



# **Health Technology Assessment A Step Forward: Moving from the 'What?' to the 'How?'**

Second Regional Policy Forum

September 17-18, 2018

Dubai, UAE

**Program**





## Introduction

Globally, calls for governments to scale up efforts to strengthen health systems in order to move towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC) have been increasing. Achieving UHC would include financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for everyone, leaving no one behind.

Achieving UHC depends on fair priority-setting processes that ensure countries allocate scarce resources efficiently. Health technology assessment (HTA) is a methodology that supports the formulation of health policies to allocate resources. It examines the health, economic, social and ethical implications of the use of new (and existing) “technologies,” in order to provide the best evidence for informed decision-making on national health technology investments.

The importance of HTA as a policy tool has been widely recognized in high income countries, yet in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, the link between evidence and policy is still lacking. According to a WHO report, almost 52% of countries in the MENA region perform HTA or HTA-like activities, but most of the remaining countries stated that using HTA in their decision-making process constitutes a major challenge.

With the goal of achieving UHC, many countries in the region are implementing fundamental changes to their health systems, to increase their effectiveness, efficiency and resiliency, and as part of this process, many countries are making strides towards institutionalizing HTA.

Acknowledging the critical role of HTA as an essential part of strengthening health systems for UHC, MENA HPF has supported an initiative to develop a health technology assessment policy forum, focusing on the regional need and building on global, regional and national experiences. The first policy forum took place in Cairo in September 2017 and highlighted the importance of the adoption and utilization of HTA principles as an essential foundation for achieving UHC.

In order to build on the successes of the first forum and to follow up on its recommendations, as well as continuing to strengthen MENA HPF's role as a lead organization in supporting health system strengthening for UHC, MENA HPF in collaboration with its partners is organizing the Second Regional Health Technology Assessment Policy Forum in September 2018. The second forum will present the practical experience of relevant stakeholders and decision makers to contribute to the advancement of HTA methods and practices in the MENA region, and to explore practical solutions for the implementation of HTA tools; in short, it will move from the “what?” to the “how?”

The Second Regional Health Technology Assessment Policy Forum also seeks to provide a leadership platform for senior management from public and private sector organizations using or attempting to use HTA, including international, regional and national experts, and for discussions about the present state of HTA, and the implications of HTA for the strengthening of health care systems, and for patients and other stakeholders, with specific relevance to the MENA region.

## Themes and structure

The forum will see specific national plans for institutionalizing HTA in MENA countries presented and discussed, including challenges and barriers to successful implementation of HTA, prerequisites to HTA implementation, possible HTA structures, partnerships and collaborations, and many other issues.

In addition, international and national experiences of HTA and innovative HTA implementation modalities will be addressed, with the aim of providing MENA countries with models and examples to successfully overcome implementation challenges.

The forum will begin with a discussion of the use of HTA and its role in achieving UHC, with an awareness of the challenges involved and the best means of overcoming them. The case of Thailand will be presented by way of scene-setting, to be followed by the presentation of a policy note assessing HTA situation in the region.

This will be followed by presentations and discussions around six main themes:

Theme 1: The preconditions that facilitate establishing HTA in national settings, including good governance; political commitment and awareness of the importance of HTA; adequate finances and human resources; and the presence of operational frameworks that facilitate implementation and promote accountability.

Theme 2: The institutionalization of HTA and the laws, rules and structures required, with an emphasis on the heightened debates about HTA governance. There will be an opportunity to present and discuss challenges that hinder HTA implementation.

Theme 3: Evaluation of HTA in terms of its impact on the different functions of prioritization of interventions, medicines and technologies, on pricing and reimbursement and the effect on social and health insurance (SHI), on public-private partnerships, and its relevance to advanced but expensive technology, for example in cancer management and treatment.

Theme 4: The importance of integrating HTA into health-related public policies for the effective and efficient management of resources and improving access to innovations, in support of health system strengthening and UHC. This in turn will lead to discussion of the role of HTA in addressing future public health challenges, given the changing burden of disease.

Theme 5: Presenting different frameworks for HTA implementation and discussing their applicability, given the region's context and attempts at health system reform.

Theme 6: Soliciting impressions, ideas and recommendations of experts from different backgrounds and affiliations, with the aim of framing a way forward for HTA implementation in the region.

## **Approach**

Two days of experience exchange between international experts, senior policy makers, parliamentarians, academics, leaders of public and private sector organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. The forum will examine the approaches, successes, challenges, and lessons learned from experiences in UHC and HTA in MENA countries through presentations and discussions.

## **Sponsors**

MENA HPF is grateful to WHO/EMRO for their essential technical support in putting the forum together, and to Roche for providing funding in the spirit of the public interest.

This event would not have been possible without the participants' valued contributions.

## **Conference Venue**

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dubai  
03 Sheikh Zayed Road  
P.O. Box 123979, Dubai, UAE  
Phone: +971450344444



## Agenda

### Second Regional Health Technology Assessment Policy Forum

#### A Step Forward: Moving from the 'What?' to the 'How?'

#### Day 1

9:00-9:30

#### Registration

9:30-11:30

Chairperson:

Speakers:

#### Opening/Setting the Scene

Ahmed Galal, MENA HPF

Lubna Al-Ansary, Assistant Director General, WHO

Maha El Rabbat, MENA HPF

Suwit Wibulpolprasert, International Health Policy Program, Thailand

*Open discussion*

11:30-11:45

#### Coffee break

11:45-1:15

Chairperson:

Speakers:

#### Session 1: What Does It Take to Have HTA?

Habiba Ben Romdhane, MENA HPF

Iñaki Gutiérrez-Ibarluzea, Basque Office for HTA, Spain

Abdulaziz Al-Saggabi, Drug, Policy & Economics Center, MNGHA, Saudi Arabia

Mouna Jameleddine, HTA Department, INASanté, Tunisia

*Open discussion*

1:15-2:15

#### Lunch

2:15-3:45

Chairperson:

Speakers:

#### Session 2: Institutionalization of HTA

Nabil Kronfol, MENA HPF

Adham Ismail, WHO/EMRO

Sophie Werkö, Swedish Council on HTA (SBU)/ Sweden

Gihan Elsis, MoHP, Egypt

*Open discussion*

3:45-4:00

#### Coffee break

4:00-5:30

Chairperson:

Speakers:

#### Session 3: Evaluation of HTA

Salwa Najjab, MENA HPF

Hector Castro, Management Sciences for Health, MSH, USA

Ehab Abul Magd, Private Insurance, Egypt

Mohsen George, HIO, Egypt

*Open discussion*

8 pm

#### Gala Dinner, Star Light Foyer



## Day 2

### 9:00-10:45

Chairperson:  
Speakers:

#### **Session 4: Integration of HTA into Public Policy**

Hossam Abdelghaffar, Supreme Council of University Hospitals, Egypt  
Adham Ismail, WHO/EMRO  
Hector Castro, Management Sciences for Health, MSH, USA  
Ola Al Ahdab, MOHAP, UAE  
*Open discussion*

### 10:45-11:00

#### **Coffee break**

### 11:00-1:00

Moderator:  
Presenter:  
Panelists:

#### **Session 5: Framework for HTA Implementation (Panel Discussion)**

Raeda Alqutob, MENA HPF  
Zoltán Kaló, Eötvös Loránd, Hungary  
Ali Saeed Al Zahrany, Gulf Center for Cancer Control and Prevention, Saudi Arabia  
Bassam Tabshouri, AUB, Lebanon  
El-Sheik Badr, Medical Specialization Council, Sudan  
*Open discussion*

### 1:00-2:00

#### **Lunch**

### 2:00-3:45

Moderator:  
Panelists:

#### **Session 6: Wrap-up and the Way Forward (Panel Discussion)**

Ahmed Galal, MENA HPF  
Salah Mawajdeh, Ex-Minister of Health, Jordan  
Haidar Alyousuf, Al-Futtaim Health Group, UAE  
Hussein Khaled, Ex-Minister of Higher Education, Cancer Committee, Egypt  
*Open discussion*

### 3:45-4:15

#### **Coffee break**

### 4:15-5:15

Chairperson:  
Speakers:

#### **Session 7: Closing and Next Steps**

Saif Al Nabhani, MENA HPF  
Ansgar Hebborn, Global HTA/Roche  
Adham Ismail, WHO/EMRO  
Maha El Rabbat, MENA HPF

## Speakers Bio



Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saggabi has been the director of the Drug Policy & Economics Center at Saudi Arabia's Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs (MNGHA) since 2006. He has also been the president of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research's (ISPOR) Saudi Arabian Regional Chapter since 2010 and is the Chairman of ISPOR Arabic Network Executive Committee (2018-2016). Dr. Al-Saggabi obtained his bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences in 1991 from King Saud University and his master's degree in clinical pharmacy in 1995 from the same university. In 2000, he received his Doctor of Pharmacy from Purdue University in the USA, and in 2002, completed his postdoctoral training in health system practice and drug-use policy from the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, also in the USA. Dr. Al-Saggabi has served as adjunct clinical assistant professor at King Saud University. He chairs the Biologics Reimbursement Committee and oversees the establishment of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Program at MNGHA.



Dr. Adham Ismail is a senior biomedical engineer with over 20 years of experience as an international health care technology professional. Dr. Ismail is currently in charge of the essential medicines and health technology program at the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO. His current duties involve assisting Member States in developing national strategies and programs in the area of health technologies (including medical devices and assistive products); designing regional tools/guidelines; promoting intersectoral collaboration with relevant institutions; and strengthening national capacity in developing Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Management (HTM) systems. Dr. Ismail is a graduate of Alexandria University, where he earned a B.S. in electrical and communications engineering in 1991 and an M.Sc. in biomedical engineering in 1994. He earned his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of Miami in the USA in 1998, and complemented his managerial abilities by obtaining an MBA at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology in 2004. Dr. Ismail has published many articles in renowned engineering journals and has participated in numerous national and international conferences.



Dr. Ahmed Galal is currently the chairman of the Board of Trustees of MENA Health Policy Forum. He is also the president and chairman of the board of the Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts des Sciences Économiques (FEMISE) and the former managing director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF). He is also a member of the board of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Dr. Galal was Egypt's finance minister from July 2013 to February 2014. Before that, he worked for the World Bank for 18 years, conducting research and providing policy advice to governments in several regions.



Dr. Ali Saeed Al Zahrani holds both an M.D. and a Ph.D. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, scientific manuscripts, and technical reports, with a focus on cancer epidemiology. He has participated in several national and international committees and task force teams on cancer control and prevention and has been a keynote speaker at many conferences. Dr. AlZahrani started his career in 2005 as head of the epidemiology research unit at the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Scientific Computing at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, and was then supervisor at the Gulf Center for Cancer Registration from 2005 to 2011. He was appointed the executive director of the Gulf Center for Cancer Control and Prevention in February 2011, and was also deputy executive director of the Research Centre at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre from April 2011 to August 2013. In August 2013, he was promoted to principal clinical scientist/senior consultant at the hospital. He was elected as the regional counselor for the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) for two terms (2014-2008) and was elected president of the Saudi Epidemiology Association, a position he held from April 2009 to April 2017.



Dr. Ansgar Hebborn is Roche Pharma's head of Global HTA & Payment Policy, and is based in Basel, Switzerland. In this role, he focuses on current approaches to HTA, pricing and reimbursement decision-making frameworks, their impact on pharmaceutical innovation and patient access, and their future evolution. Dr. Hebborn is a member and active contributor to national and international pharmaceutical policy forums as well as professional associations. He currently represents Roche in relevant industry associations e.g. in Brussels as a vice-chair of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations' (EFPIA) European HTA Working Group. Over the past couple of years, Dr. Hebborn has taken an active role as advisor and stakeholder representative in various HTA collaboration networks e.g. the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) and the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Policy Forum Committee, and also has been involved in the foundation of other initiatives in this field e.g. the Green Park Collaborative, the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Asia Policy Forum and Swiss HTA. He has been a member of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research's (ISPOR) Board of Directors in the past and has led the research work stream of the ISPOR Vision 2020 project with a focus on future ISPOR research priorities for the years ahead.

During his career with Roche, Dr. Hebborn has had a range of different global roles related to pricing, market access, health economics and outcomes research, based in Switzerland and the US. He has led small and large multidisciplinary teams in all major disease areas, tasked with the development of global pricing and reimbursement strategies as well as the accompanying clinical, health, economic and other outcomes' research programs.



Dr. Bassam Tabshouri is the director of the Medical Engineering Department of the American University in Beirut's (AUB) Medical Center, a position he has held since 1988. He is a member of AAMI, ACCE, META, and IEEE. He is the founder and chair of the Healthcare Technology Management and Transfer Committee (HTMA) of the Lebanese Healthcare Management Association (LHMA).

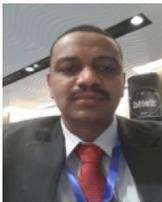
Dr. Tabshouri graduated from AUB with a B.S.E.E. and an M.S.E.E. in 1978 and 1981. In 1978, he joined the Medical Engineering Department of the AUB Medical Center. He is also currently assisting in the AUB biomedical engineering M.S./Ph.D. program. Since 1992, he has focused on providing proper medical technology management and transfer in support of high international standards in education, research and patient care in a cost-effective manner. Dr. Tabshouri expanded the services of the department to cover the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering, and founded committees and mechanisms for Technology Review/Assessment within AUB's Medical Center and in Lebanon.

Dr. Tabshouri has consulted for the Lebanese and Italian governments, the European Community, National Guard Hospitals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, the UN/WHO in Iraq, the Lebanese Syndicate of Hospitals, and national and regional medical centers. In addition, he is working with the Banque Du Liban to promote research and development and innovation in health care technologies.

## Speakers Bio



Dr. Ehab Abul Magd is the chairman and managing director of Platinum Healthcare Holdings Group. Founded in 1999, it includes the largest group of companies engaged in the field of medical insurance, health care and various insurance consultancies. Dr. Abul Magd is the founder and president of the Egyptian Federation of Health Care Management Companies. He is an advisor and insurance expert, and a member of the American Health Insurance Planners (AHIP) as well as the head of medical insurance studies at the Egyptian Institute of Insurance.



Dr. El-Sheikh Badr is a public health physician with expertise in health system and human resource development. Dr. Badr currently serves as the secretary general for the Sudan Medical Specialization Board, the prime postgraduate medical education body in Sudan. He has worked in the Federal Ministry of Health for the last 14 years in various leadership positions, including director of the Department of Human Resources for Health Development. He was also the founding director of the National Human Resources for Health Observatory and President of the Academy of Health Sciences.

Dr. Badr has served on a number of national committees and taskforces related to health systems and health workforce development. He is a member of the health workforce committee of the National Health Care Coordination Council chaired by the president, a member of the National Medical and Health Professions Council, and a member of the Medical and Health Sciences Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education. He was elected deputy secretary general for the Arab Medical Union in 2009. He is the founding chief editor of the Sudanese Journal of Public Health.



Dr. Gihan Hamdy Elsis is the founder and head of the Pharmacoeconomic Unit at the Central Administration for Pharmaceutical Affairs (CAPA) at the Egyptian Ministry of Health. Elsis holds a Ph.D. in pharmacoeconomics/pharmaceutical sciences from Ain Shams University as well as a certificate in health economics and outcomes research from the University of Washington. Through her role at CAPA, Elsis was able to successfully incorporate pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research into the coverage decisions on drugs. She is the principal author of both the Health Care Systems Roadmap for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement and the Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines for Egypt, which are available on the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) website. She received awards at the 14th and 15th IPSOR Annual European Congresses (in 2011 and 2012), and represented Egypt at the First and Second Middle East Africa Pricing & Reimbursement Future Trends Workshop in Muscat 2012 and in Dubai in 2013. She has authored several publications and contributed to a number of clinical research studies and surveys. She is the treasurer of ISPOR's Egypt Chapter.



Dr. Habiba Ben Romdhane is a professor of preventive medicine and director of the Epidemiology and Prevention Research Department on Cardiovascular Disease at the University of Tunis. She was formerly the Tunisian minister of health. She was also the CEO of the National Board of Family and Population. She was elected with Distinction as a fellow of the Faculty of Public Health at the Royal College of Physicians in the UK. She has coordinated several epidemiological studies on non-communicable diseases and implemented the Healthy Urbanization Project in Tunisia. She led the implementation of the first Tunisian cardiovascular disease registry, and is currently leading several European Union-funded projects, such as the Epidemiological Transition & Health Impact in North Africa, and the TAHINA and Med CHAMPS and RESCAP-MED projects. She also led the implementation of the first National Observatory on Women (1994). She is a cofounder and chair of the Tunisian Society of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, a cofounder and member of the Board of the Maghreb Network on Research on Health System (RESSMA), and cofounder and chair of the National Observatory of Health Equity. In 2001, she was awarded the Maghreb Medical Science Society Award for her work on cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention.



Dr Haidar Alyousuf is the Managing Director of Al-Futtaim Health Group. As the previous director of health funding at the Dubai Health Authority (DHA), his role has been the design and successful implementation of the health insurance system of the Emirate of Dubai (ISAHD اسعاد (and the mandatory health insurance law for Dubai, law no 11 for 2013 by HH Shiekh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice president of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, achieving total healthcare coverage for the population in three years and regulating one of the most recognized health systems in region. In this capacity, he has taken on a wider system design and restructure role of the health financing model of the Emirate. He has also designed and managed the payer function for the main government insurance programs SAADA & Enaya and have assisted other government programs design and operations Another role has been establishing revenue cycle management RCM for public hospitals, clinics and service delivery facilities under the Dubai Health Authority DHA. Dr Alyousuf has led and participated in many strategy development activities for the health sector and the Dubai Government. Dr. Al Yousuf is a specialist family physician (MRCGP), and holds a medical degree (MBCHB) from Dundee University in the UK, where he also practiced and published a number of papers. He is a graduate of the prestigious Mohammed bin Rashid leadership development program.



Dr. Hector E. Castro is the former funding chief executive director of the HTA Institute of Colombia (IETS). He is currently the director of medicines & technologies at Colombia's Ministry of Health and Social Protection, as well as the senior technical director of pharmaceutical economics and financing at MSH. He is also serving on the Board of Directors of Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi), one of the most prominent international networks in the field of HTA, from 2018 until 2021.

Dr. Castro is a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery. He earned his M.Sc. in health policy, planning and financing from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, a joint degree with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), specializing in health management. He holds an M.Sc. in occupational health (public health branch) and a Ph.D. in public health & policy/health economics from the University of London. He is a former Takemi Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He has broad professional experience, spanning over 18 years, as a chief officer; technical advisor; director and manager of strategic planning, quality assurance, health, safety and environment; and has worked for pharmaceutical and health insurance organizations, and for NGOs. His main focus has been on health systems strengthening in areas such as quality assurance, assessment, strategic purchasing and provision of health care technologies (including medicines, devices and procedures). Moreover, he has more than ten years' experience as an international consultant in health care access, health economics, health policy, priority setting, HTA and health systems reform, and has experience in health systems and markets in low and middle income countries (LMICs). Dr. Castro has worldwide experience working, teaching and conducting research.



Dr. Hossam Abdelghaffar is the Secretary- General of the Supreme Council of University Hospital (SCUH). Prior to this post, he held many hierarchical posts as the Head of Otorhinolaryngology Department- Helwan University; Head of Hearing and Balance Unit, WadiElnil Hospital JCI Accredited; Head of ENT department, Faculty of Medicine- Fayoum University. Director General of Fayoum university Hospitals and Director General of Helwan University Hospitals. He also held the position of advisor of the Minister of Health and Population/These several years of senior level experience have given him a brilliant chance to get in touch and contact with the leading health community and medical sector in Egypt.

## Speakers Bio



Dr. Hussein Khaled is a professor of medical oncology at the National Cancer Institute of Cairo University and the former minister of higher education of Egypt (2012). He is also a former vice president of Cairo University for postgraduate studies and research (2011–2008) and the former dean of the Egyptian National Cancer Institute (2008–2002). Dr. Khaled has participated in many national, regional, and international activities; he has been the secretary general of the Egyptian Foundation for Cancer Research, the head of the Egyptian council for medical oncology fellowships, the head of the promotion committee for oncology university staff, and the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Advanced Research, the official journal of Cairo University. Recently, he was appointed to be the head of the medical sector committee at the Supreme Council of Universities. Last year, he served as a member of the committee that interviewed the deanship candidates for the different faculties of Cairo University.



Dr. Iñaki Gutierrez-Ibarluzea is the coordinator of the early warning and alert system on the life cycle of health technologies at the Basque Office for Health Technology Assessment (Osteba). He is an associate professor at the School of Nursing of Osakidetza Basque Health Service and is currently the vice president of Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) (serving from 2017 to 2019). He is also the vice chair of EuroScan. Dr. Gutierrez-Ibarluzea earned his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in sciences from the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU). In addition, he holds a doctorate in sciences (neuroscience) from the same university. He also received a master's in epidemiology from the University of Granada and the Andalusian School of Public Health and a master's in bioethics from Ramon Llull University and the Borja Institute of Bioethics. He has advised different HTA initiatives in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia, the USA, the horizon scanning initiative of Norway, the WHO-EMRO region, the WHO health technologies unit, and is a member of the HTA glossary committee. In 2016, he served as the co-chair of the International Scientific Programme Committee of HTAi Tokyo 2017. He is an associate editor of *Frontiers in Pharmacology* and *GMS HTA* journals, and the author of more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals, two monographs, five book chapters and more than 40 HTA reports.



Dr. Lubna Al-Ansary is the assistant director-general for metrics and measurement at WHO. Well-known for her extensive experience promoting and supporting evidence-based health care in Gulf countries, Dr. Al-Ansary is a professor of family medicine at the College of Medicine and Head of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee at King Saud University. She currently holds the Bahamdan Research Chair for evidence-based health care and knowledge translation at King Saud University, which focuses on evidence-generation and implementation. Along with her team, she has also provided in-depth training on local adaptation of clinical practice guidelines for different organizations in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Kuwait, and collaborated with the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region toward establishing a regional initiative on clinical practice guidelines. In 2013, Dr. Al-Ansary was appointed to the Consultative Council, which is the formal advisory body in Saudi Arabia, a recognition of her work on health care in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, as well as on human rights. She was one of the first female members of parliament, and she represented women at the Inter-Parliamentary Union for two years.



Dr. Maha El Rabbat is a public health professor and a former Egyptian minister of health and population. She obtained her medical degree from Cairo University, after which she pursued her postgraduate education in public health at the same institution, as well as at institutions in the USA and the UK, in the fields of health sector reform, health systems strengthening and population studies. She has held senior academic and technical positions in public health and worked closely with national and international organizations on national and regional programs and global studies supporting health system strengthening, community development, population issues and non-communicable diseases. She has wide experience in conducting system-wide assessments and strategic planning with an understanding of the region's challenges and opportunities that contributed to health development efforts. She currently serves as the executive director of the Middle East and North Africa Health Policy Forum (MENA HPPF).



Dr. Mohsen George is a medical doctor, and has been the vice president of Egypt's Health Insurance Organization (HIO) since January 2014; he was previously HIO's chief medical officer for a period of three years. He has several areas of experience in addition to health insurance systems, including training and education, quality in health care, and health financing. He has studied management at American University, the Harvard School of Public Health, the Indian Institute of Management and the Flagship Program of the World Bank Institute. He is also a general and laparoscopic surgery consultant, and a member of the General Surgery Scientific Council of both the Egyptian Fellowship Board and the Arab Board of Health Specializations. In addition, he is a member of the European Pathway Association, the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Care Pathway, and the Advisory Board of the Journal of the Arab Board of Health Specializations.



Dr. Mouna Jameleddine is head of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) department at the National Authority for Assessment and Accreditation in Healthcare (INASanté) in Tunisia. She graduated as a pharmacist doctor from the University of Pharmacy of Monastir and holds a master's degree in medicine development from the same university. She also holds degrees in European market access and in pharmacoeconomics and health economics from Paris Descartes University. She has been involved in several national projects of the minister of health and was a founding member of INASanté and the concept of HTA in Tunisia, and she initiated the first HTA processes, tools and ongoing research projects to support evidence-based decision-making in the country. Currently, she is reviewer for the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Healthcare (IJTAHC) of Cambridge University and an active member of international HTA projects and networks like the International Network of Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA), Guidelines International Networks (GIN), Eurasian Network for HTA and WHO-EMR HTA network, and scientific societies like Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR).

## Speakers Bio



Dr. Nabil Kronfol is a professor of health policy and management and the president of the Lebanese HealthCare Management Association, which focuses on development of policies and health systems in Lebanon and the MENA region. He is also a cofounder of the recently established Center for Studies on Ageing in Lebanon and the MENA Region. He received his B.Sc. degree in 1965 and his medical degree with the Penrose Award from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1969, and became a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics in 1972. He then received a doctoral degree in public health in health services administration from Harvard University. Dr. Kronfol joined the American University of Beirut in 1974. He has established the College of Health Sciences in Bahrain, four schools of nursing in the UAE, and the Planning Unit at Lebanon's Ministry of Health. He also played a key role in the establishment of several faculties of medicine and public health in the MENA region. Dr. Kronfol received the International McGaw Award in 1984, the Fulbright International Scholar Award in 1985 and the Shusha Award from the World Health Organization in 2007. He is a member and past president of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and the Sigma Phi science society.



Dr. Ola Al Ahdab is a pharmaceutical advisor at the drug department at UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention. In addition to her regulatory experience, she has held several key positions across the ministry since 1990, including material management, drug formulary manager, deputy head of medical procurement, head of the quality and control section, head of inspection and compliance, and head of pharmaceutical care dept. Dr. Al Ahdab is an active member of several committees at national, regional and international levels, including the Gulf Cooperation Council Group Purchase Tendering. She has worked in academia since 2009 as an assistant clinical professor of pharmacy practice (adjunct faculty) for both postgraduates and undergraduates, at pharmacy colleges and universities in the UAE. Dr. Al Ahdab's postgraduate studies were completed at the School of Pharmacy at Queens University of Belfast in the UK, where she was awarded a Ph.D. in pharmacoconomics and medicine management in 2008, and a postgraduate diploma in clinical pharmacy in 2003. Her undergraduate studies were completed at the School of Pharmacy at Damascus University in 1980.



Dr. Raeda Alqutob is a professor of public health (women and children's health) and a physician by training. She also has over thirty years of experience in public health teaching, research, and policy. She has held several top-level professional and administrative leadership and management positions; she is currently a Senator in the Senate of Jordan, a public health and children adviser to the First Lady of Jordan, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, a WHO/UNFPA regional advisor on reproductive health, director of the UNICEF Jordan country program, secretary general of the National Council for Family Affairs and of the Higher Population Council in Jordan, and a board member of national and regional development bodies. She is also president of the Women Advisory Panel of the Islamic Development Bank. She has also founded and directed a not-for-profit company and an NGO, and is the author of a number of publications. She has won regional and international awards.



Dr. Salah Mawajdeh is corporate senior vice president for technical affairs at Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Plc. Dr. Mawajdeh is a medical doctor and graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where he completed his master's and doctoral degree in the area of health policy and management in 1988. He then started his career in academia, spending 14 years as professor of health policy and management at Jordan University of Science and Technology. He has published several articles in international scientific journals and books, and has also been a member of the Jordan Medical Council Committees for several years. Dr. Mawajdeh has worked with several United Nations agencies and international NGOs. His research interests also led him to work as a regional coordinator of the Reproductive Health Working Group, housed at the Population Council in Cairo, Egypt. In 2003, Dr. Mawajdeh was entrusted with the establishment of the Jordan Food and Drug Administration, becoming the general manager for four years. He then became CEO of the International Pharmaceutical Research Center, which is FDA-approved and the leading CRO in Jordan. From 2007 to 2009 he was Jordan's minister of health.



Dr. Salwa Najjab is the managing director of Juzoor for Health and Social Development and a board member of MENA Health Policy Forum. Dr. Najjab is an expert on women's health issues and founder of a number of women's health and maternal mortality reduction programs, including development of community health and specialized training programs for nurses and midwives. She founded the first women's health program of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society. Dr. Najjab has also co-founded a number of influential grass-roots Palestinian organizations and has lectured extensively on women's health internationally and throughout Palestine.



Mr. Saif Al Nabhani is an advisor at the Ministry of Health in Oman, the chairman of Oman Medical Compensation Board, a board member of the Public Authority for Social Insurance, chairperson of the human resources board committee within the Public Authority for Social Insurance, and a member of the Advisory Board for the College of Nursing at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. Mr. Al Nabhani is a human resources specialist; he holds an M.Sc. in human resource development from the University of Manchester in the UK. He has worked extensively in HR management, health care management and strategic planning.



Dr. Sophie Werkö holds an M.Sc. in business administration and a Ph.D. from the University of Stockholm. She has a longstanding engagement with HTA and held the role of project director at the Swedish Council on Health Technology Assessment (SBU), a role including project management, systematic literature reviews and health technology assessment reports. In 2012 she was appointed Manager of International Relations at SBU, responsible for coordinating SBU's international work, and in 2015 she also became manager for patient engagement at SBU. She publishes frequently in scientific journals and acts as reviewer and associated editor for several journals. Along with Dr. David Hailey, she chairs the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA)'s working group on impact. Dr. Werkö has been a member of the board of INAHTA since 2012 and vice chair since 2014. She has been a member of the steering committee of the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) subgroup on Patient and Citizens Involvement since 2007. She is also the co-chair of the HTAi subgroup on Patient Issues: Methods. She has participated in the work of the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) since 2009.

## Speakers Bio



Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert is a public health specialist, administrator and policy advocate at the national and global level. He is currently an advisor on global health at Thailand's Ministry of Public Health and the vice chair of the International Health Policy Foundation. He is a board member of the Health Systems Research Institute, the National Health Security Office, the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, and the National Nanotechnology Centre. He is also the vice chair of the International Health Policy Program Foundation (IHPF) and the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Foundation (HITAF), and the chair of the Institute for the Development of Human Research Protections Foundation (IHRPF), and of the Health and Society Creation Foundation.

Dr. Wibulpolprasert began his career as a director and practitioner in rural areas and has varied technical and administrative experience in the Thai FDA, the Bureau of Health Policy and Planning, as deputy permanent secretary and the senior expert in disease control.

He has been proactively working in public health for more than three decades, from the grassroots to the highest policy level. In parallel with working for the development of health in country, he is a global health leader who is well-known as a fighter at the forefront, working to benefit the less well-off. He is a highly experienced health system specialist, and has been involved in and contributed to the development of Thailand's health system for decades. He always reiterates that health systems can become more equitable, inclusive and fair through primary health care strengthening.



Dr. Zoltán Kaló is a professor of health economics at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest. He is the co-director of the international health policy, planning and financing master's program and the founder and leader of Syreon Research Institute, an international research corporation specializing in health policy, health economic modeling and technology assessment. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from the Budapest University of Economics, an M.D. from the Semmelweis University, an M.Sc. in health economics from the University of York, a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the Semmelweis University, and a Dr. habil degree in sociology from ELTE.

Dr. Kaló has 20 years of international experience in academia and industry, specializing in health systems design, HTA implementation, health economics and outcomes research, economic modeling, patient access and pricing policies of health care technologies. Furthermore, he serves as a policy advisor to public decision-makers and global health care corporations. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI 2 JU). He was also a director of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) between 2012 and 2014, and the chair of the ISPOR Central and Eastern European Network Executive Committee between 2013 and 2015.



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## Notes