bustan, UAE. The Pre-Conference Workshop on 26 November 2026 opens our programme with an opportunity for hands-on learning and exchange.

Our theme, "Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control Towards a Healthier, Safer World," reflects a responsibility we share across every healthcare setting. Preventing infection protects patients and healthcare workers, strengthens trust in care, and helps health systems respond to emerging threats. Progress depends on how well we turn evidence into practices that teams can use consistently in their daily work.

ICPCI 2026 brings together healthcare professionals, infection prevention specialists, researchers, policymakers, educators, and industry partners from around the world. Through expert-led sessions, discussions, and practical learning, we will examine emerging evidence and technologies, share lessons from different healthcare settings, and consider how proven approaches can be adapted to local needs.

Some of the most valuable exchanges will happen between sessions, when colleagues compare experiences, discuss challenges they share, and find opportunities to work together. We hope you leave Abu Dhabi with ideas you can put into practice and colleagues you can turn to as that work continues.

Thank you for joining us and for the work you do each day to make care safer. We wish you a rewarding conference and a warm welcome to Abu Dhabi

Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi
President, ICPCI Conference
Chair, SEHA Infectious Diseases
and Infection Control Council
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant,
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City; Adjunct Professor,
Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf
Conference Chairperson
President APIC Chapter UAE
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Scientific Committee



Dr. Stefan Weber
Medical Director,
Purelab-South, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf
Conference Chairperson
President APIC Chapter UAE
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
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Dr. Robert Swaka
Consultant Physician, Infectious Diseases
Chair, Infection Prevention Committee
Clinical Lead, Outpatient Parenteral
Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Service
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
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Dr. Omar Najim
MD for BeehiveX
Associate Prof at Khalifa University
CEO of Baynouna Gene Solutions,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi
President, ICPCI Conference
Chair, SEHA Infectious Diseases
and Infection Control Council
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant,
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City; Adjunct Professor,
Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Carol McLay
DrPH, MPH, RN, CIC FAPIC, FSHEA
2025 President of the Association for Professionals
in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control
Healthcare Epidemiology and Public Health
Lewisville, North Carolina, USA



Dr. Huda Al Dhanhani
Consultant Physician, Acting Division
Chief of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases
Sheikh Khalifa 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



Ms. Hajar Ali Aldhanhani
Infection Prevention and
Control Nurse Manager
STMC Hospital, SEHA,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh
Infection Prevention and Control Manager
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
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Dr. Jehad Abdalla
Infectious Diseases Consultant,
Head of IPCC - SKMC,
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
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Dr. Elias Tannous
Manager, Infection Control,
Infection Control Committee Co-Chair
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Judge/Portfolio Reviewer -
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Prevention & Control (AL-CIP™) Certification Board
of Infection Control and Epidemiology, INC. USA



Ms. Jaincy Samuel
Infection Prevention & 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 m itigate 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

Novotel Abu Dhabi Al Bustan is a 4-star hotel and conference venue in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It features a ballroom, flexible meeting rooms and reception areas for conferences, workshops and networking events. all.accor.com

By car — The venue is approximately 10 minutes from Abu Dhabi Mall in the city centre and 20 minutes from Zayed International Airport, depending on traffic.

By bus — From the Abu Dhabi Mall area, take bus X5 from the Electra Park stop. Get off at Dhafeer Street and walk to the hotel. Allow approximately 55 minutes for the full journey from Abu Dhabi Mall, including walking.

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.

Internet

Free internet will be available in the exhibition area during the conference.

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.

CME Accreditation

This Conference has been Accredited by the **Department of Health** and designated for a maximum of **16.15 of DOH CME**

Day 1, 27/11/26 is Accredited for 8.50 CME Hours

Day 2, 28/11/26 is Accredited for 7.65 CME Hours

European CME accreditation through the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) is currently in progress.

- For DOH CME, Delegates are required to claim their certificate through the DOH TAMM application.
- The certificate can be claimed within 60 days from the conference start date, after this period certificates will no longer be available for claim
- Please ensure to scan in your name badge before every session 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.



Speakers



Ms. Abeer Mohammed Khallaf
Conference Chairperson
President APIC Chapter UAE
Prevention and Control of Infection Manager
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Moustafa Abdelwahab
Senior Specialist Healthcare Quality
Improvement Programs
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Phoebe Delos Reyes
Medical Auditor
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Luena Palacios
Senior Specialist Quality
Improvement Impact Assessment
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Rodney Jay Santos
Performance Reporting and
Improvement Specialist
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Shamma Al Mutawa
Senior Analyst Specialised Programmes
DOH Specialised Programmes
DOH Model of Care/Center of Excellence
DOH Healthcare Quality



Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija
Senior Infection Prevention and
Control nurse, RN, BSc, CIC.
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
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Ms. Jaincy Samuel
Infection Prevention & Control Officer
Al Rahba Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Jennifer Dequito
BSN, RN,CIC
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. John John Gacita Cabrillos
Infection Prevention & Control Nurse
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego
Infection Preventionist Nurse,
Education and Support
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
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Ms. Wilmalyn Rebuyas
Infection Preventionist Nurse
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
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Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi
President of ICPCI conference
Chair, IDIC Council
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Senior advisor, Hayat Biotech, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq
Consultant Internist, Head of Medical Department,
Al Kuwait Hospital Dubai, Head of Central IPC
Committee EHS AMR Lead-MOHAP
Associate Professor at Khalifa University Abu Dhabi
Al Kuwait Hospital, Emirates Health Services Dubai



Dr. Omar Najim
MD for BeehiveX
Associate Prof at Khalifa University
CEO of Baynouna Gene Solutions,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Feda Nazmi Aref Alsaleh
Specialist, Communicable Diseases Surveillance
Department of Health/
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

Speakers



Dr. Madikay Senghore
Professor of Infectious Diseases
Department of Public Health and Epidemiology,
College of Medicine and Health Sciences
Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Gema Martinez
Clinical Director International
GAMA Healthcare Ltd.,
United Kingdom



Dr. Huda Al Dhanhani
Consultant Physician, Acting Division
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Dr. Fouzia Jabeen
Consultant Microbiologist
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Dr. Carol McLay
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2025 President of the Association for Professionals
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Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control
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Dr. Samer Ellahham
Clinical Professor, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College
of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University
Cardiology Consultant, Heart, Vascular and
Thoracic Institute, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
Physician Director, Accreditation, Quality and
Patient Safety Institute, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
International Speaker and Expert in Artificial
Intelligence and Digital Health



Dr. Stefan Weber
Medical Director, Purelab-South
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Layla Al Dabal
Consultant Internist,
Head of Infectious Diseases
Rashid Hospital and Chair of Corporate
IPC committee, Dubai Health, UAE



Dr. Jehad Abdalla
Infectious Diseases Consultant,
Head of IPCC - SKMC,
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Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh
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Dr. Elias Tannous
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Dr. Saleema Wani
Chief Medical Officer,
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Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Robert Swaka
Consultant Physician, Infectious Diseases
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Ms. Sheena Kabeer
Infection Preventionist
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
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Dr. Janet Haas
Infection Prevention &
Epidemiology Consultant
Innovative Infection Prevention,
New York, USA

Speakers



Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew
Senior Infection Prevention
and Control Officer
SEHA STMC Hospital,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Pramod Sivanandan
Head of Laboratory Operations -
Non Human Testing
PureLab, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Omer Alikunju
CEO, Safecare Holding,
Bin Ali Medical Supplies



Mr. Ernst Hess
R&D Head,
Safecare Industries

Oral Presenters



Mr. Noel Gonzaga
Environmental Infection Control Expert
Ministry of Health, Oman



Dr. M. Nishanthy
Assistant Professor
Madha Medical College and
Research Institute, India



Dr. Ugenyi Iloabachie
Specialist Public Health Physician
University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital,
Enugu, Nigeria



Mrs. Preethy Thomas
Infection Control Practitioner
Amana Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Arunkumar Ashokan
Infection Prevention
and Control Nurse
Tawam Hospital,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Mohammad Zaben
Head of Infection Prevention
and Control Department
An-Najah National University Hospital,
Palestine



Dr. Ali Al Hassani
Internal Medicine/
Infectious Diseases Specialist
STMC/Tawam Hospitals,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Workshop Scientific Program

Pre-Conference – November 26, 2026 – Thursday

TIME	Topic / Activity	Speakers
12:00-12:50	Registration	
12:50-13:00	Welcome & Introduction	
13:00-14:15	**Workshop 1 (JAWDA) – Room 1** Count It Right, Catch It Early: A Holistic Quality Approach to Preventing Patient Harm	Dr. Moustafa Abdelwahab Ms. Abeer Khallaf Coordinators: Ms. Phoebe Delos Reyes Ms. Luena Palacios Mr. Rodney Jay Santos Ms. Shamma Al Matawa Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija Ms. Jaincy Samuel
14:15-14:30	Coffee Break	
14:30-16:00	(Continuation) **Workshop 1 (JAWDA) – Room 1** Count It Right, Catch It Early: A Holistic Quality Approach to Preventing Patient Harm	

	PARALLEL WORKSHOP 2 - Room 1		PARALLEL WORKSHOP 3 - Room 2
16:00-17:00	**Optimizing Infection Prevention Through Effective Auditing** Ms. Jennifer Dequito Mr. John John Gacita Cabrillos	16:00-17:00	**Beyond Bricks and Mortars: Infection Prevention in Healthcare Construction** Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego Ms. Wilmalyn Rebuyas
17:00	**End of Workshops**		

Scientific Program

Day 1 - November 27, 2026 – Friday

TIME	Topic / Activity	Speakers
07:30-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome Speech	Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi, UAE
SESSION 1: IPC Forward: From Safer Healthcare to Precision Infection Prevention Moderators: Dr. Huda Al Dhanani & Dr. Stefan Weber		
09:00-09:30	Protecting Children in a Changing World: Emerging Priorities in Infection Prevention	Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi, UAE
09:30-09:50	IPC Forward: UAE's Journey Toward Safer Healthcare	Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq, UAE
09:50-10:10	AMR in Pediatrics: Recognize It Early and Treat It Properly	Dr. Huda Al Dhanhani, UAE
10:10-10:25	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
10:25-10:45	**Official Inauguration**	
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	
SESSION 2: Advancing Infection Prevention and Control: Global Perspectives and Local Innovation Moderators: Ms. Hajar Ali Aldhanhani & Dr Jehad Abdullah		
11:00-11:20	From Data to Safer Care: Five Years of Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections in Abu Dhabi (2022–2026)	Dr. Moustafa Abdelwahab, UAE
11:20-11:40	Tableegh, New Infectious Diseases Reporting System	Ms. Feda Alsaleh, UAE
11:40-12:00	Genomic Applications for Tracking Hospital Outbreaks	Dr. Madikay Senghore, UAE
12:00-12:15	Q & A / Panel Discussion	12:00 Poster Evaluation
12:15-12:35	**Symposium 1: Enhanced decontamination_ The GAR-O protocol**	**Ms. Gema Martinez, UK**
12:35-13:50	Prayer and Lunch Break | Poster Viewing	
SESSION 3: Antimicrobial Resistance & Antimicrobial Stewardship Moderators: Dr Nawal Al Kaabi & Dr. Saleema Wani		
13:50-14:10	One Health for Infection Prevention and Control	Dr. Fouzia Jabeen, UAE
14:10-14:30	The Future of Infectious Disease in the Era of Genomics, AI, and Precision Medicine	Dr. Omar Najim, UAE
14:30-14:50	MDRO Screening: Evidence, Ethics, Economics, and Sustainable Risk-Based Practice	Ms. Hajar Ali Aldhanhani, UAE
14:50-15:05	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
15:05-15:15	Break | Exhibition & Poster Viewing	
SESSION 4: Data, Surveillance & Healthcare-Associated Infections Moderators: Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego & Ms. Wilmalyn Rebuyas		
15:15-15:40	**KEYNOTE:** APIC Update 2026: Shaping the Future of Infection Prevention Together	Dr. Carol McLay, USA (V)
15:40-16:00	Beyond Culture: The Future of Infectious Disease Diagnostics	Dr. Stefan Weber, UAE
16:00-16:20	AI for Infection Prevention	Dr. Janet Haas, USA (V)
16:20-16:35	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
SESSION 5: Abstracts Oral Presentation I Moderators: Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi & Dr. Stefan Weber		
16:35-16:45		
16:45-16:55	A Cross-Sectional Study on Readiness and Attitude Towards Artificial Intelligence in Infection Prevention and Control Among Healthcare Professionals in a Tertiary Care Hospital	Dr. M. Nishanthy, India
16:55-17:05	From Audit to Quality Improvement: Refinement of a National Environmental Cleaning Audit Framework for Outsourced Services in Oman	Mr. Noel Gonzaga, Oman
17:05-17:15	Process Improvement is a Motive-Implementing Sepsis 6 Bundle in Long Term Acute Care	Mrs. Preethy Thomas, UAE
17:15-17:30	Panel Discussion	
17:30	End of Day 1	

Scientific Program

Day 2 - November 28, 2026 – Saturday

TIME	Topic / Activity	Speakers
08:00-08:50	Registration	
08:50-09:00	Welcome & Introduction	Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi, UAE
SESSION 6: Building High-Reliability Infection Prevention Systems Moderators: Dr. Robert Swaka & Elias Tannous		
09:00-09:20	Diagnosis Stewardship: What is New?	Dr. Jehad Abdalla, UAE
09:20-09:40	Comprehensive Tuberculosis Management: Bridging Infection Prevention, Clinical Care, and Public Health Practice	Ms. Abeer Khallaf, UAE
09:40-10:00	Right Culture, Right Patient: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Blood Culture Stewardship	Dr. Robert Swaka, UAE Ms. Sheena Kabeer, UAE
10:00-10:15	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break & Poster Evaluation	
SESSION 7: Infection Prevention in Practice Moderators: Ms. Jaincy Samuel & Dr. Junaid Khan		
10:30-10:50	Digital Health, Predictive Analytics, and Quality Improvement in Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Stewardship	Dr. Samer Ellahham, UAE
10:50-11:10	Impact of a Urinary Culture Diagnostic Stewardship Program on CAUTI Rates, Diagnostic Accuracy, and Healthcare Costs	Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh, UAE
11:10-11:30	Investigation of a Procedure-Associated Bloodstream Infection	Dr. Elias Tannous, UAE
11:30-11:45	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
11:45-12:05	**Symposium 2: From Conventional Disinfection to Targeted Chemistry – Evolution in 4 Stages**	**Mr. Ernst Hess, UAE** **Mr. Omer Alikunju, UAE**
SESSION 8: Evidence-Based Infection Management & Antimicrobial Stewardship Moderator: Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh		
12:05-12:25	TB New guidelines in Management	Dr. Layla Dabal, UAE
12:25-12:45	Sustained Improvement in Caesarean Section Surgical Site Infection Rates Through Evidence-Based Interventions	Dr. Saleema Wani, UAE
12:45-13:05	Strategies to (Safely) Decrease the Use of Antibiotics	Dr. Junaid Khan, UAE
13:05-13:20	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
13:20-14:20	Prayer & Lunch Break | Exhibition & Poster Viewing	
SESSION 9: Abstracts Oral Presentation II Moderators: Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi & Dr. Stefan Weber		
14:20-14:30	From Informal Antimicrobial Access to Community Stewardship: A Gender-Access-Power-Provider (GAP-P) Framework from Urban Slums In Nigeria	Dr. Ugenyi Iloabachie, Nigeria (V)
14:30-14:40	The Prevalence, Microbiological Profiles, and Outcomes of Mucosal Barrier Injury-Laboratory Confirmed Bloodstream Infections among Oncology Patients at a Tertiary Care Center in Palestine	Mr. Mohammad Zaben, Palestine (V)
14:40-14:50	Sustainability in Infection Prevention and Control	Mr. Arunkumar Ashokan, UAE
14:50-15:00	Compliance with the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Hour-1 Bundle: A Clinical Audit at STMC Hospital, Al Ain	Dr. Ali Al Hassani, UAE
15:00-15:15	Q&A / Panel Discussion	
SESSION 10: Environmental Safety Moderator: Seham Abu Hajia		
15:15-15:35	Beyond the Incision: Advancing Surgical Site Infection Prevention for Safer Patient Outcomes	Ms. Abeer Khallaf, UAE
15:35-15:55	From Airflow to Patient Safety: Managing HVAC Systems to Prevent Airborne Infections in Healthcare Facilities	Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew, UAE
15:55-16:15	Testing Hospital Water for Legionella - How To Do It Right	Mr. Pramod Sivanandan, UAE
16:15-16:30	Q & A / Panel Discussion	
16:30	End of Conference	

Speakers' Biography

Speakers' Biography



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 is the Regional Infection Prevention and Control Manager for Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) and Al Rahba Hospital (ARH) within SEHA. She also serves as President of the APIC–UAE Chapter and Vice-Chair of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee at SKMC.

Ms. Khallaf is certified in Infection Control and Epidemiology (CIC) by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), holding certification number 101605. She is also a registered nurse in New York State.



Dr. Moustafa Abdelwahab
Senior Specialist Healthcare Quality
Improvement Programs
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Moustafa Abdelwahab is a healthcare quality and performance leader with extensive experience in driving system-level improvement, value-based healthcare, and patient safety initiatives across the UAE and internationally. As Section Head of Performance Reporting and Improvement at the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, he leads strategic programs that strengthen healthcare quality, transparency, accountability, and clinical outcomes across the Emirate.

His portfolio includes the development and implementation of JAWDA Automation, Pay-for-Quality models, the Hospital Rating Methodology (Muashir), the Patient Safety Strategy, and the introduction of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) across Abu Dhabi. He also contributes to the design and monitoring of more than 400 healthcare quality indicators spanning over 35 clinical service lines, supporting data-driven decision-making and continuous quality improvement throughout the healthcare system.

Dr. Moustafa has a proven track record in advancing healthcare quality and patient safety through leadership and collaboration across major healthcare institutions, including King Faisal Medical Complex, King Abdulaziz Specialty Hospital, Taif University, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Rahba Hospital, and Corniche Hospital. His work has focused on clinical governance, performance measurement, accreditation readiness, quality improvement, and the implementation of evidence-based healthcare practices.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Dental and Oral Surgery, a Fellowship in Family Dentistry, a Diploma in Public Health and Hospital Administration, and a Master's degree in Healthcare Quality Management from Alexandria University. He is also a graduate of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Fellowship in Boston, USA.

In recognition of his leadership and contributions to healthcare quality, Dr. Moustafa was selected as a Young Executive Leader (YEL) by the International Hospital Federation (IHF) in 2022 and currently serves as a YEL Alumni Advisor for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is a frequent speaker at regional and international forums, where he shares practical insights on healthcare quality, performance measurement, patient safety, digital transformation, and value-based healthcare.

Speakers' Biography



Ms. Phoebe Delos Reyes
Medical Auditor
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Phoebe Delos Reyes is a Medical Auditor (Clinical & Coding Quality Reviewer) in the Quality Department of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Lab Technology and the AAPC CPMA, CPC and CDIP credentials. She has nearly ten years of experience in clinical documentation, coding audit and revenue cycle in U.S. and UAE healthcare systems.

At DOH, she supports JAWDA Data Certification audits. She checks claims, clinical coding and quality KPIs against the published methodology so that reported performance data is accurate and reliable. She also develops KPIs, writes SOPs and works with providers to turn quality standards into consistent practice across facilities.

Before DOH, she was a coder at UnitedHealth Group | Optum and taught more than 150 students as a CPC instructor in Abu Dhabi. She sees accurate documentation as the starting point for infection prevention, because only what is recorded can be measured and improved.



Ms. Luena Palacios
Senior Specialist Quality
Improvement Impact Assessment
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Luena Lapastora Palacios is a distinguished healthcare quality and patient safety leader with extensive experience in regulatory excellence, healthcare accreditation, organizational performance improvement, and quality transformation. Currently serving as Senior Specialist, Quality Improvement Impact Assessment at the Department of Health Abu Dhabi, she plays a pivotal role in advancing healthcare quality outcomes and fostering a culture of continuous improvement across the health sector.

Recognized for her strategic vision, exceptional leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence, Luena has developed expertise in accreditation, quality improvement methodologies, excellence frameworks, process optimization, project management, gap analysis, mentorship, and organizational development. Her ability to translate complex quality and regulatory requirements into impactful improvement initiatives has contributed to strengthening healthcare systems and enhancing patient-centered care.

A passionate advocate for healthcare excellence, Luena is known for her collaborative leadership style, strong communication skills, and dedication to inspiring and empowering others. Through her work in patient safety, performance improvement, and organizational excellence, she continues to drive meaningful change, helping healthcare organizations achieve sustainable quality outcomes and elevate standards of care.

Speakers' Biography



Mr. Rodney Jay Santos
Performance Reporting and
Improvement Specialist
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Rodney Jay Santos is a Performance Reporting and Improvement Specialist at the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, where he leads the emirate-wide implementation of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs).

A dentist by training, Dr. Santos has more than a decade of experience in healthcare quality, patient safety, and infection control across Abu Dhabi. He previously served as Quality and Infection Control Team Lead at SEHA Clinics and later as Regional Manager for Quality and Patient Safety at Burjeel Holdings in the Al Ain Region. His work spans regulatory oversight, accreditation readiness, clinical audit, and proactive risk management.

Dr. Santos has led quality improvement initiatives recognised at the International Best Practice Awards and has published quality improvement work in the BMJ. In 2023, The Filipino Times named him among the Top Filipino Healthcare Professionals in the Middle East.



Ms. Shamma Al Mutawa
Senior Analyst Specialised Programmes
DOH Specialised Programmes
DOH Model of Care/Center of Excellence
DOH Healthcare Quality

Shamma AlMutawa is a Senior Analyst at the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, specializing in healthcare quality, policy design, and strategic program development. She has extensive experience leading high-impact initiatives that strengthen care models, improve patient outcomes, and enhance regulatory and operational performance across Abu Dhabi's health system.

She currently leads the Abu Dhabi Homecare Model of Care project, overseeing the design and implementation of integrated, patient-centered services. Her work has transformed patient allocation into an automated, performance-driven model, improving efficiency, reducing turnaround times, and strengthening accountability. Shamma has also led key national initiatives, including the Substance Use Disorder Model of Care and Medical Tourism projects, where she developed treatment pathways, improved access to care, and established strategic cross-sector partnerships.

Her expertise spans healthcare regulation, digital transformation, and system resilience, including contributions to the integration of healthcare services into Abu Dhabi's TAMM platform and the development of business continuity frameworks within regulatory operations.

In recognition of her leadership potential and commitment to advancing healthcare, Shamma was selected for the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Young Executive Leaders (YEL) Programme 2026, an international leadership development initiative bringing together emerging healthcare leaders from across the globe to exchange insights, advance innovative healthcare solutions, and shape the future of healthcare delivery.

Shamma holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from the American University in Dubai and has completed multiple professional certifications in healthcare innovation, quality, and business continuity.

Speakers' Biography



Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija
Senior Infection Prevention and
Control nurse, RN, BSc, CIC.
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Seham Mahmoud Abuhija is a Senior Infection Prevention and Control officer at She is certified by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), USA, and holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Jordan University of Science and Technology, a Diploma in Nursing Education from the Institute of Specialized Nursing Studies, and a Diploma in Infection Control from the German Jordanian University.

With over 25 years of experience in healthcare, Seham has developed extensive expertise in infection prevention and control, nursing education, quality improvement, patient safety, nursing health information technology, research, and nursing leadership.

She has a proven track record in infection control audits, surveillance systems, healthcare-associated infection (HAI) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) prevention programs., regulatory compliance, key performance indicator (KPIs) monitoring, accreditation readiness, emergency preparedness. She is also an experienced educator with a strong background in nursing education, professional development, and workforce capacity building.

She is committed to ensuring compliance with Department of Health (DOH) and Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA) standards while promoting safe, evidence-based, and cost-effective patient care.

She is member of APIC USA, APIC UAE, ENA UAE & Jordanian nursing council Jordan.



Ms. Jaincy Samuel
Infection Prevention & Control Officer
Al Rahba Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Jaincy Samuel is an experienced Infection Prevention and Control Officer at Al Rahba Hospital. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and is CIC certified, demonstrating her expertise in evidence based infection prevention practices. Jaincy is an active member of the IDIC Council and the APIC UAE Chapter. Jaincy has successfully led key infection prevention initiatives, including a Tuberculosis Wellness Program and targeted strategies that resulted in a significant reduction in CLABSI rates.



Ms. Jennifer Dequito
BSN, RN,CIC
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Ms. Jennifer Calapan Dequito is an experienced Infection Preventionist at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) with over 25 years of nursing experience. She began her nursing career as a Registered Nurse in 1999 and joined Mafraq Hospital in 2006 as a Staff Nurse, where she actively served as an Infection Control Link Nurse. In 2018, she transitioned into her specialized role in Infection Prevention and Control.

Ms. Dequito earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from San Pablo Colleges, Philippines in 1998. She is certified in Infection Prevention and Control, holding the Certification in Infection Control (CIC) from the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), USA.

She is an active member of the VAE and MDRO, Infection Prevention and Control Committees, contributes to the JCI PCI Chapter, and participates in OSHAD Internal Auditing activities. She also serves as the Coordinator for the SSMC Infection Prevention and Control Link Nurse Program, leading initiatives that promote patient safety and infection prevention practices across the organization. Ms. Dequito is a speaker at international conferences, sharing her expertise and best practices in infection prevention and control

Speakers' Biography



Mr. John John Gacita Cabrillos
Infection Prevention & Control Nurse
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

John John Gacita Cabrillos is an Infection Preventionist Nurse at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC), one of the leading tertiary and academic healthcare institutions in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has extensive experience in infection prevention and control, healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance, outbreak investigation, sterilization and disinfection practices, regulatory compliance, healthcare quality improvement, and patient safety initiatives.

John is a board-certified infection prevention professional, holding the Certified in Infection Control (CIC®) credential, along with certifications in sterile processing, flexible endoscope reprocessing, and healthcare leadership. He is also a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Black Belt practitioner, an ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor, an Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Committee Voting Member, an Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Prevention Strategist, and an Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) Golden Crown Professional.



Ms. Joselita Ladline Rego
Infection Preventionist Nurse,
Education and Support
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Joselita Rego, BSN, RN, MHA, CIC is an experienced Infection Preventionist and healthcare professional with over 14 years of diversified experience in the healthcare sector. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in 2009 and completed her MBA in Hospital Administration from York St John University, UK, in 2024. She is Certified in Infection Control (CIC) through the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC).

Joselita has extensive expertise in developing, implementing, and monitoring infection prevention and control programs across healthcare settings. Throughout her career, she has worked with leading healthcare organizations, including NMC Hospital, Mediclinic Hospital, and currently Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC), Abu Dhabi.

An active contributor to the infection prevention community, she has organized IPC workshops at SSMC, served on the organizing committee of APIC Prevention & Control Workshops, and presented at several national and international conferences. She also serves as Co-Lead of the Hand Hygiene Task Force and currently holds the position of IPC Team Leader, driving quality improvement and patient safety initiatives.

Speakers' Biography



Ms. Wilmalyn Rebuyas
Infection Preventionist Nurse
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Wilmalyn Rebuyas BSN, MSc, RN, CIC, AL-CIP is a registered infection control nurse and board-certified infection preventionist with 15 years of healthcare experience in the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute, Philippines, in 2010 and completed her Master of Science in Healthcare Management from Queen Margaret University, UK, in 2026. Certified in Infection Prevention and Control (CIC) since 2018, she obtained the Advanced Leadership Certification in Infection Prevention and Control (AL-CIP) in 2025.

Throughout her career, she has led initiatives to strengthen infection prevention programs, improve patient safety, and promote evidence-based practice. Currently an Infection Preventionist Nurse at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, she is committed to fostering a culture of safety, quality, and continuous improvement. An active member of APIC, Wilmalyn is recognized for her collaborative leadership, adaptability, and dedication to excellence in healthcare.



Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi
President of ICPCI conference
Chair, IDIC Council
Pediatric infectious diseases consultant
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Senior advisor, Hayat Biotech, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Professor Nawal Al Kaabi is a senior pediatric infectious diseases consultant, healthcare executive, medical educator, vaccine policy expert, and internationally recognized clinical researcher. She brings more than two decades of leadership experience in infectious diseases, immunization strategy, healthcare transformation, postgraduate medical education, public health policy, and international vaccine clinical trials.

She established the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Service in Abu Dhabi and held several senior leadership roles at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC), including Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Deputy Chief of Medical Staff (DCMO), Designated Institutional Official (DIO), Chair of Education, and Pediatric Residency Program Director. During her tenure as CMO, SKMC earned a five-star ranking in Abu Dhabi in 2018–2019 and a five-diamond rating in 2021.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Al Kaabi chaired the UAE National COVID-19 Clinical Committee and served as Principal Investigator for major COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials conducted in the UAE. Through her leadership within the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), she helped introduce varicella, rotavirus, and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines into the national immunization schedule.

Professor Al Kaabi has led multicenter clinical trials that enrolled more than 50,000 participants and published peer-reviewed research in journals including JAMA, Nature Communications, Science, and Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy. She has also served as a conference president, led conference committees, and contributed to World Health Organization (WHO) Guideline Development Groups and international expert advisory bodies.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq
Consultant Internist, Head of Medical Department,
Al Kuwait Hospital Dubai, Head of Central IPC
Committee EHS AMR Lead-MOHAP
Associate Professor at Khalifa University Abu Dhabi
Al Kuwait Hospital, Emirates Health Services Dubai

Dr. Najiba Mohamed Abdulrazzaq is a Consultant Internist with extensive clinical experience. She heads the Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Al Kuwait Hospital in Dubai and the Central Infection Prevention and Control Committee at Emirates Health Services.

Dr. Abdulrazzaq chairs the UAE National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Committee and serves as the AMR Lead at the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP). She is the UAE's focal point for the World Health Organization (WHO) on antibiotic use in the human health sector, a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) AMR Committee, and President of the International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (ICAMR).

She holds associate professor appointments at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi and at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sharjah. She graduated from University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in the United Kingdom.



Dr. Omar Najim
MD for BeehiveX
Associate Prof at Khalifa University
CEO of Baynouna Gene Solutions,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Omar Najim is a distinguished healthcare and life sciences strategist, investor, and innovation leader with extensive regional and international experience in healthcare transformation, system sustainability, and investment. He is Chairman and Managing Director of BeeHAiveX, Founder and Executive Board Member of SQS, BGS50, and AiOT, and an Associate Professor at Khalifa University. He also serves as a Board Advisor to the Machine Learning Department at Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence.

Previously, Dr. Najim served as Executive Director of Healthcare and Life Sciences Investments at Al Saqer Group and as Executive Director of Executive Affairs and Special Projects at the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, where he contributed to major healthcare transformation initiatives, including the development of Abu Dhabi's Life Sciences Strategy and innovative healthcare financing models.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was part of Abu Dhabi's Healthcare Gold Command Team and led the establishment of the Hope Consortium, which facilitated the distribution of more than 260 million vaccine doses to over 65 countries within one year.

Dr. Najim trained in Head and Neck Surgery in the United Kingdom, worked with McKinsey & Company in London, and holds a Master's degree in Surgical Technology and Healthcare Innovation from Imperial College London. He is a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Speakers' Biography



Ms. Feda Nazmi Aref Alsaleh
Specialist, Communicable Diseases Surveillance
Department of Health/
Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre

Feda Nazmi Aref Alsaleh is a Specialist in Communicable Diseases Surveillance based in Abu Dhabi. Feda works in infectious disease surveillance and response, supporting efforts to monitor communicable diseases and protect public health.



Dr. Madikay Senghore
Professor of Infectious Diseases
Department of Public Health and Epidemiology,
College of Medicine and Health Sciences
Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Madikay Senghore is an infectious disease epidemiologist and faculty member at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi. His research focuses on antimicrobial resistance surveillance, genomic epidemiology, and One Health approaches to understanding the spread of drug-resistant pathogens in the Middle East. He collaborates closely with the UAE authorities to strengthen national AMR monitoring and policy development.



Ms. Gema Martinez
Clinical Director International
GAMA Healthcare Ltd.,
United Kingdom

Gema Martinez-Garcia is an Infection Prevention and Control specialist and International Clinical Director at GAMA Healthcare, where she provides clinical expertise and supports the implementation of evidence-based infection prevention practices internationally. She previously worked at University College London Hospitals (UCLH) as an Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Consultant and Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control.

Gema has extensive experience in IPC, with particular interests in environmental decontamination, transmission-based precautions, antimicrobial resistance, and translating scientific evidence into practical clinical practice. She has a strong interest in human factors and behaviour and their role in achieving sustainable IPC improvements.

Gema was a member of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) working group involved in developing the national Framework of actions to contain carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE).

She is actively involved in international IPC education, research, and collaboration.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Huda Al Dhanhani
Consultant Physician, Acting Division
Chief of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Huda Al Dhanhani is a Consultant in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and holds MRCPCH and Arab Board certifications and fellowship in pediatrics Infectious diseases from RCPI. Dr. Al Dhanhani has led and contributed to national initiatives in immunization, antimicrobial stewardship, and clinical guideline development.

She previously served as interim Chair of the Emirates Infectious Diseases Committee and is an adjunct faculty member at UAE University. She remains an active speaker, moderator, and organizer in local and regional medical conferences.



Dr. Fouzia Jabeen
Consultant Microbiologist
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Fouzia Jabeen 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. Carol McLay
DrPH, MPH, RN, CIC FAPIC, FSHEA
2025 President of the Association for Professionals
in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control
Healthcare Epidemiology and Public Health
Lewisville, North Carolina, USA

Dr. Carol M. McLay, DrPH, MPH, RN, CIC, FAPIC, FSHEA is a nationally recognized infection prevention consultant with more than 25 years of experience spanning clinical practice, research, education, and healthcare quality improvement. She currently serves as the 2025 President of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), where she plays a key role in shaping the organization's strategic priorities and advancing the global infection prevention agenda.

A passionate advocate for professional development and certification, Dr. McLay is the lead author of Certification Companion: Mastering the CIC Exam (2024) and multiple editions of APIC's widely used Certification Study Guide. She serves on the Board of Directors of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) and is a member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC).

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Samer Ellahham
Clinical Professor, Cleveland Clinic Lerner
College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University
Cardiology Consultant, Heart, Vascular and Thoracic Institute,
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Physician Director, Accreditation,
Quality and Patient Safety Institute, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi
International Speaker and Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health

Prof. Dr. Samer Ellahham is an internationally recognized cardiologist, physician leader, International Speaker and Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health, and Clinical Professor at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He is a Cardiology Consultant and Physician Director of the Accreditation, Quality & Patient Safety Institute at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Ellahham is internationally recognized for his contributions to artificial intelligence, digital health, cardiovascular medicine, precision medicine, healthcare quality, and patient safety. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications, with over 6,300 citations and more than 160,000 reads on ResearchGate, reflecting the global impact of his research.

A sought-after keynote speaker, scientific advisor, guest editor, and peer reviewer, he frequently speaks at leading international conferences on AI in healthcare, cardiovascular medicine, digital transformation, and healthcare innovation. Through research, education, and international collaboration, Dr. Ellahham is committed to advancing evidence-based medicine and the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence to improve patient care worldwide.



Dr. Stefan Weber
Medical Director, 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.



Dr. Layla Al Dabal
Consultant Internist,
Head of Infectious Diseases
Rashid Hospital and Chair of Corporate
IPC committee, Dubai Health, UAE

Dr. Layla Al Dabal is a Consultant Internist and Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at Rashid Hospital, Dubai Health, where he also serves as Chair of the Corporate Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Committee. He is a Clinical Adjunct Professor at Gulf Medical University, Ajman, and a Faculty Member of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Dubai Health. He holds an MD, FRCP, CBIC, CHRMO, and an MSc in Healthcare Management.

Speakers' Biography



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

Dr. Jehad Abdalla is a Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Head of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He previously served as a Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Al Rahba Hospital in Abu Dhabi, where he joined in February 2015. From July 2004 to January 2015, he worked as an infectious diseases consultant at the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and the Hope HIV Clinic in Florence and Orangeburg, South Carolina, USA.

Dr. Abdalla earned his medical degree from Tishreen University School of Medicine in Latakia, Syria. He completed internal medicine residency training at Jabal Al-Zaitoon Hospital in Jordan and Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, New York, followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.

He received board certification in internal medicine in August 2012 and in infectious diseases in October 2015. He is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Jordan Medical Association.



Ms. Hajar Ali Aldhanhani
Infection Prevention and
Control Nurse Manager
STMC Hospital, SEHA,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Hajar Ali Aldhanhani has 15 years of experience in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and serves as IPC Nurse Manager at Sheikh Tahnoon bin Mohammed Medical City (STMC), leading system-wide strategies and multidisciplinary initiatives. As Adjunct Faculty at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), she contributes to teaching and research mentorship. During 2023–2024, she supported hospital commissioning and activation at STMC and Sheikh Khalifa Fujairah Hospital, focusing on IPC readiness and regulatory compliance. She co-chairs the STMC IPC Committee and the Al Ain Region Sustainability Committee, supporting patient safety, environmental stewardship, and healthcare resilience. She holds a Master's in Public Health and is a certified infection control professional. Her work connects clinical practice, operational leadership, and academic engagement to advance practical, sustainable improvements in IPC.



Ms. Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh
Infection Prevention and Control Manager
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Reham Jafer Al Hajjeh is an accomplished healthcare leader with over 20 years of experience in nursing, infection prevention, and clinical quality. She is the Manager of five specialty services at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) and a DoH-appointed Examiner for the Infection Preventionist Nurse License. An American Board-Certified Infection Preventionist, Reham holds a master's degree in healthcare management and has been recognized with the SSMC Distinguished Leader Award (2023) and PureHealth Delta Force Recognition (2025).

Speakers' Biography



Dr. Elias Tannous
Manager, Infection Control,
Infection Control Committee Co-Chair
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Judge/Portfolio Reviewer -
Advanced Leadership Certification in Infection Prevention & Control (AL-CIP™)
Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, INC. USA

Dr. Elias Tannous is the Manager of Infection Prevention and Control and Co-Chair of the Infection Control Committee at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. In these roles, he leads efforts to strengthen evidence-based infection prevention, surveillance, patient safety, and quality improvement.

Dr. Tannous contributed to the development of the World Health Organization (WHO) Hand Hygiene Guidelines and previously served as an International Director at the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) in the United States. He has also contributed to several professional committees, including the Education and Guidelines Committees of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA).



Dr. Saleema Wani
Chief Medical Officer,
Consultant Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Saleema Wani is the Chief Medical Officer and an accomplished Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE, with 37 years of professional experience. She has extensive clinical expertise in high-risk pregnancies, medical disorders of pregnancy, maternal-fetal medicine, and comprehensive prenatal care. She has a particular interest in the management of complex obstetric conditions, including Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder. In addition to her clinical and leadership responsibilities,

Dr. Wani is a dedicated medical educator who actively contributes to advancing medical education and improving patient care through her involvement in various clinical and administrative committees. Her professional commitment encompasses strengthening clinical practice, promoting patient safety, and supporting excellence in women's healthcare.



Dr. Robert Swaka
Consultant Physician, Infectious Diseases
Chair, Infection Prevention Committee
Clinical Lead, Outpatient Parenteral
Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Service
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Robert Swaka is a Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC), Abu Dhabi, with 24 years of clinical experience. He serves as Undergraduate Tutor and Quality Chair for the Tropical and Infectious Diseases Division, leads the Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) programme, and chairs the Clinical and Competence Committee for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship.

A graduate of the University of Juba, Dr. Swaka holds a master's degree in tropical medicine from the UK and specialty certifications in infectious diseases, microbiology, and virology from the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists. He previously worked as a consultant microbiologist and infectious diseases physician at Barts Health NHS Trust in London and Mid and South Essex NHS Trust. His leadership roles in the UK included Guardian of Safe Working, Division Lead for Clinical Effectiveness, and Infection Control Physician.

Dr. Swaka has contributed to clinical trials, published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented his work internationally. He is an Honorary Associate Clinical Professor at University College London and an Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor at both Khalifa University and Gulf Medical University. He also serves as an international faculty member at the University of Juba.

Speakers' Biography



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 Mafraq 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.



Dr. Janet Haas
Infection Prevention &
Epidemiology Consultant
Innovative Infection Prevention,
New York, USA

Dr. Janet Haas has worked in infection prevention for over 25 years and has led departments in major academic medical centers. She earned a PhD in Nursing from Columbia University, and an MS in Epidemiology from the State University of NY at Albany. Dr. Haas is widely published and is an international speaker. She is an associate editor of the American Journal of Infection Control, a past president (2018) of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and is the 2022 APIC Carol DeMille lifetime achievement award winner. She is delighted to be here in Abu Dhabi for this conference.



Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew
Senior Infection Prevention
and Control Officer
SEHA STMC Hospital,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Ms. Sareena Meera Mathew is a Senior Infection Prevention and Control Nurse and Team Lead at SEHA's Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Medical City (STMC) in Al Ain, UAE. She has 19 years of experience in infection prevention and control across Joint Commission International (JCI)–accredited healthcare organisations.

She holds a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialisation in infection prevention and control, a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases, CIC® certification, and the Advanced Leadership Certification in Infection Prevention and Control (AL-CIP).

Ms. Mathew serves on the APIC Prevention Strategist Panel and the APIC Education Committee. She has contributed to the profession as an author, reviewer, mentor, educator, and international speaker. Her work focuses on patient safety, professional development, and using evidence-based practices to sustain improvements in infection prevention.

Speakers' Biography



Mr. Pramod Sivanandan
Head of Laboratory Operations - Non Human Testing
PureLab, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Mr. Pramod Sivanandan is Head of Laboratory Operations – Non-Human Testing at PureLab, Abu Dhabi, with over 25 years of experience in Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) across the UAE and GCC. His expertise includes environmental laboratory operations, accreditation and quality management systems, water quality assessment, and Legionella risk assessment. He has extensive experience in establishing and managing laboratory facilities, implementing ISO standards, developing operational processes, and leading multidisciplinary teams.

His previous leadership roles include Director of Food, Environment and Cosmetics at Eurofins UAE, Regional Sales and Marketing Manager at Geochem Middle East, and Operations Manager at GCQ Management Systems Certification. He holds a BSc in Chemistry from Goa University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management, specialising in Marketing and Operations Management. He is also a certified Legionella Risk Assessor and Water Quality Risk Assessor, with additional qualifications in ISO/IEC 17025 internal auditing and ISO 9001 lead auditing.



Mr. Omer Alikunju
Chairman Safecare Holding,
Bin Ali Medical Supplies

Mr. Omer Alikunju is a healthcare industry leader and CEOof Safecare Holding, with involvement in the development and growth of medical manufacturing and distribution businesses. Through the Bin Ali Group, he has contributed to strengthening the UAE's healthcare supply sector, with a focus on medical consumables, infection prevention, and patient safety solutions. His leadership reflects a commitment to advancing local manufacturing capabilities and providing quality healthcare products across the region.



Mr. Ernst Hess
R&D Head,
Safecare Industries

Mr. Ernst Hess is the Head of Research and Development at Safecare Industries. His experience spans research and development, operations, and product management in infection control, surgical products, and industrial chemicals.

He has served as R&D and Operations Manager at Safecare Medical in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and as Technical Director at Metrex Research in California, USA, where he worked in infection control. He also held product management roles at Oroclean Chemie in Switzerland, focusing on infection control, and at Nuvo Technologies in Arizona, USA, where he worked on RFID-enabled surgical sponges. At Dow Chemical in Horgen, Switzerland, he managed industrial chemical products.

Mr. Hess holds a Diploma in Chemistry from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and an MBA from Western International University in Phoenix, Arizona.

Speakers' Biography



Dr. M. Nishanthy
Assistant Professor
Madha Medical College and
Research Institute, India

Dr. M. Nishanthy, MD (Microbiology), PDF (HICC), CIC®, a-IPCTM, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology at Madha Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, India. She has expertise in Diagnostic Microbiology, Hospital Infection Prevention and Control, and healthcare-associated infection surveillance.

She holds a Fellowship in Hospital Infection Prevention and Control from Dr. Rela Institute and Medical Centre, Chennai, and is certified in Infection Control (CIC®) and as an Associate Infection Control Professional (a-IPCTM) by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), USA.

Her academic and research interests include infection prevention, antimicrobial resistance, patient safety, and healthcare-associated infections. She has several national and international publications, conference presentations, and research contributions to her credit. She is also the recipient of the Young Researcher Award (2023) and has contributed to medical education through academic publications and faculty activities.



Mr. Noel Gonzaga
Environmental Infection Control Expert
Ministry of Health, Oman

Noel S. Gonzaga, BSMT, MPH, CIC, is an Environmental Infection Control Specialist with the Ministry of Health, Oman, and Oman Country Lead for Clean Hospitals. He has more than 30 years of international healthcare experience across Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Philippines. His work includes national environmental hygiene programs, healthcare auditing, policy development and quality improvement.

He has contributed to national guidelines, Oman's healthcare accreditation framework and the revision of GCC infection prevention guidance. As a national auditor and trainer, he supports environmental cleaning, healthcare laundry, sterile services and endoscopy reprocessing. He also evaluates cleaning products and reviews outsourced-service requirements. His professional focus is translating standards and contractual obligations into measurable practices that strengthen accountability and support patient safety.

Speakers' Biography



Mrs. Preethy Thomas
Infection Control Practitioner
Amana Healthcare, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Mrs. Preethy Thomas, CIC, is a Certified Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner with more than five years of dedicated experience in infection prevention and control and over 17 years of nursing experience across India, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Mrs. Preethy earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from India, and has an extensive clinical background in the field. Her diverse international experience has provided her with a strong foundation in critical care, patient safety, and quality improvement.

Driven by a passion for healthcare excellence, she transitioned into the field of Infection Prevention and control and achieved her Certification in Infection Control (CIC®) in 2022. She currently serves at Amana Healthcare, a Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation Hospital in Abu Dhabi, UAE, where she plays a key role in advancing patient safety through evidence-based infection prevention strategies.



Dr. Ugenyi Iloabachie
Specialist Public Health Physician
University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital,
Enugu, Nigeria

Dr Ugenyi Iloabachie is a Consultant Public Health Physician and researcher with expertise in health systems, reproductive health, implementation research, antimicrobial resistance, and adolescent health. She holds an MBBS and Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians and is completing doctoral training in Population and Reproductive Health at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Her work focuses on translating evidence into practical health-system improvements, particularly for underserved populations in low- and middle-income settings.

Dr Iloabachie has contributed to research and programme activities spanning female genital schistosomiasis, HIV services for adolescents, health security, antimicrobial stewardship, and access to essential health services. She is actively involved in multidisciplinary collaborations, policy-relevant research, and capacity strengthening, with a strong interest in gender-responsive and implementation-focused approaches.

Her current research agenda emphasizes locally feasible innovations that strengthen service delivery, improve equity, and support evidence-informed public health decision-making in Nigeria and similar settings and beyond globally.

Speakers' Biography



Mr. Mohammad Zaben
Head of Infection Prevention
and Control Department
An-Najah National University Hospital,
Palestine

Mohammad Soluiman Said Zaben is a Palestinian healthcare professional specializing in infection prevention and control. He currently serves as Head of the Infection Control Department at An-Najah National University Hospital. He holds a Master's degree in Infection Control from An-Najah National University (2024) and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Arab American University (2017). His professional experience includes intensive care nursing, infection control, clinical education, and healthcare quality improvement. He has led several initiatives to reduce healthcare-associated infections, improve patient safety, and strengthen infection prevention practices. He is also a certified Basic Life Support instructor. His research focuses on bloodstream infections among oncology patients, and he presented his research at the ICID-Conflict 2026 Conference. He is committed to advancing patient safety, promoting evidence-based infection prevention practices, and improving healthcare quality through research, education, and multidisciplinary collaboration.



Mr. Arunkumar Ashokan
Infection Prevention
and Control Nurse
Tawam Hospital,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Mr. Arunkumar Ashokan is an Infection Prevention and Control Officer at SEHA's Tawam Hospital. He has more than a decade of experience in infection prevention and control across the UAE and India. He holds board certification in infection prevention and control (CIC) and an MBA. In his role, he combines clinical expertise with healthcare management and has led organisational initiatives that supported successful JCIA, DOH, and OSHA audits.



Dr. Ali Al Hassani
Internal Medicine/
Infectious Diseases Specialist
STMC/Tawam Hospitals,
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Ali Al Hassani is a Board-Certified Internal Medicine Specialist with over 10 years of clinical experience in the United Arab Emirates and advanced training in Infectious Diseases. He completed his Arab Board certification in Internal Medicine at Tawam Hospital and an accredited Infectious Diseases Fellowship within the Al Ain Medical Region. Currently practicing as an Internal Medicine Specialist, he has extensive experience managing complex medical and infectious diseases cases across inpatient and outpatient settings. His professional interests include antimicrobial stewardship, sepsis management, clinical research, medical education, and healthcare quality improvement. He has contributed to multiple peer-reviewed publications, clinical research projects, and institutional guidelines.

Poster Presentation

01 **Evaluation of adverse drug reactions in patients receiving second-line therapy for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis**
Dr. Shameema Alam, Medical Intern, HMS Al Garhoud Hospital

02 **Comparison of susceptibility between conventional first line antibiotic Co-Trimoxazole and newer antibiotics in recurrent uncomplicated urinary tract infections**
Dr. Muhammad Saleh Faisal, Associate Professor, Khyber Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, Pakistan

03 **Public Knowledge about sepsis, its causes, symptoms, signs and prevention methods**
Ms. Amneh Alajjuri, Medical Student, University of Sharjah, UAE

04 **Evolution of Phage Resistance in Klebsiella pneumoniae Under Different Phage Pressures**
Dr. Farah Badakshi, Assistant Professor, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

05 **Neonatal Legionella Pneumonia: A rare case report**
Dr. Aaisha Mohammed Rafi, Pediatric Resident, Aster Hospital Dubai, UAE

06 **Vaccine Hesitancy in the MENA Region: A Systematic Review**
Dr. Maryam Amirrad, Consultant Pediatrician, Infectious Diseases, Clinical Assistant Professor,
Ajman University, College of Medicine, UAE

07 **Improving the Accuracy and Reliability of Hand Hygiene Compliance Audits through Inter Rater Reliability (IRR) Measurement: A Quality Improvement Project**
Ms. Mahalallel Duavis, Infection Control Practitioner/ Nurse, Al Jalila Childrens Hospital, Dubai, UAE

08 **Multidrug-Resistant Organisms in Surgical Site Infections: A Rapid Mapping Review of Preliminary Multi-Regional Evidence on Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Stewardship Interventions**
Mr. Burhanuddin Murtaza Patanwala, Medical Student (Year 5) MD, RAK Medical and Health Sciences University, UAE

09 **Impact of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus on Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes in the United Arab Emirates and Global Population: A Multicenter Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**
Dr. Nazia Akhtar Akhtar Gul , Medical Intern, Gulf Medical University, UAE

10 **The effect of health care waste management on infection control in the obstetrics and gynecology department at AL-Gadarif teaching hospital, AL-Gadarif state, Sudan, 2025**
Dr. Leena Mohamed Ali Noureldin Ismail, Texila American University & Universidad Central De Nicaragua

11 **A Retrospective Study on Prevalence and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacilli Isolated from Clinical Specimens at a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital**
Dr. M. Nishanthy, Assistant Professor, Medha Medical College and Research Institute

12 **Epstein–Barr Virus-Associated Cholestatic Jaundice Mimicking Biliary Obstruction in a Child with Fontan Circulation: A Diagnostic Dilemma**
Dr. Sara Ali, Pediatric Resident, Al Qassimi Women's and children's Hospital, Sharjah

13 **Bloodstream Infections in NICU: Prevention Today, Healthy Tomorrow**
Ms. Sheelamma Thomas, Charge nurse,IC link nurse NICU- Corniche Hospital, Corniche Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

14 **Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic fever, A case of successful recovery**
Dr. Asiyeh Davoodi, Department of Internal Medicine, Emirates Health Services, UAE

15 **Intrabiliary Rupture of a Hepatic Hydatid Cyst Causing Mechanical Biliary Obstruction: Endoscopic Management of Cystobiliary Communication**
Dr. Razan Abdulsattar Awad, Medical Intern, Tawam hospital, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

16 **Safe Renovation, Seamless Care: Sustaining Patient Safety During Major Hospital Construction**
Mrs. Sreela Anil, Senior Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, Corniche Hosptital, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Poster Presentation

17 **Reducing Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) Through the DMAIC Framework: Enhancing Competency and Efficiency of ICU, In-Patient, and OR Nurses in Assisting for Central Line Insertion, Maintenance, and Removal** - Ms. Juliya Pascua Registered Nurse NMC Specialty Hospital, Abu Dhabi

18 **Emergency Colon Surgery Is Associated With a 2.4-Fold Higher Risk of Surgical Site Infection: An Eight-Year Retrospective Cohort Study**

Ms. Deemah Maher Alharbi, Medical Student and Researcher, College of Medicine, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

19 **Impact of the Sharp Neutral Zone on Operating Room Practice: Nurses' Experiences and Perspectives**

Mr. Sumith Sonny Antony,Nurse Educator, New Medical Center Specialty Hospital, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

20 **Reducing Central Line-Associated Bloodstream infections Rates in Pediatric Oncology in a low-Income Country: A Post - ProFile Quality Improvement Initiative at The Indus Hospital & Health Network Karachi**

Mrs. Shabnam Bilal, Senior Manager Infection Control, The Indus hospital and health network

21 **Multisystem Complications in Cephalosporin-Resistant Typhoid Fever: Glomerulonephritis and Pleural Effusion in a Pediatric Traveler** - Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Khan, Intern Doctor, Thumbay University Hospital

22 **Epidemiological analysis of respiratory and enteric outbreaks in long-term care homes in Ontario, Canada from 2020 to 2025. A retrospective longitudinal cross-sectional study**
Dr. Jim Ayukekbong, Ass. Adj. Professor, University of Toronto

23 **Beyond the Bundle: Sustaining CLABSI Reduction Through Leadership, Innovation, and Multidisciplinary Collaboration** - Mrs. Sinat Mathew, Senior Charge Nurse, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

24 **Quality Improvement Evaluation of Equipment Surface Hygiene in Respiratory Care**
Ms. Anusree Beena, Respiratory Therapist, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

25 **High-Alert Medications and Antibiotics: Identifying the Hidden Risks in Clinical Practice**
Dr. Tarun Wadhwa Chairperson In-charge & Associate Professor RAK College of Pharmacy, RAK Medical and Health Sciences University, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

26 **Rising Burden of Carbapenem-Resistant Gram-Negative Pathogens in Respiratory Infections: A Case Series Highlighting Antimicrobial Stewardship Challenges in Abu Dhabi, UAE**
Dr. Shrirang Bamne, Consultant Critical Care Medicine, NMCSH, Abu Dhabi, UAE

27 **Hand hygiene knowledge, attitude, and practice before, during and post COVID-19: a cross-sectional study among university students in the United Arab Emirates**
Ms. Hurairah Faatimah Muzammil, Student, Ajman University, UAE

28 **Are We Over-Reporting CLABSI? Impact of Secondary Bloodstream Infection Attribution Training in a Tertiary Care Hospital** - Ms. Seham Mahmoud Abuhija, Senior Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, SKMC, Abu Dhabi, UAE

29 **Integrating Genomic Epidemiology into Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention: A Targeted Review and Practical Framework for Actionable Surveillance and Outbreak Response**
Ms. Asma Tekbali, MPH, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology Consultant, Independent

30 **Phage Therapy as an Antimicrobial Strategy Against Klebsiella pneumoniae: Phenotypic Adaptation Under Sustained Lytic Bacteriophage Exposure**
Dr. Farah Badakshi, Assistant Professor, Higher colleges of technology, UAE

31 **Adult Vaccination and Healthy Aging in the UAE: Uptake, Determinants and Policy Perspectives**
Ms. Areeba Irfan, Medical Student , Gulf Medical University, UAE

32 **Strategies to Reduce Ventilator-Associated Events: Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) Experience**
Joselita Ladline Rego, Infection Preventionist, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

33 **Severe necrotic and fatal monkeypox in HIV-infected patient**
Dr. Faarimah Maryam Muzammil, nternal Medicine Resident, Dubai Medical University, Fakeeh University Hospital

Poster Presentation

34 **Surveillance of Biomedical Waste (BMW) Management Practices: Evaluation and Audit in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Mumbai**
Dr. Vidhi Arora, Specialist Medical Microbiology, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram, India

35 **Concurrent Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Allergic Bronchopulmonary Mycosis Caused by Aspergillus niger: A Diagnostic Challenger**
Vidhi Arora, Specialist Medical Microbiology, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram, India

36 **Breaking the Chain: Practical Infection Prevention and Control Strategies in Home Healthcare**
Ms. Anastasiya Krasimirova Chobanova , Infection Control Coordinator, Emirates Health Services, UAE

37 **Klebsiella pneumoniae Pyogenic Liver Abscess Masquerading as Dengue Fever: A Diagnostic Challenge**
Ms. Ayesha Hassan, Student, Gulf Medical University, UAE

38 **Childhood Vaccine Hesitancy in Pakistan: Evidence, Drivers, and Communication-Based Interventions, with Implications for Medical Education**
Ms. Hanna Fathima Haseena , Medical Student , Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shimoga, India

39 **Reducing Surgical Site Infections in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Through a Multimodal Prevention Bundle: A 14-Year Quality Improvement Experience**
Fatima Mohamed Mohamoud, Clinical Resource Midwife, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

40 **From Education to Behavior Change: Sustaining Reduction in Blood Culture Contamination Through a Two-Phase Quality Improvement Initiative**
Dr. Maryam Mojtabavi, Infectious Disease Specialist, NMC Royal Hospital Sharjah, UAE

41 **Evaluating Improvements in Candida auris Prevention and Control Following Infection Control Interventions in a Major Tertiary Care Center in Bahrain: A Five-Year Experience**
Mr. Saleh Sowar, Head nurse in IPC department, Government Hospitals, Bahrain

42 **Beyond the ICU: Achieving Zero EVD-Associated Ventriculitis Through Standardized Nursing Practice, Competency and Resource Readiness**
Ms. Naglaa Samy, Clinical Resource Nurse, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

43 **Is Routine Hospital Disinfection Inadvertently Selecting for More Tolerant Candida auris Strains? A Data-Synthesis on the Disinfectant–Resistance Feedback Loop**
Ms. Aqsa Akhter, Final year Medical Student, College of Medicine, UAE

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