



10th Annual
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL
PAEDIATRIC
NEUROLOGY
CONGRESS

24-25 April 2026
Mövenpick Hotel and
Apartments Bur Dubai,
Dubai, UAE

Decade of Innovation, Collaboration, and
Clinical Excellence in Pediatric Neurology

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MBBS, MRCPCH, FRCPCH, CCT (UK)
Division Chief & Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,
Tawam Hospital, UAE; Adj. Assistant Professor in
Pediatrics, **United Arab Emirates University, UAE**

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Dr. Mohamed Elhadi Al-Malik
MD, MBBCH, MRCP, FRCPCH, CCST, DSc
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Mediclinic
Al Jowhara Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

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Dr. Arif Khan
MBBS, DCH, MRCPCH, FRCPCH, CCT (UK), MSc Epilepsy (UK)
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist & Director of Gene Therapy, **Fakeeh University Hospital, Dubai, UAE**; Director, Kids Neuro
Clinic; CEO and Founder, Neuropedia, **Children's Neuroscience Center**; Associate Professor, **MBRU, UAE**



Dr. Biju Abdul Hameed
PhD, FRCPCH, MRCPI
Consultant, Pediatric Neurologist, **Danat Al Emarat Hospital, UAE**



Prof. Fahad Al Bashiri
Professor, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, Department of Pediatrics, **College of Medicine, King Saud
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Dr. Khalid Hudallah
MRCPCH, Associate Professor, Deputy, **Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society** Head, Pediatric Neurology, Associate
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Dr. Majid Aziz
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Hospital, UAE**



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Dr. Pawan Kashyape
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MBBS, DCH, DNB, FCPS, MRCPCH (UK), FRCPCH (UK), CCT
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



Dr. Shanawaz Hussain
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical Centre, UAE**



Prof. Sunny Philip
MBBS, MRCP, MRCPCH, FRCPCH
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Mediclinic Hospital, UAE**


















Dr. Syed Arif Hosain
Consultant Paediatric Neurology, **Sheikh Shakabout Medical City, UAE**



Dr. Ubaid Shah
MBBS (Hons.), MD, DCH, FRACP,
Paediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, **Pediatric Pearls, UAE**

Speaker Faculty

- **Dr. Amna Al Futaisi**
MD, FRCPC, FRCPCH
Professor & Senior Consultant in Paediatric Neurology, **Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman**
- **Dr. Aman Sohal**
MBBS, FRCPCH, CCT (UK), Consultant Pediatric Neurologist and Neurophysiologist; Division Chief, Pediatric Neurology, **Al Qassimi Women and Children's Hospital**, Founding Partner, Neuropedia **Children's Neuroscience Center, UAE**
- **Dr. Anil Israni**
MBBS, MD, DM, FRCPCH, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Tawam Hospital, UAE**
- **Dr. Arif Khan**
MBBS, DCH, MRCPCH, FRCPCH, CCT (UK), MSc Epilepsy (UK), Consultant Paediatric Neurologist & Director of Gene Therapy, **Fakeeh University Hospital**, Director, Kids Neuro Clinic; CEO and Founder, Neuropedia, Children's Neuroscience Center; Associate Professor, **MBRU, UAE**
- **Prof. Ayman El-Hattab**
MD, FAAP, FACMG, Director of the Genetics and Rare Disease Center, **Burjeel Medical City, UAE**
Professor, College of Medical and Health Sciences, **Khalifa University, UAE**
- **Dr. Biju Abdul Hameed**
PhD, FRCPCH, MRCPi
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- **Dr. Chahnez Charfi Triki**
Professor of Neurology and Head of Child Neurology Department, **Hedi Chaker Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia**;
Director of Research, **Sfax Medical School, Tunisia**
- **Dr. Chaudhry Muhammad Mehtab Iqbal**
MBBS, MRCPCH, FRCPCH, CCT (UK), Division Chief & Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Tawam Hospital, UAE**; Adj Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, **United Arab Emirates University, UAE**
- **Dr. Dina Saleh**
Consultant Pediatric Neurology, Head of Department, **Reem Hospital**, Ass. Cl. Prof. (adj), **Khalifa University, UAE**,
Professor of Pediatric Neurology **Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt**
- **Prof. Faisal Al Otaibi**
Chair of Brain Health, **King Faisal Specialist hospital and Research Centre**, Founding Executive Member of **International Epilepsy Surgery Society, KSA**
- **Prof. Fahad Al Bashiri**
Professor, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, Department of Pediatrics, **College of Medicine, King Saud, University**, President, **Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society, KSA**
- **Dr. Hasan Tekgul**
Professor In Pediatric Neurology, **Ege University Medical School, Izmir, Turkey**; Pediatric Neurologist, **Ege Children's Hospital, Turkey**
- **Dr. Haitham El Bashir**
Head of Neurosciences Center of Excellence, Consultant in Paediatric Neurorehabilitation, **Al Jalila Children's Hospital**, Clinical Professor of Paediatrics, **MBRU, UAE**
- **Dr. Huda Sadek**
MBBCh, MRCPCH, FRCPCH
Paediatric Neurodevelopment Consultant, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**
- **Dr. Khalid Hundallah**
MRCPCH, Associate Professor, Deputy, **Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society**, Head, Pediatric Neurology, Associate Editor, Neuroscience Journal, **Prince Sultan Military Medical City, KSA**

Speaker Faculty



Dr. Katie Ihnen

Assistant Professor, Neurology, **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA**



Dr. Majid Aziz

MBBS, MRCPCH (UK), FRCPCH (UK), CCT Pediatric Neurology (UK), Fellowship in Pediatric Epilepsy (Aus) Division Chief and Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



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Dr. Muhammad Aslam Nagi

Specialist Pediatrics, Pediatric Neurology Division, **Kids Neuro Clinic, UAE**



Dr. Mohammed Mekki

Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **University Hospital Sharjah, UAE**



Dr. Nidheesh Chencheri

MBBS, MD, FRCPCH, Fellowship Pediatric Neurology, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Adjunct Assistant Professor, MBRU **Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, UAE**



Dr. Najwa Albustani

Consultant Neurologist, Neurological Institute, **Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi**, Neurology Residency Program Director, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, **Case Western Reserve University, UAE**



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Paediatric Neurology Consultant, **Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, UAE**



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Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



Prof. Sunny Philip

MBBS, MRCP, MRCPCH, FRCPCH Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Mediclinic Hospital, UAE**

Speaker Faculty



Dr. Syed Arif Hosain

Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, UAE**



Dr. Tamer Rizk

FRCPCH, CESR (Ped Neuro, UK), HMPDip (UK), ABCN (Ped Epilepsy), Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **American Center for Psychiatry & Neurology, UAE**



Dr. Tayyaba Riaz Anwar

Co-Director, Hemimegalencephaly Program, Neonatal Neurologist and Epilepsy, Program Director, Epilepsy Fellowship, **Children's National Hospital, Washington, D.C., USA**



Dr. Tipu Sultan

FRCPCH (London), MSc (UK), Professor of Pediatric Neurology, **The Children's Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan**



Dr. Ubaid Shah

MBBS (Hons.), MD, DCH, FRACP, Pediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, **Pediatric Pearls, UAE**



Dr. Vivek Mundada

MBBS, DCH (India), DCH (UK), MRCPCH, FRCPCH, CCT (UK), Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Clinical Lead for Gene Therapies and Rare Diseases, **Medcare and Aster Hospitals, UAE**



Dr. Wafa Al Shehhi

Consultant Pediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, **Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, UAE**

13:30	Registration, Coffee & Networking
14:30	Welcome Note from the Congress Chairman Dr. Chaudhry Muhammad Mehtab Iqbal
	Session I: Advances in Epilepsy & Digital Innovation in Pediatric Neurology
	Moderators: Dr. Chaudhry Muhammad Mehtab Iqbal – Dr. Pawan Kashyape
14:40	Genomic Screening and Multiomics: What Is in Store for Pediatric Neurology? Dr. Nikil Sudarsan
15:00	From EEG to Electronic Records: Integrating AI into Routine Child Neurology Practice Dr. Biju Abdul Hameed
15:20	Genetics in Epilepsy : when and How Testing Changes Management Dr. Chahnez Charfi Triki
15:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion

16:00 Networking Coffee Break

	Session II: Challenging Diagnoses in Pediatric Neurology: From Stroke to Encephalopathy
	Moderators: Dr. Shanawaz Hussain – Dr. Ubaid Shah
16:20	Perinatal Stroke: What Every Pediatric Neurologist Should Know? Prof. Fahad Al Bashiri
16:40	Developmental Epileptic Encephalopathies: From Devastation to Precision Hope Dr. Dina Saleh
17:00	Aicardi–Goutières Syndrome Dr. Khalid Hundallah
17:20	Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mental Health Dr. Huda Sadek
17:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion

	Session III: Hot Topics in Pediatric Neurology
Moderators:	Dr. Aman Sohal - Dr. Mohammed Mekki
18:00	Rett Syndrome Update Dr. Majid Aziz
18:15	Hemimegalencephaly and Transarterial Embolization Dr. Tayyba Anwar
18:35	CDKL5 Deficiency Disorder: Recent Progress in Diagnosis and Management Dr. Shanwaz Hussein
18:55	Q&A and Panel Discussion
19:15	Raffle Draw
19:20	Closing Remarks & Networking Dinner

End of Day 1

08:00	Registration, Coffee & Networking
	Session IV: Immune Mediated Disorders of Pediatric CNS: Diagnosis and Modern Therapies
	Moderators: Dr. Majid Aziz – Dr. Pawan Kashyape
09:00	Spectrum of Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis – Update on diagnosis and treatment Dr. Shanawaz Hussain
09:20	Autoimmune and Inflammatory Status Epilepticus: Early Recognition and Escalation of Therapy Dr. Wafa Al Shehhi
09:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion

	Session V: Transforming Neuromuscular Care: From Diagnosis to Precision Therapies
	Moderators: Dr. Nidheesh Chencherim – Dr. Vivek Mundada
10:00	Neuropathy in Pediatric and Adult Populations – A Lifespan Approach Dr. Najwa Albustani
10:20	Long Term Functional Outcome and Safety Considerations of Gene Therapy in DMD Dr. Chaudhry Muhammad Mehtab Iqbal
10:40	Newborn Screening: Expanding Beyond Spinal Muscular Atrophy Dr. Saleel Ramesh Chandratre
11:00	ITVISM in Spinal muscular Atrophy: Clinical Evidence to Real World Experience; Advancing SMA Care for Children Aged 2 Years and Older, Teenagers, and Adults With SMA Dr. Omar Ismayl
11:20	Precision Therapy in Neuromuscular Diseases – from Gene Replacement to Gene Editing Dr. Arif Khan
11:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion
12:00	Raffle Draw

12:10	Networking Coffee Break
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	Session VI: Precision Pediatric Neurology: From Molecular Therapies to Advanced Epilepsy Mapping
Moderators:	Dr. Dina Saleh – Dr. Omar Ismayl
12:30	Post-Infectious Neuroinflammation Prof. Sunny Philip
12:50	Every Motor Neuron Matters in SMA Dr. Noora Al Menhali
13:10	The Localizing Value of Advanced Technology in Epilepsy Prof. Faisal Al Otaibi
13:30	Q&A and Panel Discussion

13:50	Networking Lunch Break
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	Session VII: Integrating Genetics, Movement Disorders and Rehabilitation
Moderators:	Dr. Haitham El Bashir – Dr. Saleel Ramesh Chandratre – Dr. Syed Arif Hosain
14:50	In Your Genes: Understanding the Heritability of Epilepsy Dr. Tamer Rizk
15:10	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Dr. Katie Ihnen
15:30	Spectrum of Paediatric Drug-Induced Movement Disorders Dr. Mohamed Babiker
15:50	Understanding Childhood Arteriopathy: From Pathophysiology to Outcomes Dr. Amna Al Futaisi
16:10	Q&A and Panel Discussion

		<p>Session VIII: Emerging Trends in Pediatric Neurology</p>
Moderators:		Dr. Anil Israni – Dr. Muhammad Aslam Nagi
16:30	Mitochondrial DNA Depletion Syndromes	Prof. Ayman El-Hattab
16:50	Current Modalities for Monitoring of Neonatal Seizures in NICU	Dr. Hasan Tekgul
17:10	Beyond Steroids and IVIG: The Role of Therapeutic Apheresis in Pediatric Neurological Disease	Dr. Ravi Dara
17:30	Autoimmune Encephalitis	Dr. Tipu Sultan
17:50	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
18:00	Raffle Draw	

18:10	End of Congress Day Two
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PICTURE THEIR
**ONE
DOSE
LIFE**

Hussein, 23 years old
Journalist
Living with SMA

Fictional patient imagery,
for illustrative purposes only.

Ameena, 14 years old
Student
Living with SMA

Fictional patient imagery,
for illustrative purposes only.

**The only one-time gene
replacement therapy for
kids 2 years of age and
older, teens, and adults
with SMA^{1,2}**

What is ITVISM A?

ITVISM A is an adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector-based gene therapy indicated for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in adult and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with confirmed mutation in SMN1 gene.²

AAV, adeno-associated virus; SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

1. Novartis receives FDA approval for Itvisma®, the only gene replacement therapy for children two years and older, teens, and adults with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Novartis. Available at: <https://www.novartis.com/news/media-releases/novartis-receives-fda-approval-itvisma-only-gene-replacement-therapy-children-two-years-and-older-teens-and-adults-spinal-muscular-atrophy-sma>. Last accessed at: 10/2/2026.
2. ITVISM A. FDA. 19/12/2025. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/cellular-gene-therapy-products/itvisma> Last accessed at: 08.02.2026.

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Website: <https://www.ede.gov.ae/pt/w/reporting-side-effects-of-medicines-and-medical-products-within-uae-for-individuals>

For any adverse events in Abu Dhabi, please report it to Pharmacovigilance & Drugs Education PVE@doh.gov.ae
To Report adverse events to Novartis, email to
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