



INTERNATIONAL LEBANESE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ILMA) CONFERENCE **2025**



Saturday, July 26, 2025



InterContinental Phoenicia Beirut

In Collaboration With:



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EVENTS

The International Lebanese Medical Association (ILMA) is a global network of healthcare professionals of Lebanese origin, committed to advancing medical knowledge, promoting public health, and building bridges between the Lebanese diaspora and their countries of residence and heritage.

Founded on the principles of unity, service, and excellence, ILMA brings together physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, researchers, and medical students from over 30 countries. Through collaboration and education, we work to support healthcare systems, foster professional development, and encourage medical innovation both in Lebanon and internationally.

ILMA chapters operate independently yet share a unified vision — to serve communities, respond to health challenges, and strengthen the bonds between Lebanese medical professionals worldwide.

Our Mission

- **Empower** Lebanese healthcare professionals through education, training, and global networking.
- **Support** sustainable health initiatives in Lebanon and Lebanese communities abroad.
- **Promote** ethical and evidence-based medicine.
- **Foster** interprofessional collaboration across borders.

What we do

- Organize international medical conferences and workshops
- Launch humanitarian and health outreach programs
- Offer scholarships, mentorship, and research opportunities
- Provide a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange

Whether in times of stability or crisis, ILMA remains committed to standing by Lebanon and supporting the global Lebanese medical community with compassion, competence, and commitment.

Why This Conference Matters – ILMA Global Conference, 26 July 2025

The Second Annual ILMA Conference in Beirut comes at a critical time for both Lebanon and the global medical community. As the world rapidly changes, so must the way we collaborate, innovate, and care for our patients. This gathering is more than an event — it's a statement of commitment, resilience, and shared purpose.

Why it's important

- **Strengthening Our Global Community**

This conference brings together ILMA members from across the world and Lebanon — physicians, researchers, nurses, students, and public health professionals — to share knowledge, build partnerships, and renew our dedication to health equity and professional excellence.

- **Exploring the Future of Medicine**

One of this year's central themes is Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare — a field that is transforming diagnostics, decision-making, and patient care. Through keynote lectures and panel discussions, we will explore how AI can be used responsibly, ethically, and effectively in both advanced and resource-limited settings. Alongside discussions on AI, this year's program will include sessions on bioethics and telemedicine — two areas of growing importance in global healthcare.

- **Reaffirming Our Connection to Lebanon**

Holding our second annual meeting in Beirut is both symbolic and strategic. It reflects our deep-rooted connection to Lebanon and our desire to contribute meaningfully to its healthcare sector through education, advocacy, and support.

- **Empowering the Next Generation**

With dedicated sessions for young professionals and students, we aim to mentor the next generation of medical leaders — equipping them with tools for both global practice and local impact.

- **Building a Platform for Long-Term Change**

The conference provides a space for long-term thinking: How can the Lebanese medical diaspora remain a source of strength and innovation to Lebanon? How can we work across borders to tackle emerging global health challenges?

This is a moment to learn, to lead, and to build — together.

ILMA 2025 in Beirut is not just a conference.

It is a vision for the future of medicine, grounded in heritage, and propelled by progress.

President Welcome Note

INTERNATIONAL LEBANESE
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ILMA)
CONFERENCE **2025** 



Dear colleagues, friends, and honored guests,

On behalf of the **International Lebanese Medical Association (ILMA)**, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our Second Annual Global Conference in Beirut on 26 July 2025.

This gathering is more than a professional event — it is a celebration of connection, collaboration, and commitment. It brings together Lebanese healthcare professionals from around the world who share a passion for medicine, education, and service to both our local communities and our homeland.

This year's conference comes at a time of both challenge and opportunity. Across the globe, healthcare systems are under pressure, while new technologies and cross-border collaborations are reshaping how we practice medicine. Against this backdrop, ILMA stands as a unifying force — one that transcends borders and promotes shared knowledge, solidarity, and innovation.

Our program this year reflects the diversity and dynamism of our network. In addition to exploring the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, we will also address critical topics such as bioethics, telemedicine, and the evolving responsibilities of medical professionals in an increasingly complex world.

I am especially proud that we are once again meeting in Beirut — a city that reflects both the resilience and the brilliance of the Lebanese people. Our presence here is a powerful reminder that, no matter where we live or work, we remain deeply connected to Lebanon and committed to its health and recovery.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I wish you an inspiring and meaningful conference.

Warm regards,

Dr. Walid Ahmar

President

International Lebanese Medical Association (ILMA)

Committees

INTERNATIONAL LEBANESE
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ILMA)
CONFERENCE **2025** 

Organizing Committee



Abir Alame



Chady Sarraf



Gracia Hamade



Georges Saade



Jamie Ghossein



Mahmoud Alturk



Mariya Kassem



Mirjam Messo

Scientific Committee



Francois Abi Fadel



Walid Ahmar



Victor Yazbeck



Roland Asmar



Mohammed El Sahili



Program at a Glance

Time	Topic
07:30 - 08:30	Registration and Welcome Note
08:30 - 09:45	Telehealth
09:45 - 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony
11:00 - 13:00	Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	Bioethics in Medicine
16:00	Closing Ceremony



Session 1:

Telehealth and Lebanese Health Care Provision: Learnt Experience, Issues and How Can We Move Forward

8:30 - 9:45 am

Session Overview

Telehealth has emerged as a vital tool in patient consultation and management, enabling timely access to healthcare services across geographical boundaries. Its growing adoption by healthcare providers—both locally and internationally—has significantly transformed the way medical care is delivered. This session will bring together prominent healthcare institutions and professionals from Lebanon and abroad to share best practices, success stories, and practical insights on the implementation and optimization of Telehealth services.

Given the pressing challenges facing the Lebanese healthcare sector, the session will also explore actionable pathways to advance Telehealth nationwide. A key focus will be on how the Lebanese medical diaspora can contribute meaningfully by collaborating with local stakeholders to support, scale, and sustain Telehealth initiatives in Lebanon.

Panelists:

- **Ms. Abir Alame**, *President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon*
- **Ms. Diana Ayoub**, *Executive Director, Heal Beirut*
- **Dr. Firass Abiad**, *Former Lebanese Minister of Public Health, American University of Beirut*
- **Lebanese Order of Physicians in Beirut**, *No Name Yet*
- **Dr. Ibrahim Makdissi**, *President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians in Tripoli*
- **Dr. Jospeh Zgheib**, *IOM-UN Lebanon*
- **Dr. Maher El Kassi**, *ILMA Germany President*
- **Dr. Maroun Rizkallah**, *Orthopedic Spine and Oncology Surgeon, Associate Professor - Sherbrooke University; Canada*
- **Dr. Myriam Mrad**, *Chairperson, Public Health Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Balamand and Co-founder and Executive Director, Health and Environment Response Agency (HERA)*
- **Prof. Roland Asmar**, *President of the Foundation Research Institutes*
- **Ms. Sasha Hajj Assaf**, *President of Justice for Mental Health*
- **Dr. Tamer El Andere**, *Professor of Cardiology at Faculdade de Medicina da Santa Casa de São Paulo Brazil*
- **Parliamentary Health Committee Member**, *No Name Yet*

Saturday, July 26, 2025 | 8:30 - 9:45 | Beirut, Lebanon

Session 1:

Telehealth and Lebanese Health Care Provision:
Learnt Experience, Issues and How Can We Move Forward

8:30 - 9:45 am

Program Of the session

Moderators:  Prof. Riad Younes  Ms. Marise Abboud

Time	Topic
08:30 - 08:37	Short Overview on Telehealth Applications Prof. Roland Asmar , <i>President of the Foundation Research Institutes</i>
08:37 - 08:44	International Telehealth for Lebanon - Lessons Learnt over 5 Years Ms. Diana Ayoub , <i>Executive Director, Heal Beirut</i>
08:44 - 08:51	Telehealth, the Diaspora and Supporting Public Hospitals in Lebanon Dr. Firass Abiad , <i>Former Lebanese Minister of Public Health, American University of Beirut</i>
08:51 - 08:58	Digital Health: A Core Element of the National Mental Health Program Work Dr. Rabih Chammay , <i>Head of the National Mental Health Program, MOPH Lebanon</i>
08:58 - 09:05	Telehealth in Brazil - Using Technology to Redefine Realities Dr. Tamer El Andare , <i>Professor of Cardiology at Faculde de Medicina da Santa Casa de Sao Paulo</i>
09:05 - 09:12	Nursing Innovation in Telehealth-Managing Today's Challenges, Envisioning Tomorrow's Care Mr. Hisham Bawadi , <i>Order of Nurses Lebanon</i>
09:12 - 09:45	Panel Discussion

Opening Ceremony

INTERNATIONAL LEBANESE
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Master of Ceremony



Dr. Chady Sarraf



Dr. Mirjam Messo

Speeches



Dr. Walid Ahmar

President of the International Lebanese Medical Association (ILMA)



H.E. Dr. Kamal Shehadi

Minister of Technology and Artificial Intelligence Affairs



H.E. Dr. Rakan Nassereldine

Minister of Public Health



H.E. Mr. Youssef Rajji

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Excellence Awards

Session 2:
Reimagining Medicine:
AI at the Core of Care, Systems, and Learning
11:00 - 13:00

Session Overview

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is driving a new era in healthcare, transforming patient care delivery, system optimization, and medical education. This session will explore how AI-powered tools are improving clinical workflows and optimizing hospital operations while also enhancing learning environments and preventive care strategies. Leaders from government, clinical practice, academia, and technology will share insights from Lebanon and the global stage.

The session is divided into two thematic discussions:

- Session 1: AI for Healthcare Systems Optimization
- Session 2: AI in Education and Preventative Care

Both sessions will feature short expert talks followed by panel discussions engaging the audience on how to translate AI's promise into sustainable healthcare improvements.

AI Session Committee Members

- Joe-Max Wakim
- Lina Abou Mrad
- Mohamed El Sahili
- Rana Abdel Malak
- Samer Zoghby
- Victor Yazbeck

Session 2:
Reimagining Medicine:
AI at the Core of Care, Systems, and Learning
11:00 - 13:00

Program Of the session

Opening Remarks:  Dr. Victor Yazbeck  Dr. Maria Kassem

Time	Topic
Session 1: AI for Healthcare Systems Optimization	
11:05 - 11:12	AI for Smarter Health: Enhancing Approvals, Access, and Efficiency H.E. Dr. Rakan Nassereldine , Minister of Public Health in Lebanon
11:12 - 11:19	AI Sovereignty in Medical Applications Dr. Hayssam Serhan , CEO, NeuralMind Consulting; Chief of AI and Innovation, EXEO
11:19 - 11:26	AI in Hospitals: It's Not the Future, It's the Fix Mr. Malak Halawy , Administrator of Ophthalmology, AUBMC, Author of the book "100 AI Applications in Hospitals"
11:26 - 11:33	Vision 2030: Pioneering AI and Sustainable Healthcare for Lebanon's Renaissance Dr. Mohamed El Sahili , CVO, Medland Hospital, Zambia
11:33 – 11:40	TBC Dr. Kamal Shehadi , Minister of Technology & AI, Lebanon
11:40 – 12:00	Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A – Session 1

Panelists:

- Ms. Cynthia Abi Khalil, Director of Nursing, Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui-UMC
- Dr. Elias Jaradi, Member of Parliament, Lebanon
- Dr. Hayssam Serhan, CEO, NeuralMind Consulting; Chief of AI and Innovation, EXEO
- Dr. Kamal Shehadi, Minister of Technology & AI, Lebanon
- Mr. Malak Halawy, Administrator of Ophthalmology, AUBMC, Author of the book "100 AI Applications in Hospitals"
- Dr. Mohammad Ali Jardali, AI and Family Medicine Specialist
- Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CVO, Medland Hospital - Zambia
- Dr. Rakan Nassereldine, Minister of Public Health in Lebanon
- Dr. Sandy Rihana, Department of Biomedical Engineering Department, USEK
- Dr. Youssef Bassim, Chief Operating Officer & President Assistant for Health Affairs, University of Balamand

Session 2:
Reimagining Medicine:
AI at the Core of Care, Systems, and Learning
11:00 - 13:00

Program Of the session

Time	Topic
Session 2: AI in Education and Preventative Care	
12:00 - 12:07	Smarter Systems with AI: From Remote Monitoring to Personalized Medicine and Education Dr. Sandy Rihana , <i>Department of Biomedical Engineering Department, USEK</i>
12:07 - 12:14	Impact of AI and Innovation on Medical Education in Terms of Clinical Outcomes and System Requirements Mr. Emile Salhab , <i>Managing Director & Partner, BCG</i>
12:14 - 12:21	From Hype to Healing: How AI is Reshaping Preventive Medicine and Global Access Dr. Rachid Akiki , <i>Head of Regulatory & Clinical Affairs, 2San Inc., USA</i>
12:21 - 12:28	AI Meets IVF: How is Artificial Intelligence Redefining Fertility Frontiers and Revolutionising Reproductive Medicine Prof. Rami Wakim , <i>Consultant in Reproductive Medicine, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, Co-founder, Avenues.Life (UK)</i>
12:28 - 12:35	AI in Surgery: A Glimpse into the Future Dr. Albert El Hajj , <i>Associate Professor, Head, Division of Urology, AUBMC</i>
12:35 - 12:55	Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A – Session 2
12:55 - 13:00	Closing Remarks:  Dr. Victor Yazbeck  Dr. Maria Kassem

Session 2:
Reimagining Medicine:
AI at the Core of Care, Systems, and Learning
11:00 - 13:00

Program Of the session

Time

Topic

Session 2: AI in Education and Preventative Care

Panelists:

- Dr. Albert El Hajj, Associate Professor, Head, Division of Urology, AUBMC
- Dr. Elias Jaradi, Member of Parliament, Lebanon
- Mr. Emile Salhab, Managing Director-Partner with BCG
- Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CVO, Medland Hospital - Zambia
- Dr. Rachid Akiki, Head of Regulatory & Clinical Affairs – 2San Inc., USA
- Dr. Rana Abdel Malak, Founder & CEO - MEDHEALTH PRO, SAL
- Prof. Rami Wakim, Consultant in Reproductive Medicine, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, Co-founder, Avenues.Life (UK)
- Dr. Sandy Rihana, Department of Biomedical Engineering Department, USEK
- Dr. Joseph Stephan, Lebanese American University, School of Medicine in Lebanon
- Dr. Youssef Bassim, CEO & President Assistant for Health Affairs, University of Balamand

Session 3:
The Ethical Imperative of Artificial Intelligence:
Navigating a Complex Landscape
14:00 - 16:00

Session Overview

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the medical landscape—enhancing diagnostics, personalizing treatment, and streamlining clinical workflows. AI is revolutionizing data analysis in genomics, epidemiology, and drug discovery. However, as AI systems become increasingly involved in research and decision-making, they raise complex ethical questions. Responsible integration of AI in medical research requires a careful balance between innovation, equity, privacy, and accountability.

Moderators

- Dr. Abir Kurdi Alame, President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, Beirut
- Assoc. Prof Francois Fadell, Chief Pulmonary & Critical Care, Associate Program Director IM Residency, University at Buffalo, New York

Program Of the session

Time	Speaker
14:00 - 14:07	Prof. Abdelrahman Bizri, Member of the Public Health Committee, Lebanese Parliament
14:07 - 14:14	Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Bishop, Australia
14:14 - 14:21	Dr. Mohamad El Arwadi, General Director of Dar Al Awkaf, Representative of Dar El Fatwa, Beirut
14:21 - 14:28	Dr. Razi El Hage, Member of the Information Technology Committee, Lebanese Parliament
14:28 - 14:35	Dr. Joe Salloum, President of the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists, Beirut

Session 3:

The Ethical Imperative of Artificial Intelligence: Navigating a Complex Landscape

14:00 - 16:00

Panelists:

Prof. Nadey Hakim GCSJ, MD, PHD, FRCS, FRCSI, FACS, FICS (HON), FASMBS, FINS (HON), FIMSA (HON),
International Relations Director and Professor of Surgery, Cleveland Clinic London. Professor of transplantation, Imperial College London, UK. President Elect of The Transplantation Society

Prof. Ghassan Kiwan MD, MBA, FRCPC, FACC,
Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Chairman Internal Medicine Bellevue Medical Center, Representative of Balamand University Medical School

Prof. Michel Daher, MD. FACS, FEBS,
Professor of Clinical Surgery and Ethics- Saint George University of Beirut- FM, Chairman IRB at Saint George University of Beirut, and SGH-UMC, Vice Chair National Committee for Palliative Care (NCPC) affiliated to the MOPH, Secretary General of Lebanese National Ethics Committee (CCNLE) affiliated to the Ministry Council

Prof. Charbel Batour SJ, PhD,
Director of the University Center for Ethics, Saint Joseph University

Assoc. Prof. Aniella Abi-Gerges, PhD,
Medical Year 2 Director & Medical Ethics Discipline Coordinator, Lebanese American University

Prof. Audine Salloum, PhD,
Professor of Law, Lebanese University

Assoc. Prof. Bilal Azakir, PhD,
Director of Research Program and Bioethics Expert, Beirut Arab University

Elie Klimos, LLM,
Lawyer & Legal Consultant, Representative of the Lebanese Beirut Bar Association/ Lebanese Order of Lawyers

Prof. Sandy Rihana, PhD,
Department of Biomedical Engineering Department, USEK

Assistant Prof Silvana El-Zoghbi MD PhD,
Pediatric pulmonologist and allergist, PhD in Medical Ethics, Saint George Hospital University Medical Center

Prof. Thalia Arawi, BA, MA, PhD,
Founder and Founding Director Salim El-Hoss Bioethics & Professionalism Program AUB-AUBMC, Professor of Bioethics, Co-founder and CEO of T2P (Theory to Practice) Training and Consultancy

Assoc. Prof Ziad El Khatib MSc, EMBA, PhD,
Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Saturday, July 26, 2025 | 14:00 - 16:00 | Beirut, Lebanon

Medical Training Abroad Program

Session 1

Theme: North American, Germany and France
Moderator: Ziad Al Khatib

Time	Speaker
08:00 - 08:10	USA - Dr. Victor Yazbeck
08:10 - 08:20	Germany - Dr. Marya Kassem
08:20 - 08:30	France - Prof. Roland Asmar

Session 2

Theme: European & North American Training Models
Moderator: Ziad Al Khatib

Time	Speaker
09:45 - 09:55	Belgium - Prof. Francois Fadel
09:55 - 10:05	Canada - Prof. Ahmad Ghais (Quebec & New Brunswick); Prof. Francois Fadel (Ontario)
10:05 - 10:15	UK - Dr. Rami Wakim

Student's Workshop *(Pre-registration Mandatory - Limited Seats)*

Time: 13:00 - 15:00
Workshop's Title: Bridging Sustainability and AI in Healthcare
Presenter: Dr. Mohammad El Sahili

Session 3

Theme: Commonwealth, Nordic & Latin American Systems
Moderator: Dr. Chady Sarraf

Time	Speaker
17:00 - 17:10	Australia - Dr. Anis Chami
17:10 - 17:20	Sweden - Dr. Mirjam Messo
17:20 - 17:30	Brazil - Dr. Tamer Andari

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INTERNATIONAL LEBANESE
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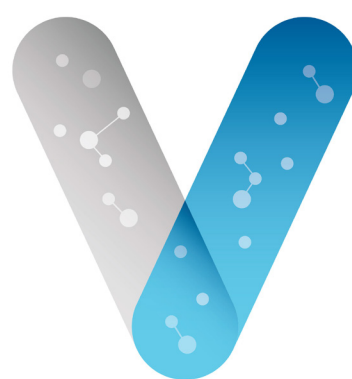
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