



6<sup>th</sup>

Middle East International

PAEDIATRIC

NEUROLOGY CONGRESS

11-12 September 2026 | Park Rotana Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Congress Chairman



**Dr. Omar Ismayl**, MD, MSc. Paediatrics, MRCP (UK), FRCPCH, CCST, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**

## Head of Scientific Committee



**Dr. Majid Aziz**, Division Chief and Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**

## Scientific Committee



**Dr. Aman PS Sohal**  
MBBS MRCPCH FRCPCH CCT  
(Pediatric Neurology), Consultant  
Pediatric Neurologist Head of Pediatric  
Neurosciences Department, **Al Qassimi  
Women's and Children's hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Arif Khan**, Consultant Paediatric  
Neurologist, Founder and CEO,  
**Neuropedia Children's Neuroscience  
Center**, Director, **Kids Neuro Clinic**,  
Associate Professor (Adj), **Mohammed  
Bin Rashid University**, Director - Gene  
Therapy Program at **Fakeeh University  
Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Husam Kayyali**, Chief of Pediatric  
Neurology Division, **Sidra Medicine**;  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,  
**Weil Cornell Medicine, Qatar**



**Dr. Mohamed Babiker**, Consultant  
Pediatric Neurologist, Clinical  
Associate Professor and Program  
Director of Pediatric Neurology  
Residency Program at **Al Jalila  
Children's Specialty Hospital and  
Mohammed Bin Rashid University  
Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Sunny Philip**, MBBS, MD, MRCP,  
FRCPCH, Consultant Pediatric  
Neurologist, **Mediclinic City Hospital**,  
Adjunct Clinical Professor, **Bin Rashid  
University of Medicine and  
Health, UAE**



**Prof. Amna Al Futaisi**, MD, FRCPC,  
FRCPCH, Professor & Senior  
Consultant in Paediatric  
Neurology, **Sultan Qaboos  
University, Oman**



**Prof. Fahad Al Bashiri**, Professor,  
Consultant Pediatric Neurologist &  
Epileptologist, Pediatric Neurology  
Division, Pediatric Department,  
College of Medicine Chairman,  
Subcommittee for Human Research  
Ethics (IRB), **King Saud University**,  
President, **Saudi Pediatric Neurology  
Society, KSA**



**Dr. Mehtab Iqbal**, MBBS, MRCPCH,  
FRCPCHCCT (Pediatric Neurology)  
UK, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist  
Division Chief, Pediatric Neurology  
**Tawam Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Sarah Alenezi**, Pediatric  
Neurologist, Head of Pediatric  
Neurology Unit, **Adan Hospital,  
Kuwait**



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

## Speaker Faculty



**Dr. Abdulla Alawadhi**, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Al Jalila Children's Hospital, Dubai Health, UAE**



**Dr. Ahmed Bamaga**, Associate Professor & Consultant, Pediatric Neurology / Neuromuscular Medicine, **King Abdulaziz University & My Clinic, KSA**



**Dr. Akbar Chettali**, MBBS, MD (Pediatrics), DM (Pediatric Neurology), Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Al Qassimi Women and Children Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Amal Mohamed Jasem Al Tenaiji**, MD, FCCMG, Consultant Physician Division Head of Pediatric Metabolic Genetics, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



**Dr. Aman PS Sohal** MBBS MRCPCH FRCPCH CCT (Pediatric Neurology) Consultant Pediatric Neurologist Head of Pediatric Neurosciences Department, **Al Qassimi Women's and Children's hospital, UAE**



**Prof. Amna Al Futaisi**, MD, FRCPCH, FRCPCH, Professor & Senior Consultant in Paediatric Neurology, **Sultan Qaboos University, Oman**



**Dr. Anil Israni**, MBBS, MD, DM, FRCPCH, Consultant paediatric neurologist and Division Chief, Paediatric neurology, **Tawam hospital, Al Ain**, Adjunct Associate Professor of Paediatric neurology, **UAE University, UAE**



**Dr. Arif Khan**, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Founder and CEO, **Neuropedia Children's Neuroscience Center**, Director, **Kids Neuro Clinic**, Associate Professor (Adj), **Mohammed Bin Rashid University**, Director - Gene Therapy Program at **Fakeeh University Hospital, UAE**



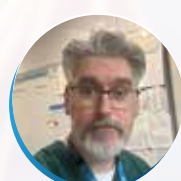
**Dr. Biju Abdul Hameed**, Consultant Pediatric Neurology, **M42, UAE**



**Dr. Binu George**, Consultant Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Manager, Sakina for Children Centre, Sakina, **SEHA, UAE**



**Dr. Dalal Nasr**, Neurodevelopmental pediatrician, Head of Department, **Mediclinic Middle East, UAE**



**Dr Daniel Lumsden**, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Evelina London Children's Hospital**, Adjunct Senior Clinical Lecturer, **Perinatal Imaging, King's College London**, Joint Head of Service Children's Neurosciences, **Evelina London Children's Hospital, UK**

## Speaker Faculty



**Dr. Deepak Gupta**  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Biomedical Expert (Autism), Senior Consultant, **Sir Ganga Ram Hospital**, Founder & Director, **CCAW – Centre for Child and Adolescent Wellbeing, India**



**Prof. Dina Saleh**, Consultant Paediatric Neurology, Head of Department, **Reem Hospital, UAE**, Professor of Paediatric Neurology, **Ain Shams University, Egypt**



**Prof. Fahad Al Bashiri**, Professor, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist & Epileptologist, Pediatric Neurology Division, Pediatric Department, College of Medicine Chairman, Subcommittee for Human Research Ethics (IRB), **King Saud University**, President, **Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society, KSA**



**Prof. Haitham El Bashir** MBBS, FRCPCH, CCST(UK), MD(Lond.), MSc(Hon.) Consultant Pediatric Neurorehabilitation Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, **MBRU, UAE**



**Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju**, Developmental Pediatrician, Medical Director, **SHINE Child Development Center**, Inclusion Governor, Neurodiversity & Inclusive Education Leader, **UAE**



**Dr. Hansel M. Greiner**, MD, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist & Epilepsy Specialist, **Cincinnati Children's Hospital, USA**



**Prof. Helen Cross**  
Prince of Wales's Chair of Childhood Epilepsy, and Director of **UCL-Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health**, Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Neurology, **Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, London and Young Epilepsy, UK**



**Dr. Hibba Bedri**, MBBS, FRCPCH, CCT -UK, Consultant Paediatric Neurodevelopment, **Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Huda Sadek**, MBBCh, MRCPCH, FRCPCH, Paediatric Neurodevelopment Consultant, **NMC Royal Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Husam Kayyali**, Chief of Pediatric Neurology Division Sidra Medicine, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, **Weill Cornell Medicine, Qatar**



**Dr. Hussein Matlik**, Consultant Paediatric Neurology & Head of Department, **Burjeel Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Imad Yassin**, MD, FRCPCH, Facharzt Pediatrics, FAMAP, PGPNC, Consultant Pediatrician and Pediatric Neurologist, **Kids Heart Medical Center, UAE**

## Speaker Faculty



**Dr. Lamya Alsubaihi**, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Burjeel Medical City, UAE**



**Dr. Laura Adang**, Associate Professor of Neurology, Clinician Educator (CE), Division of Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Department of Neurology, University of Pennsylvania, USA**



**Ms. Laura Paquette**, MSc, CGC Certified Genetic Counselor Adjunct Lecturer, **United Arab Emirates University, UAE**



**Dr. Maïke Schumacher**, Consultant Pediatric Critical Care, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



**Dr. Majid Aziz**, Division Chief and Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



**Dr. Maryam Al Shehhi**, Clinical Geneticist Consultant, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Adjunct Assistant Professor, **United Arab Emirates University, UAE**



**Dr. Mohamed Babiker**, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Clinical Associate Professor and Program Director of Pediatric Neurology Residency Program at **Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital and Mohammed Bin Rashid University Hospital, UAE**



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



**Dr. Ola Safi**, Specialist Pediatric Neurologist, **American Center for Psychiatry & Neurology, UAE**



**Dr. Omar Ismayl**, MD, MSc. Paediatrics, MRCP (UK), FRCPCH, CCST, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE**



**Dr. Rajesh Phatak**, Consultant PICU, **Burjeel Hospital, UAE**



**Dr. Raziya Adam**, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Head of Department, Department of Pediatric Neurosciences, **NMC Royal Hospital, UAE**

## Speaker Faculty



**Dr. Ruba Benini**, Pediatric Neurologist/Epileptologist, Medical Director of the Neurodiagnostic laboratory, Program Director Pediatric Residency, Program Director of Pediatric Epilepsy Fellowship, **Sidra Medicine, Qatar**



**Dr. Saja Tahir**, Senior Pediatric Neurology Resident, **Al Jalila Children's Speciality Hospital, UAE**



**Dr Saqib Latif**, FRCPsych Consultant Paediatric Psychiatrist, **SEHA, Sakina, UAE**



**Dr. Sarah Alenezi**, Pediatric Neurologist, Head of Pediatric Neurology Unit, **Adan Hospital, Kuwait**



**Dr. Seby John**, Chair, Department of Neurology Consultant, Vascular Neurology and Neurointerventional Surgery, **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, UAE**



**Dr. Tamer Rizk**, FRCPCH, CESR, HMPDip, ABCN, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, **American Center for Psychiatry & Neurology, 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. Yael Hacoheh**, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, **Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust**, Honorary Associate Professor, Department of Neuroinflammation, **UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UK**

# Day one, 11 Sep 2026, Friday

|       |                                                                                                                              |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:00 | Registration, Networking, Welcome Coffee                                                                                     |
| 13:40 | Opening Remarks from the Conference Chairman and Head of Scientific Committee<br><b>Dr. Omar Ismayl &amp; Dr. Majid Aziz</b> |

## SESSION I

### MOVEMENT DISORDERS

**MODERATORS: DR. HIBBA BIDRI, DR. HUSSEIN MATLIK**

|       |                                                                                                                            |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:45 | Emerging Therapies in Pediatric Movement Disorders<br><b>Dr. Mohamed Babiker</b>                                           |
| 14:10 | Anti-Seizure Medications- Induced Movement Disorders<br><b>Dr. Saja Tahir</b>                                              |
| 14:35 | Deep Brain Stimulation for Pediatric Dystonia: Patient Selection, Timing, Targets and Outcome<br><b>Dr. Daniel Lumsden</b> |
| 15:00 | Q&A                                                                                                                        |

## SESSION II

### NEUROMUSCULAR

**MODERATORS: DR. AMAL AL TENAIJI, DR. NIDHEESH CHENCHERI**

|       |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15:10 | Ethical Challenges in the Era of Gene Therapy<br><b>Dr. Arif Khan</b>                                                                                              |
| 15:35 | Acquired Neuromuscular Disorders in PICU: Critical Illness Polyneuropathy/Myopathy<br><b>Dr. Ahmed Bamaga</b>                                                      |
| 16:00 | Advancing SMA Care for Children Aged 2 Years and Older, Teenagers, and Adults With SMA (Introduction to ITVISMA™ Clinical data)<br><b>Prof. Haitham El Bashir</b>  |
| 16:25 | Addressing Current Unmet Needs in SMA Care: Real-World Experience and Insights From the First Patient in the world Treated With ITVISMA™<br><b>Dr. Omar Ismayl</b> |
| 16:50 | Turning Genes into Hope: UAE's Leadership in Neuromuscular Innovation with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy<br><b>Dr. Arif Khan</b>                                     |
| 17:10 | Q&A                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17:20 | <b>Networking Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                     |

# Day one, 11 Sep 2026, Friday

## SESSION

### III

## EPILEPSY (PART – I)

**MODERATORS: DR. ABDULLA ALAWADHI, PROF. HAITHAM EL BASHIR**

|       |                                                                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17:40 | Long-Term Outcomes in Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsies<br><b>Prof. Fahad Bashiri</b> |
| 18:05 | The Value of Semiology in Seizure Localization<br><b>Dr. Husam Kayyali</b>            |
| 18:30 | VNS Therapy™ for Pediatrics<br><b>Dr. Aman Sohal</b>                                  |
| 18:40 | Q&A                                                                                   |

## SESSION

### IV

## NEUROINFLAMMATION

**MODERATORS: DR. DALAL NASR, DR. TAMER RIZK**

|       |                                                                                                          |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:50 | CNS Vasculitis in Children<br><b>Dr. Sarah Alenezi</b>                                                   |
| 19:15 | The Child with Acute Demyelination: A Practical Diagnostic Approach<br><b>Dr. Aman Sohal</b>             |
| 19:40 | The Varying Faces of MOGAD: Challenges in Early Recognition and Treatment<br><b>Dr. Yael Hacohen</b>     |
| 20:05 | Pediatric AIS: Recognition, Reperfusion, and Readiness — The 2026 AHA/ASA Update<br><b>Dr. Seby John</b> |
| 20:30 | Q&A                                                                                                      |
| 20:40 | <b>End of Conference Day One Followed by Dinner</b>                                                      |

# Day Two, 12 Sep 2026, Saturday

08:30

Registration & Networking

## SESSION

### V

## NEURODEVELOPMENT, AUTISM & CLINICAL ADVANCES

**MODERATORS: DR. AKBAR CHETTALI, DR. HUDA SADEK, DR. RAZIYA ADAM**

09:00

Neurodevelopment in the Age of AI  
**Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju**

09:25

Autism and Clinical Genomics  
**Dr. Biju Hameed**

09:50

Early Identification vs Over-Diagnosis of Autism; Building Integrated Autism Care Pathway in SEHA  
**Dr. Saqib Latif**

10:15

Interventions in Autism: Focus on Folate Pathway & Precision Therapy  
**Dr. Deepak Gupta**

10:40

Q&A

**10:50**

**Networking Coffee Break**

## SESSION

### VI

## EPILEPSY (PART II)

**MODERATORS: DR. ANIL ISRANI, DR. LAMYA ALSUBAIHI**

11:15

Status Epilepticus in the PICU: Electrographic Boundaries & the IIC Spectrum  
**Dr. Ruba Benini**

11:40

Navigating Complexity in LGS: From Seizure Burden to Meaningful Outcomes  
**Prof. Helen Cross**

12:10

The Big little things made possible in DS & LGS  
**Dr. Arif Khan**

12:30

Q&A

# Day Two, 12 Sep 2026, Saturday

## SESSION VII

### ADVANCED NEUROLOGY

MODERATORS: DR. IMAD YASSIN, DR. RAJESH PHATAK, DR. OLA SAFI

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:35 | Medically Refractory Pediatric Migraine<br><b>Prof. Amna Alfutaisi</b>                                                                                                           |
| 13:00 | Oral Presentation<br><b>Dr. Yasmin Yaish</b>                                                                                                                                     |
| 13:10 | Organ Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) in Children with Neurological Injuries: Eligibility, Family Conversations & the Bridge to Transplant<br><b>Dr. Maike Schumacher</b> |
| 13:35 | Q&A                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 13:40 | <b>Networking Lunch Break</b>                                                                                                                                                    |

## SESSION VIII

### GENETICS

MODERATORS: DR. BINU GEORGE, PROF. DINA SALEH

|       |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:30 | Rett's Syndrome<br><b>Dr. Majid Aziz</b>                                                                                                            |
| 14:45 | Cracking the Genetic Code: How to Read and Interpret Genetic Reports<br><b>Dr. Maryam Al Shehhi</b>                                                 |
| 15:10 | Prevention of Neurological Disorders – The Role of Pre-marital Screening, Preconception Counseling, and Perinatal Care<br><b>Ms. Laura Paquette</b> |
| 15:35 | The New Era of SMA Care "Think High Dose: Higher & Faster"<br><b>Dr. Vivek Munanda</b>                                                              |
| 15:45 | The Evolving Therapeutic Landscape of Leukodystrophies<br><b>Dr. Laura Adang</b>                                                                    |
| 16:10 | Responsive Neurostimulation in Treatment of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy<br><b>Dr. Hansel Greiner</b>                                                    |
| 16:35 | Q&A                                                                                                                                                 |
| 16:45 | <b>End of Day Two</b>                                                                                                                               |