



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress

Pre-Congress Workshop | 23 April 2026

Congress | 24-25 April 2026

Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche, UAE

## Congress Book



in Compliance with the Mecomed Code of Ethical Business Practice



# Index

**3**

Welcome Message

**4**

Scientific & Organizing Committee

**5**

Learning Objectives & Program Highlights

**6**

Speakers

**9**

Oral Presenters

**10**

Session Chairs

**12**

Scientific Program & Workshop

**15**

General Information & CME Accreditation

**17**

Speakers` Biography

**37**

Poster Presenters

**38**

About Abu Dhabi

**39**

Sponsors & Exhibitors

## Welcome Message



Dr. Puja G. Khaitan



Dr. Mariam Al Marashda

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, we are delighted to welcome you to the **2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress**, taking place on **April 24–25, 2026**, at the prestigious **Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche, UAE**.

This exceptional event represents a significant milestone in the field of thoracic surgery. Together, we will explore the latest advancements, foster collaboration, and contribute to shaping the future of thoracic surgical care. The congress will bring together internationally renowned thoracic surgeons, medical professionals, researchers, and industry experts, with sessions focused on the most up-to-date, evidence-based developments in the field.

Our organizing and scientific committees have curated a comprehensive and engaging program featuring distinguished experts, insightful keynote presentations, interactive panel discussions, and cutting-edge scientific sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to witness advanced surgical techniques, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions that will drive innovation and progress in thoracic surgery.

In addition to the outstanding scientific program, the congress will offer an excellent platform for networking and collaboration. This multidisciplinary environment will enable attendees to build valuable connections, share experiences, and foster partnerships that will enhance both clinical practice and research in thoracic surgery.

Abu Dhabi, a vibrant and rapidly advancing hub for healthcare and innovation, provides the ideal setting for this congress. The city offers a unique blend of modern sophistication and cultural heritage, allowing participants to experience world-class hospitality while engaging in a rich scientific exchange.

Your presence and active participation are essential to the success of this important gathering. Your expertise, insights, and collaborative spirit will play a vital role in advancing thoracic surgery and improving patient outcomes across the region and beyond. We are confident that this congress will be a rewarding and memorable experience, contributing significantly to both your professional growth and the advancement of the specialty.

Once again, we warmly welcome you to the 2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress 2026, where we come together to learn, innovate, and shape the future of thoracic surgery.

Warm Regards,

*Puja G. Khaitan*

**Dr. Puja G. Khaitan**  
Founder and Congress Chair  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

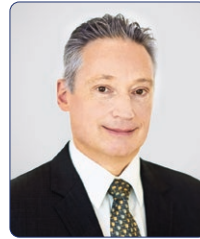
*Mariam Al Marashda*

**Dr. Mariam Almarashda**  
Congress Chair  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery  
Sh. Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Medical City  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain UAE

## Organizing Committee



**Dr. Andres Obeso**  
Staff Physician, Thoracic Surgery,  
Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute,  
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. James Douglas Aitchison**  
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
King's College Hospital London,  
Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Taj Mohammed Fiyaz  
Chowdhry**  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,  
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Prof. Khaldoon Abo Dakka**  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
Prime Hospital, Dubai, UAE



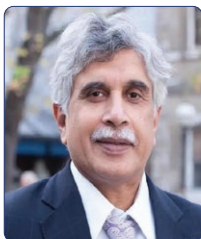
## Advisory Board



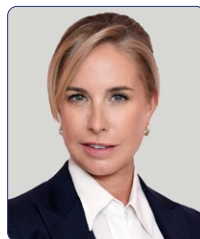
**Dr. Brandon Stiles**  
Chief, Divisions of Thoracic Surgery &  
Surgical Oncology, Associate Director,  
Surgical Oncology, Montefiore Einstein  
Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA



**Dr. Joel Dunning**  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
James Cook University Hospital, UK



**Prof. Shyam Kolvekar**  
Consultant cardiothoracic surgeon,  
Barts Heart Centre  
(St. Bartholomew's Hospital), UK



**Dr. Isabelle Schmitt-Opitz**  
Director of Department of Thoracic Surgery,  
University Hospital Zurich  
Department of Thoracic Surgery,  
University Hospital Zurich,  
Switzerland



**Dr. Cecilia Pompili**  
Associate Professor,  
Psychosocial Oncology  
and Thoracic Surgeon  
University of Hull, UK



### Learning Objectives

- Discuss and evaluate latest clinical trials and practice-changing guidelines in thoracic surgery.
- Share novel advancements in thoracic surgical techniques, especially integration of artificial intelligence and adoption of new digital platforms that are revolutionizing the field.
- Engage and together develop strategies to optimize patient outcomes and mitigate complications.
- Develop strategies on how to further advance research and take ideas from bench to market.
- Engage in evolutionary discussions and debates on controversial topics in thoracic surgery.

### Target Audience

The Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress is designed for a wide range of professionals involved in thoracic surgery and related fields including:


- Cardiothoracic Surgeons
- Pulmonologists
- Gastroenterologists
- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Intensivists
- Pathologists
- Anesthesiologists
- Surgical Residents and Fellows
- Medical Students
- Respiratory Therapists
- Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals
- Researchers and Scientists
- Industry Professionals

### Program Highlights


- Benign and malignant lung and Esophageal disorders
- Airway disease
- Chest wall tumors and defects
- Pleural diseases
- Foregut and diaphragmatic pathology
- Mediastinal pathology
- Innovation, simulation, education in the field

Speakers



**Dr. Sara Al Mashjari**  
The Goodwill Ambassador to Special  
Consulative of United Nation  
1st Vice President of Nikola Tesla Foundation  
Government AI Transformation Leader, UAE  




**Dr. Deepthi Silymon**  
DNB, MRCP,  
Medical Oncology Specialty Certificate (UK),  
ECMO, Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  




**Prof. Akif Turna**  
MD, PhD, FETCS  
Professor of Thoracic Surgery  
Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty  
Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa,  
Turkey  





**Dr. Antonio Ramos**  
President, De La Salle Medical  
and Health Sciences Institute,  
Philippines  





**Dr. Aydah Alawadhi**  
Consultant Medical Oncologist,  
Chair of Haematology & Oncology Division  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  





**Dr. Sangeetha Ponnusamy**  
MBBS, MRCP, FRCP, FRCR  
Consultant Radiation Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  





**Dr. Jethin Rafique**  
MD, FRCP (UK)  
Consultant and Chair of  
Department – Pulmonology  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  





**Dr. Rajiv Santosham**  
MBBS, MS, MCh  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Santosham Chest Hospital  
Chennai, India  




**Dr. Arvind Kohli**  
MCh (CTVS) – General Thoracic Surgery  
Medical Director, SVMM Hospital,  
Ambphalla, Jammu, India  





**Dr. Rajashekara Reddy**  
MBBS, MS, FRCS  
Consultant Thoracic (VATS) Surgeon  
Sagar hospital & Trustwell Hospital,  
Bangalore, India  




**Dr. Puja Khaitan**  
Founder and Congress Chair  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  




**Dr. Joel Dunning**  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
James Cook University Hospital, UK  





**Dr. Cecilia Pompili**  
Associate Professor,  
Psychosocial Oncology  
and Thoracic Surgeon  
University of Hull, UK  





**Prof. Sanghoon Jheon**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
Health on Cloud, South Korea  


Speakers




**Dr. Ali Zamir Khan**  
MS, FRCS, FRCS(CTH), FEBTS, MBA:  
Thoracic Surgery  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital, UK  





**Dr. Balasubramoniam**  
Surgical Director,  
Heart & Lung Transplant Program  
Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad  
India  





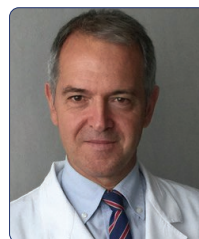
**Dr. Hasan Batirel**  
M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Thoracic Surgery,  
Department of Thoracic Surgery  
Marmara University Faculty of Medicine,  
Turkey  





**Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan**  
Chief, Thoracic Surgery and  
Interventional Pulmonology  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Harvard Medical School, USA  





**Dr. Aneez Ahmed**  
Thoracic Surgeon  
Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital  
Head of the Service of Thoracic Surgery,  
Department of General Surgery  
Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH),  
Singapore  





**Dr. Eugenio Pompeo**  
Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery  
Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy  




**Dr. Yara Jalbout**  
Consultant, Anesthesiology  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  





**Prof. Rajinder Parshad**  
MS,DNB,FACS, Thoracic and Foregut Surgery  
Professor of Surgery  
AIIMS, Delhi, India  





**Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh**  
DNB, MRCP, Medical Oncology  
Specialty Certificate (UK), ECMO  
Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  





**Dr. Abhishek Jain**  
MBBS, MS, Mch. (Onco Surgery)  
Consultant Breast & Minimally Invasive and  
Robotic Thoracic Oncosurgeon  
Uniportal 3D VATS Lung Surgery Specialist  
Marengo CIMS Hospital, India  





**Dr. Richard van Hillegersberg**  
Thoracic Surgeon  
UMC Utrecht, the Netherlands  





**Dr. Priya Eshpuniyani**  
Senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
and Surgical Oncologist  
Asian Cancer Institute (ACI),  
Cumballa Hill Hospital  
Precision Superspeciality Clinic  
& Diagnostics, India  




**Dr. Abdulmajid Ali**  
MBChB, FRCS Glas, MSc.  
Consultant General, Upper GI  
& Metabolic Surgeon,  
Sheikh Tahnoon Medical City,  
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE  




**Dr. Sridhar Rathinam**  
FRCSed(CSiG); FRCSed(CTh)  
General Thoracic Surgery  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,  
Head of Service & Honorary Senior Lecturer  
University Hospitals Leicester  
Glenfield Hospital,  
University Hospitals Leicester, UK  


Speakers



**Dr. Wenlin Wang**  
Chief Surgeon  
Guangdong Second Provincial  
General Hospital, China



**Dr. John Edwards**  
MB ChB PhD FRCS(C/Th)  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals,  
NHS Foundation Trust, UK



**Prof. Dr. Hentati Abdessalam**  
MD, Thoracic Surgeon  
Head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery  
Professor, University Hospital of Sfax, Tunisia



**Dr. Shyam Kolvekar**  
MBBS, MS, MCh, FRCPS, FRCS, FRCSTh  
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
London, UK



**Dr. Saleh Abu Daff**  
MBBS, MRCS, SB-GS, ABGS  
Consultant General-Thoracic Surgeon  
King Fahad Medical City-  
King Salman Heart Center, KSA



**Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj**  
MD (UKM), M.Surg (UKM)  
Fellowship in Thoracic Surgery (Malaysia)  
Consultant Thoracic and General Surgeon  
Hospital Kuala Lumpur & Beacon Hospital  
Malaysia



**Prof. Baste Jean Marc**  
MD, PhD, Full Professor of  
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery  
University Hospital of Rouen,  
Normandy, France



**Dr. Ilies Bouabdallah**  
Head of the Thoracic Surgery Department,  
Hôpital Saint Joseph Marseille,  
France



**Dr. Hassan Jaafar**  
Medical Oncologist,  
Oncology Medical Director  
Burjeel Cancer Institute,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



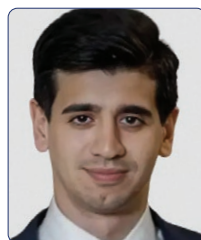
**Ms. Zamayengwayo Mfusi**  
Territory Manager  
Johnson & Johnson  
United Arab Emirates



## Oral Presenters



**Dr. Mamdoh Al-Ameri**  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgeon  
Karolinska University Hospital,  
Stockholm, Sweden



**Dr. Parvin Akhmedov**  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgeon  
The Loginov Moscow Clinical  
Scientific Center, Russia



**Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad**  
Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad  
Senior Clinical Fellow, Thoracic Surgery  
Glenfield Hospital, UK



**Prof. Ramkaran Chaudhary**  
Professor and Chief, Thoracic Surgery Unit  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,  
Jodhpur, India



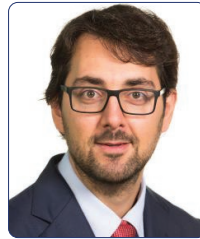
**Prof. Khaldoon Abo Dakka**  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
Prime Hospital, Dubai, UAE



## Session Chairs



**Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Sumaida**  
Chief of Radiation Oncology,  
Tawam Hospital, UAE



**Dr. Andres Obeso**  
Staff Physician, Thoracic Surgery,  
Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute,  
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Mahmoud Yehya**  
Thoracic Consultant and Head Unit  
of Thoracic Surgery  
SAQR Hospital, Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Ahsen Nazir**  
MBBS (PaK), FRCP(Glasg), CCT(UK),  
MRCP (Resp Med), MRCP(UK),  
Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine Consultant  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Amel Al Amiri**  
Consultant Pulmonologist,  
Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Medical City  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



**Dr. Taj Mohammed Fiyaz  
Chowdhry**  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,  
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



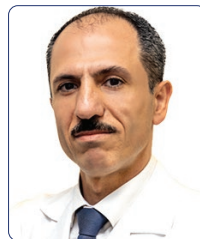
**Dr. Marwan Najib**  
Consultant, Division Head of  
Respiratory Medicine  
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. James Douglas Aitchison**  
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
King's College Hospital London,  
Dubai, UAE



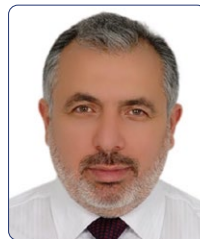
**Dr. Nadeem Pervez**  
Radiation Oncologist  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



**Prof. Khaldoon Abo Dakka**  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
Prime Hospital, Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Hussam Ismael**  
Consultant Thoracic and General Surgeon,  
American Hospital, Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Anmar Atassi**  
Thoracic Surgeon  
Sheikh Khalifa Hospital, Fujairah, UAE



## Session Chairs



**Dr. Yusuf Bayrak**  
Staff Physician of Thoracic Surgery  
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Omar Al Afeefi**  
Thoracic and General Surgery Specialist,  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Shayan Ansari**  
Consultant, Head & Neck / ENT surgeon  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



**Dr. Nizar Abbas**  
Professor of Thoracic Surgery  
Damascus University, Syria



**Dr. Mohamed Hasan Al Ali**  
H&N and Laryngology Surgeon  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Mariam Almarashda**  
Congress Chair  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery  
Sh. Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Medical City  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain UAE



**Dr. Aydah Alawadhi**  
Consultant Medical Oncologist,  
Chair of Haematology & Oncology Division  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Eyad Alakrad**  
Consultant Gastroenterologist  
Director of GI Motility Services and Endoscopy  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**Dr. Ram Singarachari**  
Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Mediclinic Airport Road Hospital,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



## Scientific Program

Day 1 | Friday, 24th April 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:30 - 08:30	Registration	
08:30 - 08:35	Welcome and Introduction	Master of Ceremony
08:35 - 09:05	<b>Keynote Lecture: AI in Medicine in the UAE: How Far Are We?</b>	Dr. Sara Al-Mashjari, UAE
<b>SESSION 1: Lung Cancer</b>		
Session Chairs: Dr. Abdulrahman Bin Sumaida, UAE; Dr. Andres Obeso, UAE; Dr. Mahmoud Yehya, UAE; Dr. Ahsen Nazir, UAE		
09:05 - 09:20	Neoadjuvant and Perioperative Regimens for NSCLC	Dr. Deepthi Silymon, UAE
09:20 - 09:35	Uniportal VATS/RATS Segmentectomy and Challenges	Dr. Akif Turna, Turkey
09:35 - 09:50	Role of Surgery in Stage IV NSCLC/ Oligometastatic Disease	Dr. Antonio Ramos, Philippines
09:50 - 10:05	Management of Neuroendocrine Lung Cancer: Updates and Beyond	Dr. Aydah Alawadhi, UAE
10:05 - 10:20	Surgery vs. SBRT: Is it till a debate?	Dr. Sangeetha Ponnusamy, UAE
10:20 - 10:50	<b>OFFICIAL INAUGURATION</b>	
10:50 - 11:05	COFFEE BREAK   Exhibition Visit & Networking   Poster Viewing	
11:05 - 11:25	Global Approach to Make the Most Minimally Invasive Experience	Dr. Ilies Bouabdallah, France
<b>SESSION 2: Early and Novel Diagnostics; Benign Disease</b>		
Session Chairs: Dr. Amel Al Amiri, UAE; Dr. Taj Chowdhry, UAE; Dr. Marwan Najib UAE		
11:25 - 11:40	Screening/ ctDNA	Dr. Jethin Rafique, UAE
11:40 - 11:55	Management of Tb and MDT-Tb: Latest Updates	Dr. Rajiv Santosham, India
11:55 - 12:10	Aspergillosis and Mucormycosis	Dr. Arvind Kohli, India
12:10 - 12:25	Decortication and Recurrent Empyema after Decortication	Dr. RS Reddy, India
12:25 - 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK   Exhibition Visit &amp; Networking</b>	
14:00 - 14:30	Optimising Treatment Approaches in Resectable NSCLC	Dr. Hassan Jaafar, UAE
<b>Oral Presentations 1</b>		
Session Chairs: Dr. Anmar Atassi, UAE; Dr. Yusuf Bayrak, UAE; Dr. Omar Al Afeefi, UAE		
14:30 - 14:40	Simple Versus Complex Segmentectomy via Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery: Short-term Outcomes and Survival	Dr. Mamdoh Al-Ameri, Sweden
14:40 - 14:50	Preoperative DCF or CRT for Resectable Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Single Center Results based on a European Population	Dr. Parvin Akhmedov, Russia
14:50 - 15:00	Intraoperative Hemodynamic Collapse During VATS Right Lower Lobectomy for Infected Pulmonary Sequestration: A Salvage Strategy for an Unexpected Vascular Sequence Pitfall	Dr. Khaldoon Dakka, UAE
<b>SESSION 3: Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Simulation</b>		
Session Chairs: Dr. Nadeem Pervez, UAE; Dr. James Douglas Aitchison, UAE; Dr. Hussam Ismael, UAE; Dr. Khaldoon Dakka, UAE		
15:00 - 15:15	Redefining Thoracic Surgery with AI Integration	Dr. Puja Khaitan, UAE
15:15 - 15:30	Beyond the Operative Field: Leveraging CTSNet and other Digital Platforms in the Digital Era	Dr. Joel Dunning, UK
15:30 - 15:45	Outcomes Research and Registries: Driving Evidence-Based Care	Dr. Cecilia Pompili, UK
15:45 - 16:00	Innovation & Simulation Strategy in Thoracic Surgery & Education	Prof. Sanghoon Jheon, Korea
16:00 - 16:15	From Table to the Market!	Dr. Ali Zamir Khan, UK
16:15 - 16:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK   Exhibition Visit &amp; Networking   Poster Viewing</b>	
<b>Oral Presentations 2</b>		
Session Chairs: Dr. Anmar Atassi, UAE; Dr. Yusuf Bayrak, UAE; Dr. Omar Al Afeefi, UAE		
16:30 - 16:40	Beyond Biopsy: Feasibility of Rapidly Introducing Nodule Marking and Resection in an Early Robotic-Assisted Bronchoscopy Program	Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad, UK
16:40 - 16:50	Different Robotic Approaches for Thymectomy in Patients with Myasthenia Gravis: A Video-Based Analysis	Prof. Ramkaran Chaudhary, India
16:50	<b>End of Day 1</b>	

## Scientific Program

Day 2 | Saturday, 25th April 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:30 - 08:55	Registration	
08:55 - 09:00	Welcome and Introduction	Master of Ceremony
<b>SESSION 4: Tracheal and Airway Disease</b> Session Chairs: Dr. Shayan Ansari, UAE; Dr. Nizar Abbas, Syria; Dr. Mohamed Hasan Al Ali, UAE		
09:00 - 09:15	Complex Airway Surgery and Reconstruction	Dr. Balasubramoniam K.R, India
09:15 - 09:30	Management of Trachea-Esophageal Fistula	Dr. Hasan Batirel, Turkey
09:30 - 09:45	Management of Tracheobronchomalacia: Stent vs. Mesh Plication	Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan, USA
09:45 - 10:00	Advances in Sleeve Resection	Dr. Aneez Ahmed, Singapore
10:00 - 10:15	Tubeless Awake Surgeries: Pearls and Pitfalls	Dr. Eugenio Pompeo, Italy
10:15 - 10:30	Airway Management Strategies in Non-Intubated Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Yara Jalbout, UAE
10:30 - 10:40	BEST POSTER & CASE PRESENTATION AWARD	
10:40 - 10:55	COFFEE BREAK   Exhibition Visit & Networking   Poster Viewing	
<b>SESSION 5: Benign and Malignant Esophagus</b> Session Chairs: Dr. Aydah Alawadhi, UAE; Dr. Eyad Alakrad, UAE; Dr. Ram Singarachari, UAE		
10:55 - 11:10	Surgery for Esophageal Dysmotility Disorders	Dr. Rajinder Parshad, India
11:10 - 11:25	Changes in Perioperative Regimens: New Horizon	Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh, UAE
11:25 - 11:40	Role of Extensive Lymphadenectomy for Esophageal Cancer	Dr. Abhishek Jain, India
11:40 - 11:55	Management of Anastomotic Leakage following Esophagectomy and Gastric Tube Reconstruction	Dr. Richard van Hilleberg, Netherlands
11:55 - 12:10	Anastomotic Leaks: How to Avoid and Manage?	Dr. Priya Eshpuniyani, India
12:10 - 12:40	Matrix Sternum	Ms. Zamayengwayo Mfusi, UAE
12:40 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK   Exhibition Visit & Networking	
<b>SESSION 6: Foregut, Diaphragmatic, Chest Wall Pathology</b> Session Chairs: Dr. Anmar Atassi, UAE; Dr. Mahmoud Yehya, UAE; Dr. Khaldoon Dakka, UAE		
14:00 - 14:15	Recurrent Hiatal Hernia and Para-Esophageal Hernia	Dr. Abdulmajid Ali, UAE
14:15 - 14:30	Diaphragmatic Eventration vs. Paralysis; Pacing	Dr. Sridhar Rathinam, UK
14:30 - 14:45	Novel Wang, Wung & Wenlin Techniques for the Management of Pectus Defects	Dr. Wenlin Wang, China
14:45 - 15:00	Chest Wall Trauma: Surgical Management of Sternal and Rib Fractures	Dr. John Edwards, UK
15:00 - 15:15	Surgical Management of Chest Wall Tumors	Dr. Hentati Abdessalam, Tunisia
15:15 - 15:30	COFFEE BREAK   Exhibition Visit & Networking   Poster Viewing	
<b>SESSION 7: Mediastinal Tumors, Mesothelioma, TOS</b> Session Chairs: Dr. Mariam Almarashda, UAE; Dr. James Douglas Aitchison, UAE		
15:30 - 15:45	Debate: Myasthenia Gravis & Role of Thymectomy	Dr. Shyam Kolvekar, UK
15:45 - 16:00	Frontline Challenges: Anterior and Posterior Mediastinal Tumors	Dr. Saleh Abu Daff, Saudi
16:00 - 16:15	Mesothelioma & Stage IV Thymoma: Role of Surgery and HITHOC	Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj, Malaysia
16:15 - 16:30	Thoracic Outlet Syndrome: Cervical Rib and First Rib Resection	Dr. Jean Marc Baste, France
16:30	Adjourn	



## 2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress



### KLS Martin L1<sup>®</sup> Rib hands on workshop

Thursday, April 23, 2026  
2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche Hotel

### Speakers

John Edwards, Sheffield, UK  
Edward Black, UAE

[www.klsmartin.com](http://www.klsmartin.com)

### Agenda

- 14:00 Welcome, KLS Martin presentation
- 14:15 Introduction to the L1Rib set; plates, screws and instruments
- 14:45 Pros and cons of different fixation systems
- 15:00 Reasons for metalwork failure – including the CWIS RF2 Study
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:45 Hands-on session
- 16:45 Initial experience of L1<sup>®</sup> Rib:  
Case presentations and discussion
- 17:30 Interactive case discussion
- 18:15 KLS Martin presentation  
Future product developments debrief,  
concluding remarks

### General Information

#### Venue

An iconic luxury 5-star hotel on the Abu Dhabi located in the prime district of Abu Dhabi centre. A glittering seafront landmark, Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche seamlessly fuses French style with lavish Arabian hospitality. In a prime location with captivating views of the Gulf, there's no better place from which to experience the city.

#### Name Badges

Participants are required to wear their name badges throughout the meeting in order to be admitted to the lecture halls and other scheduled activities. Kindly ensure to scan in and scan out in the session halls attended.

#### Refreshment and Lunch

Refreshment and lunch will be offered in accordance with the breaks indicated on the Agenda.

#### Mobile Phones and Photography

Participants are kindly requested to keep their mobile phones silent mode in the conference hall and refrain from taking photographs with flash during sessions.

#### Speakers' Room

Myrtle Boardroom (P2 Level)

#### Friday Prayer

Transportation will be available at the Sofitel Hotel lobby at 12:20 Hrs, and the bus will depart promptly at 12:30 Hrs. It will take the delegates to the nearest mosque and bring back to the hotel afterward.

#### Abstract

Abstract Posters will be on display the entire day of the conference from 24th & 25th April, 2026.

### CME Accreditation

This Conference is Accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and granted **14.0 European CME** credits (ECMEC@s).

Day 1, 24/4/26 is Accredited for **7 CME** Hours

Day 2, 25/4/26 is Accredited for **7 CME** Hours

This Conference is Accredited by the Department of Health and designated for a maximum of **15.50 of DOH CME**

Day 1, 24/4/26 is Accredited for **7.10 CME** Hours

Day 2, 24/4/26 is Accredited for **8.40 CME** Hours

- Please ensure to scan in your name badge before every session in the session halls attended.
- CME points are accumulated based on attended hours.
- A notification containing the link and instructions on how to download the certificates will be sent to your registered email address.
- Please note that you are required to complete the online evaluation of the conference before you can access the link to download your CME certificates. It is your responsibility to download and retain a copy of the certificate for your records.
- Each medical specialist should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

A faint, dark blue world map is centered in the background of the page. The text 'Speakers' Biography' is overlaid on the map in a white, sans-serif font.

# Speakers' Biography

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Sara Al Mashjari**  
The Goodwill Ambassador to Special  
Consultive of United Nation  
1st Vice President of Nikola Tesla Foundation  
Government AI Transformation Leader, UAE



Dr. Sara Al Mashjari serves as the First Vice President of Science, Technology & Development for the MENA and Africa region at the Nikola Tesla Foundation, where she contributes her expertise to shaping regional policies and scaling businesses through technology. Her achievements—including her role as a Goodwill Ambassador and as the UAE representative to the Arab African Council, a special consultative body of the United Nations ECOSOC—underscore her commitment to innovation, strategic planning, and sustainable societal impact. She has contributed to numerous national and international initiatives aimed at leveraging cutting-edge technology to advance the goals of UAE Vision 2031 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Al Mashjari is also a recipient of the prestigious Best Content Creator Award for Sustainability and Preservation in 2024, sponsored by His Royal Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

With over eight years of dedicated service in the health sector, Dr. Al Mashjari has consistently pioneered initiatives that leverage AI, data, and strategic foresight to support impactful policy and decision-making. As Chairwoman of the Youth Council (2018–2021), she established transformative AI programs, including the AI Lab and advanced anomaly detection algorithms for business applications. During the global pandemic, she played a pivotal role in managing data infrastructure to enhance resource allocation, patient forecasting, and strategic planning.

Her areas of expertise include:

- Innovation in entrepreneurship through the integration of AI in the digital economy
- Crafting strategies for a knowledge-based economy to enhance productivity and sustainability
- Leading collaborative initiatives that foster public-private partnerships for economic growth

She is deeply dedicated to empowering Emirati youth as a driving force for global leadership in the AI economy.



**Dr. Deepthi Silymon**  
DNB, MRCP,  
Medical Oncology Specialty Certificate (UK),  
ECMO, Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Deepthi works in her capacity as Consultant Medical Oncologist in Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City/Mayo (SSMC), Abu Dhabi with nearly 16 years of Oncology experience as Consultant in India and Bahrain in addition to UAE. Post residency training in India she did Medical oncology specialty certification from Royal college of Physicians UK and also European society of medical oncology certification passing out as one of the top 20% worldwide.

She has held multiple roles other than clinical work including former Chair of Quality for Oncology and currently as lead of Mortality /Morbidity Review for Medical Oncology and Hematology. She is actively involved in teaching residents and medical students and also heads as Principal investigator for multiple clinical trials conducted in SSMC.

### Speakers` Biography



#### **Prof. Akif Turna**

MD, PhD, FETCS  
Professor of Thoracic Surgery  
Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty  
Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa,  
Turkey



Dr. Turna, a graduate of Istanbul University's Istanbul Medical School, has specialized in thoracic surgery at Yedikule Teaching Hospital for Chest Diseases and Thoracic Surgery. In 2007, he initiated the VATS lobectomy program and subsequently earned national and European Thoracic Surgery Board Certificates. Dr. Turna obtained his Ph.D. in Immunology in 2003. In 2013, he assumed the position of Professor of Thoracic Surgery at Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa. Currently, he serves as the Chief of Thoracic

Surgery at Cerrahpasa School of Medicine. His research interests encompass minimally invasive thoracic surgery, with a particular focus on uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS) and Robotic-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (RATS) resections. He also conducts mediastinal staging procedures, VAMLA (Video Assisted Mediastinal Lymph Node Dissection), inflammatory and infectious disease research, surgery for emphysema, anti-tumor immunology, and the molecular biology of cancer.

He is the author of over 250 articles and book chapters. Dr. Turna currently holds editorial positions as an associate editor of Asian Cardiovascular and Thoracic Annals and Euroasian Journal of Pulmonology. He also serves as the managing editor of Turkish Journal of Immunology. Additionally, he is a member of the 10th Edition of the Lung Cancer Staging Committee (IASLC), where he chairs the T Subcommittee.



#### **Dr. Antonio Ramos**

President, De La Salle Medical  
and Health Sciences Institute,  
Philippines



Dr. Antonio Ramos is a distinguished leader in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, currently serving as President of the Philippine Association of Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgeons (SY 2020–present) and Chairman of the Asian Board of Thoracic Surgery (SY 2025–present). He previously held key leadership roles, including Chairman of the Philippine Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (SY 2015–2017) and President of the Philippine Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons, Inc. (SY 2002).

In addition to these positions, Dr. Ramos contributes to regional advancement in the field as a Board Member of the Asian Thoracoscopic Education Platform (ATEP) and as a Council Member of the Association of Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia (ATCSA).

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Aydah Alawadhi**  
Consultant Medical Oncologist,  
Chair of Haematology & Oncology Division  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Aydah Al-Awadhi is a Consultant Medical Oncologist and Division Chair of Hematology and Medical Oncology at SSMC. She completed her fellowship in Medical Oncology and Hematology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2019 and is American Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology. She also completed her Internal Medicine residency at Saint Vincent Hospital, affiliated with the University of Massachusetts, and holds the American Board of Internal Medicine certification. Dr. Al-Awadhi serves as the Scientific Chairperson of the Emirates Oncology Society and Chairperson of the Breast Cancer Working Group. Additionally, she is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, UAE University.



**Dr. Sangeetha Ponnusamy**  
MBBS, MRCP, FRCP, FRCR  
Consultant Radiation Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Sangeetha specialises in treating cancers and certain noncancerous conditions utilising advanced radiation techniques, including stereotactic radiotherapy. She possesses a fellowship in the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR) and the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP). Furthermore, she is a member of several distinguished medical institutions, including the European Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ESTRO), the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). Additionally, Dr. Ponnusamy is licensed to practice by both the General Medical Council, UK, and the UAE Department of Health (DoH).



**Dr. Jethin Rafique**  
MD, FRCP (UK)  
Consultant and Chair of  
Department – Pulmonology  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr Jethin Rafique is a Consultant Pulmonologist and Chair of Division and Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Abu Dhabi. He trained in Pulmonology and Internal Medicine in Manchester, United Kingdom and holds an MD from the University of Manchester. He was a Research Fellow in Respiratory Medicine and studied the role of various physiological biomarkers used in clinical trials in Asthma. He has a clinical interest in Lung Cancer diagnostics, interventional bronchoscopy and airway inflammation. He is a member of the European Respiratory Society and British Thoracic Society and has presented and various international conferences. A keen educator, Dr Rafique previously held Faculty and Academic Fellow roles at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Rajiv Santosham**  
MBBS, MS, MCh  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Santosham Chest Hospital  
Chennai, India



Dr. Rajiv Santosham, MS, MCh, is a thoracic surgeon based in Chennai, India, with over 15 years of experience in thoracic surgical practice. He has been practicing thoracic surgery since 2009, following formal training in cardiothoracic and thoracic surgery.

His clinical work focuses on the surgical management of inflammatory and malignant lung diseases, mediastinal lesions, and complex tracheal and bronchial airway disorders, including tracheal stenosis and tumors. A significant portion of his practice involves minimally invasive thoracic surgery, primarily using Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS) and robotic-assisted techniques.

Dr. Santosham is actively involved in academic activities and regularly participates in national and international thoracic surgical meetings as invited faculty. His areas of interest include airway surgery, redo thoracic procedures, and the role of minimally invasive approaches in complex thoracic pathology.



**Dr. Arvind Kohli**  
MCh (CTVS) – General Thoracic Surgery  
Medical Director, SVMM Hospital,  
Ambphalla, Jammu, India



Dr Arvind Kohli received his MBBS and MS(Surgery)degrees from Govt Medical College Jammu(India) and M.Ch CTVS from JIPMER Pondicherry(India) for which he was awarded P S Narayan Memorial Gold Medal. He worked as Senior Consultant Deptt of CTVS GMC Jammu 2002-2024 Presently he is Medical Director SVMM hospital Jammu.He is holder of Reeve Betts and SS Anand Fellowships in Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery awarded by Indian Association Of Cardiothoracic surgeons. He worked at the St Mary'hospital London as Fellow in Vascular surgery from India for the year 2009.

His area of research is adult cardiac and thoracic surgery, thoracic & vascular trauma, aneurysm surgery and inflammatory lung diseases. He is author of 36 peer reviewed papers and 35 published abstracts and authored three chapters (Acyanotic congenital Heart diseases and Venous Trauma Arteriovenous malformations)He is Godrej Karai Orator for thoracic surgery 2024 at IACTSCON 2024 Bhuvaneshwar He played a pivotal role as the Organizing Secretary of VSICON2018 , IACTS Thoracic CME 2019 AND 2024.

### Speakers` Biography



#### Dr. Rajashekara Reddy

MBBS, MS, FRCS  
Consultant Thoracic (VATS) Surgeon  
Sagar hospital & Trustwell Hospital,  
Bangalore, India



Dr. R.S. Reddy is a highly accomplished thoracic surgeon, academic, and leader with extensive contributions to clinical practice, education, and research. He served as Thoracic Surgery Section Editor for the Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (IJTCS) from 2017 to February 2025 and has been an active reviewer for leading journals, including IJTCS, the European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EJCTS), and Interactive CardioVascular and Thoracic Surgery (ICVTS), having reviewed over 500 scientific articles.

Dr. Reddy has been widely recognized for his academic excellence, delivering several prestigious orations, including the Prof. MP Mehta Oration (IACTS, 2023), Prof. M. Authikeshavalu Oration (SSB ASICC, 2021), and the Prof. Godrej S. Karai Oration (IACTS, 2017). His leadership roles include serving as President of the Surgical Society of Bengaluru in 2017 and as Organising Secretary of ISTSCON 2023, the annual meeting of the Indian Association of Thoracic Surgeons & Trust.

He is currently the Director of the Clinical Skills Centre at BMCDT (Bangalore Medical College Development Trust) and will serve as Joint Secretary of the Indian Society for Thoracic Surgery (ISTST) from November 2025 onwards. In addition, Dr. Reddy is a recognized Master Trainer in Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) under the Jeevaraksha program, accredited by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). Through his work, he continues to play a pivotal role in advancing thoracic surgery, surgical education, and clinical training.



#### Dr. Puja Khaitan

Founder and Congress Chair  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Khaitan is an American board-certified general and thoracic surgeon. She specialises in non-cardiac chest surgeries, focusing on lung cancer, mesothelioma, oesophageal cancer, chest wall tumours, and mediastinal masses, as well as treating patients with benign pathologies. Dr. Khaitan earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, US. She then pursued a General Surgery Residency at Emory University Hospital, US, with a simultaneous two-year NIH-T32 research fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre in the Department of Cancer Biology. Subsequently, she completed her cardiothoracic training at Harvard Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, US. She previously served as an Assistant Professor at Houston Methodist Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, and as an Associate Professor and later a full Professor at Georgetown University, MedStar Washington Hospital Centre. As a highly trained and experienced minimally invasive thoracic surgeon,

Dr. Khaitan performs thoracoscopic, laparoscopic, and robotic surgeries, as well as open complex surgical procedures. Additionally, Dr. Khaitan is passionate about educating and training surgical residents and fellows. She has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, given lectures nationally and internationally, and is a reviewer for selected thoracic journals such as the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, The Annals of Thoracic Surgery, Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Journal of Thoracic Disease. Numerous honours and awards have been bestowed upon Dr. Khaitan, and she serves on several committees in national and international professional societies.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Joel Dunning**  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
James Cook University Hospital, UK



Dr. Joel Dunning is a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon at James Cook University Hospital and serves as Editor-in-Chief of CTSNet. He has a strong passion for surgical education, particularly through operative video content, and has produced over 400 videos on his channel, which has garnered more than 1.6 million views.

He has contributed extensively to clinical practice and education, authoring over 20 guidelines for leading international organizations, including the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS), the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), and the Cardiothoracic Surgery Working Group (CWIG), among others. He is also actively involved in delivering specialized training courses focused on managing cardiac arrest following cardiac surgery and handling emergencies in the cardiac catheterization laboratory.

Beyond his clinical and academic work, Dr. Dunning is committed to global health initiatives. He supports charitable efforts such as Hearts of Ghana, participating in heart surgery missions, and Pace4Life, which provides reconditioned pacemakers to underserved communities in developing countries.



**Dr. Cecilia Pompili**  
Associate Professor,  
Psychosocial Oncology  
and Thoracic Surgeon  
University of Hull, UK



Cecilia Pompili is an Associate Professor in Psychosocial Oncology and a thoracic surgeon based in the UK. She is a Director on the Board of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS) and a Board member of the British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG). Her research focuses on lung cancer outcomes, patient-reported outcomes and experiences, psychosocial determinants of health, and health inequalities, with particular attention to women and underrepresented populations. She leads and contributes to national and international collaborations developing evidence-based approaches to preoperative evaluation, risk stratification, and fitness for curative lung cancer treatment, including international clinical practice guidelines. She is Principal Investigator on nationally and internationally funded studies, including projects supported by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer. Her work integrates quantitative and qualitative methodologies to inform patient-centred care, improve shared decision-making, and embed inclusive, equitable research practices across surgical oncology.

### Speakers` Biography



**Prof. Sanghoon Jheon**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
Health on Cloud, South Korea



Professor Sanghoon Jheon is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Health on Cloud, a digital health company dedicated to advancing global healthcare through innovation, education, and technology-driven solutions. A distinguished cardiothoracic surgeon and academic leader, he brings over 35 years of experience in integrating medical excellence with digital transformation to strengthen healthcare systems worldwide. Prior to founding Health on Cloud, Professor Jheon served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, one of South Korea's leading tertiary institutions. During his tenure, he established the Healthcare Innovation Park and launched the Global Medical Academy to promote international collaboration and leadership in healthcare education.

Professor Jheon has served as a global advisor on healthcare system development and digital health strategies across Asia, the CIS region, Russia, Colombia, Vietnam, and China. He currently serves as President of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery and is an Academician of the National Academy of Medicine of Korea. He earned his medical degree from Kyungpook National University, is board-certified in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, and completed a fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Professor Jheon is also the founder of the Korean Smart Medical Device Industry Promotion Foundation and has led multiple national medical societies dedicated to advancing medical innovation and sustainable healthcare development.



**Dr. Ali Zamir Khan**  
MS, FRCS, FRCS(CTH), FEBTS, MBA:  
Thoracic Surgery  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital, UK



Prof Ali Zamir Khan is a leader in the field of minimally invasive and robotic thoracic surgery. He trained and worked in United Kingdom as a cardiothoracic surgeon for about 20 years before returning to India to start the Department of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Thoracic Surgery at Medanta-The Medicity in 2010. This is one of the premier multispecialty hospitals in India providing cutting edge tertiary care to patients. The minimally invasive program is one of the most successful programs in India. He has returned to UK to work as a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon in Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

His speciality interest is in robotic and video-assisted surgical management in the field of lung surgery (including cancer, tuberculosis, bronchiectasis and aspergilloma), mediastinal surgery (Thymectomy for myasthenia & thymoma and resection of mediastinal cyst and tumors), cosmetic chest wall surgery (pectus carinatum, pectus excavatum, sinus surgery), endobronchial surgery (lasering & stenting), diaphragm surgery (eventration, hernias and trauma), esophageal surgery (cancer, perforation, benign diseases) and sympathetic nerve surgery (hyperhidrosis, intractable Ventricular fibrillation), lung volume reduction surgery (emphysema).

Education is of high priority to Dr. Khan. To achieve this end, he has started a centre (SCALPEL) dedicated to training young surgeons from across the world in the field of minimally invasive and laparoscopic surgery. He also lectures at Rohilkhand Medical College and University to undergraduate and postgraduate medical students. Having a strong interest in academics and research, Dr Khan has published more than 100 original research papers and chapters, and delivered more than 150 invited lectures all over the world. He is an integral member of the ethics committee to approve research proposals.

He is a founder board member of Asian Thoracoscopic Education Program (ATEP) and the Indian Regent for European Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He is also keen innovator having patented multiple surgical instruments which have been named after him. He has also designed various teaching modules for training. He has received numerous awards and honours for his contribution in clinical and academic excellence.

### Speakers` Biography



#### Dr. Balasubramoniam KR

Surgical Director,  
Heart & Lung Transplant Program  
Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad  
India



Dr. Balasubramoniam K. R. is a senior consultant thoracic surgeon and serves as the Surgical Director of the Heart and Lung Transplant Program at Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad, India. He leads the Department of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Thoracic Surgery and has extensive experience in lung transplantation, ECMO, and advanced airway surgery. He completed his MCh in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum, and has received advanced international training at leading centers including the University of Vienna (Austria), Cleveland Clinic, Cedar Sinai Medical Center, University of Alabama (USA), and Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital (China).



#### Dr. Hasan Batirel

M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Thoracic Surgery,  
Department of Thoracic Surgery  
Marmara University Faculty of Medicine,  
Turkey



Dr. Hasan Batirel is a distinguished thoracic surgeon, academic, and international leader in the field of thoracic surgery. He earned his medical degree from Marmara University Faculty of Medicine in Istanbul, Turkey, where he also completed his residency in thoracic surgery. He further advanced his training internationally as a research associate at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York and as a clinical fellow in the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr. Batirel has had a long and accomplished academic career, beginning as an Assistant Professor at Marmara University in 2002, followed by promotion to Associate Professor in 2005 and full Professor from 2010 to 2021. He currently serves as Professor at Biruni University Faculty of Medicine in Istanbul and has been appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Florence, Italy, in 2025.

In addition to his academic contributions, Dr. Batirel has held several prominent administrative and leadership roles. He served as Deputy Physician-in-Chief at Marmara University Hospital and later as Dean of Marmara University Faculty of Medicine. His leadership extends to the international stage through the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS), where he has served as Councillor, Director of Education, and currently as Secretary General. He is also President-Elect of ESTS for the 2026-2027 term. Through his extensive clinical, academic, and organizational contributions, Dr. Batirel continues to play a key role in advancing thoracic surgery education, research, and global collaboration.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan**

Chief, Thoracic Surgery and  
Interventional Pulmonology  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Harvard Medical School, USA



Sidharta (Sidhu) Gangadharan, MD, MHCM is a general thoracic surgeon and Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA. He is a Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. His clinical and research interests are in the evaluation and treatment of complex airway disease.

Dr. Gangadharan completed his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, where he currently serves as a member of the Board of Advisors. He also completed a Master in Health Care Management at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. His general surgery residency, research fellowship, and cardiothoracic residency were all done at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He also completed a year-long program as a Rabkin Fellow in Medical Education at BIDMC.

In addition to his role as Division Chief, Dr Gangadharan serves as program director for the cardiothoracic residency and assistant program director for the general surgery residency. In addition he serves on the Department of Surgery Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



**Dr. Aneez Ahmed**

Thoracic Surgeon  
Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital  
Head of the Service of Thoracic Surgery,  
Department of General Surgery  
Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH),  
Singapore



Dr. Aneez D.B. Ahmed is a distinguished cardiothoracic surgeon with an impressive array of qualifications and a career marked by numerous achievements and key leadership roles. He graduated from Karnatak University in Dharwad, India, and further specialized in cardiothoracic surgery at the National University Hospital in Singapore. He expanded his expertise through a fellowship at the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital. Dr. Ahmed also pursued advanced robotic surgical training at the University of Pisa in Italy and in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, becoming the first in the ASEAN cohort to complete the Level 3 Robotic Certification Program.

He previously served as Head of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Tan Tock Seng Hospital from 2014 to 2020 and currently holds the position of Director and Senior Consultant at the International Centre for Thoracic Surgery at Mount Elizabeth Hospital Novena in Singapore. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Ahmed continues to contribute significantly to leadership, innovation, and advancements in thoracic surgery.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Eugenio Pompeo**  
Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery  
Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy



He is an Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy, where he also leads the clinical program in minimally invasive thoracic surgery at the University Policlinico Tor Vergata. He serves as a teacher of thoracic surgery across multiple academic programs, including Medicine and Surgery (as coordinator), undergraduate degrees, PhD programs, and postgraduate specialty training.

He is an active member of several international scientific societies, including the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) and the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS). He also serves as Associate Editor of The Cardiothoracic Surgeon journal and Section Editor of the Journal of Clinical Medicine. He has been invited as a speaker at numerous international conferences and courses across Europe, Africa, Asia, the United States, and South America. Within ESTS, he chairs the Spontaneous Ventilation Thoracic Surgery Working Group.

He is the editor of the first e-monograph published worldwide on awake thoracic surgery and has authored or co-authored more than 200 articles and book chapters published in English. His main research interests include video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS), surgical treatment of emphysema, lung cancer, and mediastinal diseases. He developed the spontaneous ventilation thoracic surgery program at the University of Rome Tor Vergata and is currently actively engaged in clinical research in this field.



**Dr. Yara Jalbout**  
Consultant, Anesthesiology  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Al Jalbout is a Consultant in the Anaesthesia and Pain Management Department at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) in Abu Dhabi. An American Board-certified anesthesiologist with over 15 years of experience, she has a strong background in both clinical practice and medical education, with a special interest in regional anesthesia and simulation-based learning.

Dr. Al Jalbout currently serves not only as a consultant anesthesiologist at SSMC but also as the Medical Director of the hospital's Center of Innovation and Medical Simulation, where she plays a key role in advancing training, education, and innovation in healthcare. She has held clinical and academic roles in leading hospitals and institutions in the United States and her home country of Lebanon. Her expertise spans regional and obstetric anesthesiology, as well as simulation for medical education.

Dr. Al Jalbout earned her Bachelor of Science (BS) and Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the American University of Beirut (AUB), and further enhanced her qualifications with a Diploma in Simulation for Medical Education from the Lebanese American University (LAU). Through her work, she continues to contribute to improving patient care, advancing medical education, and fostering innovation in anesthesiology.

### Speakers` Biography



#### Prof. Rajinder Parshad

MS,DNB,FACS, Thoracic and Foregut Surgery  
Professor of Surgery  
AIIMS, Delhi, India



Dr. Rajinder Parshad is a distinguished surgeon and academician with over three decades of experience in clinical practice, teaching, and research. He completed his MBBS from the University of Jammu in 1985, followed by an MS in General Surgery from AIIMS, New Delhi, in 1989, and the Diplomate of National Board in 1990. Currently, he serves as Professor and Head of Unit for General, Upper GI, and Thoracic Surgery at AIIMS, New Delhi. His areas of expertise include robotic, laparoscopic, and thoracoscopic surgery, with a strong emphasis on innovation and patient-centered care.

He has received prestigious international fellowships, including the CICOPS Fellowship at the University of Pavia, Italy, a Visiting Assistant Professorship at the University of Minnesota, and the ICRETT Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA. Dr.Parshad has authored over 150 original research articles, holds an H-index of 31, and is widely recognized for his contributions to surgical education and research.



#### Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh

DNB, MRCP, Medical Oncology  
Specialty Certificate (UK), ECMO  
Consultant Medical Oncologist  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh is a Medical Oncology Consultant at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) in Abu Dhabi. He is a UK-certified (CCT) medical oncologist with extensive experience in both the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. Prior to joining SSMC, Dr. Almutadha served as a Consultant Medical Oncologist at University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust and Salisbury District Hospital in the UK. He has broad expertise in systemic anti-cancer therapies, including immunotherapy, targeted therapies, and chemotherapy.

Dr. Almutadha's clinical expertise spans the management of a wide range of solid tumors, including gastrointestinal, breast, and genitourinary cancers, as well as rare malignancies such as sarcomas and gliomas. He is also actively involved in advancing cancer care through research and clinical trials, having served as a principal investigator and co-investigator in studies focusing on pancreatic, liver, and colorectal cancers.

He earned his M.B.Ch.B. from the College of Medicine at the University of Babylon and completed his specialty training in medical oncology through the Royal College of Physicians and the Association of Cancer Physicians in the United Kingdom. He further enhanced his qualifications with a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital, and a Clinical MD in General Internal Medicine from the University of Buckingham, UK.

Through his clinical practice and research contributions, Dr. Almutadha continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to innovation and excellence in cancer care.

### Speakers` Biography



#### Dr. Abhishek Jain

MBBS, MS, Mch. (Onco Surgery)  
Consultant Breast & Minimally Invasive and  
Robotic Thoracic Oncosurgeon  
Uniportal 3D VATS Lung Surgery Specialist  
Marengo CIMS Hospital, India



Dr. Abhishek Jain is a Senior Consultant Oncosurgeon with over 15 years of experience in cancer surgery, specializing in minimally invasive thoracic procedures. He is a pioneer of uniportal video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) lung procedures in India, having successfully performed more than 100 cases. He is recognized as the first surgeon in Gujarat to perform uniportal VATS lung surgery and is among a select group of approximately 15–20 surgeons in India with expertise in this advanced technique.

Dr. Jain also has extensive experience in complex thoracic procedures, including more than 350 VATS lateral decubitus esophagectomies over the past nine years. In addition, he has expanded his practice to include robotic thoracic surgery, which he has been performing over the past year. Through his clinical expertise and pioneering work, Dr. Jain continues to contribute to advancing minimally invasive thoracic oncology in India.



#### Dr. Richard van Hillegersberg

Thoracic Surgeon  
UMC Utrecht, the Netherlands



Richard van Hillegersberg attended medical school in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In 1993 he received his PhD with honor at the Department of Surgery, Erasmus MC in Rotterdam. From 1994-2000, he was trained in General Surgery in Rotterdam. From 2001-2002 he was fellow of Surgical Oncology in the Academic Medical Center and Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Netherlands Cancer Center Amsterdam. Since 2003 he is appointed as staff surgeon at the University Medical Center Utrecht. From 2009 he is a full professor of gastrointestinal oncology. Honorary member of German Society of Surgery, British Society of Endoscopic Surgery, Chilean Society of Surgery

Research is focused on Upper GI minimally invasive and robotic surgery, surgical imaging and genetic profiling. He has authored over 15 chapters in textbooks concerning robotic foregut surgery and over 500 articles in international peer-reviewed journals. He is secretary and executive board member of the European Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ESDE) and board member of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE), he is associate editor of Diseases of the Esophagus and Digestive Surgery, founder and chairman of the Upper GI International Robotic Association (UGIRA).

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Prriya Eshpuniyani**  
Senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
and Surgical Oncologist  
Asian Cancer Institute (ACI),  
Cumballa Hill Hospital  
Precision Superspeciality Clinic  
& Diagnostics, India



Dr. Prriya Eshpuniyani is a senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon and Surgical Oncologist with over two decades of experience in gastrointestinal surgery and thoracic oncology. She holds India's first National Board certified thoracic surgery specialization - DrNB in Thoracic Surgery (Super-Specialty), and a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology by the prestigious TMC Kolkata, complemented by advanced credentials including FMAS, FAIS, MNAMS, and FARIS (Fellowship in Advanced Robotic and Innovative Surgery).

Dr. Eshpuniyani specializes in open and minimally invasive -VATS, and robotic thoracic procedures for benign and malignant diseases of the lung, esophagus, mediastinum, trachea, and bronchi, including complex sleeve and broncho vascular resections. She also has expertise in HITHOC in cases of select pleural malignancies, thymomas etc. She is currently associated with leading tertiary care institutions such as Asian Cancer Institute, Apollo Hospital Navi Mumbai, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and more.

An accomplished academic and educator, she is a regular faculty member and organizing committee contributor for national lung cancer masterclasses and year end reviews. Dr. Eshpuniyani has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, presented award-winning research at national and international forums, is a reviewer of multiple indexed journals and continues to contribute actively to clinical excellence, research, and academic leadership in thoracic surgical oncology.



**Dr. Abdulmajid Ali**  
MBChB, FRCS Glas, MSc.  
Consultant General, Upper GI  
& Metabolic Surgeon,  
Sheikh Tahnoon Medical City,  
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Abdulmajid Ali is an internationally recognized Consultant General and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon with over 25 years of senior surgical leadership across the United Kingdom and the Middle East. UK-trained and certified, with longstanding consultant experience in Scotland, he has pioneered advanced Upper GI services, established tertiary referral centres, and made significant contributions to the management of complex oesophageal and foregut pathology. His clinical expertise includes minimally invasive and advanced Upper GI surgery, complex oesophageal and foregut procedures, high-risk revisional surgery, and advanced therapeutic endoscopy, including ERCP. He is particularly sought after for challenging upper GI cases requiring multidisciplinary input and high-level surgical decision-making.

Dr. Ali was instrumental in establishing Scotland's first dedicated tertiary bariatric and Upper GI referral service and led the development of an educational laparoscopic theatre with live surgical broadcasting for international training. A highly published academic, he supervises MSc and PhD candidates, contributes to national and international outcomes research, and is a regular faculty member at major international meetings.

He has served as Clinical Director of Surgery & Endoscopy in NHS Scotland, Intercollegiate Examiner across the UK Royal Colleges of Surgeons, and International Advisor to the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, and continues to lecture internationally on advanced Upper GI and oesophageal surgery.

### Speakers` Biography



#### Dr. Sridhar Rathinam

FRCSEd(CSiG); FRCSEd(CTh)  
General Thoracic Surgery; Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,  
Head of Service & Honorary Senior Lecturer  
University Hospitals Leicester  
Glenfield Hospital,  
University Hospitals Leicester, UK



Sridhar Rathinam is a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon and Head of service in the University Hospitals of Leicester with a special interest in parenchyma preserving oncological lung resections, chest wall surgery, minimally invasive lung resections and surgery for emphysema. His research interests include Lung cancer proteomics(SELDI) and biomarker (TRACER-X), Lung Volume Reduction Surgery, Thoracotomy pain, Perioperative care and is Local Principal investigator for NIHR trials like CELEB, HARP2, TOPIC2, MURRAY and Fit4Surg.

He is the Communication secretary for Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery for Great Britain and Ireland (SCTS), Ex- Chair of the Intercollegiate Specialty Board Examinations (CTh) and Ex-Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgical specialty Board, for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He was the Simulation Lead and Quality Assurance Lead for the Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC).He was the Training Programme Director and Chair of the East Midlands Cardiothoracic Training Programme.

As SCTS Thoracic Surgery Tutor (2013-16), he has co-developed an innovative portfolio of 12 structured simulation-based courses, which mirror the ISCP curriculum and are provided free of charge which is the first of its kind in the world. As Education Secretary, SCTS (2017- 2022) he oversaw the provision of education to all members of SCTS. He has presented and published many articles and book chapters.



#### Dr. Wenlin Wang

Chief Surgeon  
Guangdong Second Provincial  
General Hospital, China



Dr. Wenlin Wang is a globally recognized leader in chest wall surgery and serves as Director of the world's largest chest wall surgery center. A pioneer in the field, he first proposed the concept of chest wall surgery in 2008 and went on to establish the world's first dedicated chest wall surgery department a decade later.

In 2024, Dr. Wang founded the International Chest Wall Surgery Organization (ICWSO), further advancing global collaboration and innovation in this specialized field. In 2025, he established the Journal of Chest Wall Surgery, contributing to the academic and scientific development of the discipline.

With an extraordinary surgical record, Dr. Wang has performed over 10,000 chest wall surgeries, including many highly complex cases. Over the past decade, he has been invited to operate in more than 400 hospitals worldwide, sharing his expertise and advancing surgical standards. He has also led numerous international training programs and provided technical guidance to surgeons from over 40 countries. Through his pioneering work, clinical excellence, and global educational efforts, Dr. Wang continues to shape the future of chest wall surgery worldwide.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. John Edwards**  
MB ChB PhD FRCS(C/Th)  
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon  
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals,  
NHS Foundation Trust, UK



Dr. John Edwards is a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon in Sheffield, United Kingdom, appointed in 2006 after qualifying from the University of Birmingham in 1993. He completed his specialist training across major UK centers and undertook fellowships in Australia and the United States. He holds a PhD in Oncology from the University of Leicester, with a research focus on malignant mesothelioma. Dr. Edwards is actively involved in international thoracic oncology leadership, serving on the IASLC Staging and Prognostic Factors Committee and the EORTC Lung Cancer Group.

He is a past Chair of the British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) Charity and a long-standing member of its Steering Committee. A founder member of the Chest Wall Injury Society (CWIS), he has contributed to global collaborations, including leading the rib fracture taxonomy project. His current clinical interests focus on surgery for traumatic and functional disorders of the costal margin, alongside continued involvement in clinical research and trials.



**Prof. Dr. Hentati Abdessalem**  
MD, Thoracic Surgeon  
Head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery  
Professor, University Hospital of Sfax, Tunisia



Prof. Dr. Hentati Abdessalem is a leading thoracic surgeon and academic based in Sfax, Tunisia. He serves as Head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery in Sfax and is President of the Tunisian Thoracic Surgery Association. He also presided over the first Pan Arab Congress of Thoracic Surgery, contributing significantly to regional collaboration and advancement in the field.

Prof. Dr. Abdessalem is actively involved in surgical education and training, serving as the lead for the VATS (Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery) training program in Tunisia and as Coordinator of the Thoracic Oncology Diploma in Sfax. Through his leadership, clinical expertise, and commitment to education, he continues to play a key role in advancing thoracic surgery in Tunisia and across the region.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Shyam Kolvekar**  
MBBS, MS, MCh, FRCPS, FRCS, FRCSTh  
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
London, UK



Dr. Shyamsunder Kolvekar is a globally renowned consultant cardiothoracic surgeon based in central London. He specializes in coronary artery bypass grafting, valve repair, and aortic valve replacement, alongside the management of chest wall deformities and lung cancer. He practices privately at The Harley Street Clinic, Barts Heart Centre at St Bartholomew's Hospital, The Royal Free London Hospital Private Patients, and The Wellington Hospital.

He is an internationally recognized surgeon for the adult NUSS procedure, which treats pectus excavatum (a condition where the breastbone is sunken into the chest). Dr. Kolvekar is known for developing innovative techniques for this procedure, enabling better pain control and reducing surgical risks. His other specialist interests include open beating-heart surgery, cardiac arrhythmias, and minimally invasive cardiac surgery. He also has a thoracic practice focusing on pneumothorax and pleural effusion and maintains an interest in ischemic preconditioning of the heart.

Dr. Kolvekar is highly qualified and serves as an Honorary Associate Professor at University College London. He lectures and teaches the NUSS procedure and related minimally invasive techniques to surgeons worldwide. He has published research in numerous international peer-reviewed journals and books and also serves as a medical advisor for a BBC hit series.



**Dr. Saleh Abu Daff**  
MBBS, MRCS, SB-GS, ABGS  
Consultant General-Thoracic Surgeon  
King Fahad Medical City-  
King Salman Heart Center, KSA



Dr. Saleh Abu-Daff is a distinguished Consultant Thoracic Surgeon at King Fahad Medical City, where he also served as Chief and founder of the Thoracic Surgery Unit. With a career spanning over a decade in senior consultant roles, he brings a wealth of expertise in advanced general and thoracic procedures, with a particular focus on minimally invasive techniques and complex oncologic resections.

His credentials are international, having completed a prestigious Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at Ottawa General Hospital and holding memberships with the Royal College of Surgeons (UK), the Saudi Board, and the Arab Board in Surgery. Dr. Abu-Daff is a recognized educator and leader in his field, acting as a thoracic fellowship program developer and a thoracic licensing examiner for the SCFHS.

An active contributor to global medical knowledge, he has numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and is a frequent invited speaker at international symposia, including the Saudi Thoracic Society and Gulf Thoracic meetings. His professional drive is centered on surgical innovation, thoracic service development, and leveraging video education to advance clinical standards and patient care.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj**

MD (UKM), M.Surg (UKM)  
Fellowship in Thoracic Surgery (Malaysia)  
Consultant Thoracic and General Surgeon  
Hospital Kuala Lumpur & Beacon Hospital  
Malaysia



Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj is a Consultant Thoracic and General Surgeon, who is currently attached with the Thoracic Surgery Unit of Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Beacon Hospital, Malaysia. He completed both his basic medical degree and Masters in General Surgery in National University of Malaysia in 2006 and 2015 respectively. He completed his training in Thoracic Surgery in 2022. To date, he has been involved in over 20 publications pertaining to thoracic surgery, including a book chapter on VATS segmentectomy.

His forte includes VATS lobectomy for lung cancer, VATS thymectomy, non-intubated thoracoscopic surgery (NiVATS) and complex chest wall resection and reconstruction. He is also a life member of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS), the Society of Endo-laparoscopic Surgeons of Malaysia (SELSMA), and the South East Asian Thoracic Society.



**Prof. Baste Jean Marc**

MD, PhD, Full Professor of  
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery  
University Hospital of Rouen,  
Normandy, France



Professor Jean-Marc Baste is a French thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon and a full Professor of Surgery at Rouen University, France. He currently serves as Head of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Rouen University Hospital (CHU de Rouen), a high-volume tertiary academic center. His clinical expertise focuses on thoracic oncology, with a particular emphasis on minimally invasive and robot-assisted thoracic surgery. Over the years, he has played a major role in the development, standardization, and dissemination of advanced minimally invasive techniques, integrating technological innovation with a strong commitment to patient safety and surgical quality.

Professor Baste is deeply involved in academic teaching and surgical education. He contributes extensively to undergraduate and postgraduate medical training and is actively engaged in simulation-based education, team training, and human-factors-oriented approaches to improve operating room performance. His academic activity includes clinical and translational research in thoracic surgery, with numerous peer-reviewed publications in international journals.

He is an active member of national and European professional societies in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and regularly participates in international courses, masterclasses, and scientific meetings as an invited speaker and faculty member. His work bridges clinical excellence, education, and organizational innovation in modern thoracic surgery.

### Speakers` Biography



**Dr. Ilies Bouabdallah**

Head of the Thoracic Surgery Department,  
Hôpital Saint Joseph Marseille,  
France



Dr Ilies Bouabdallah is Thoracic surgeon and Chief of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at Hôpital Saint Joseph. He trained in Marseille, Paris and New York. Dr Bouabdallah is an expert in minimally invasive approaches. He has a special interest in lung cancer screening; Early diagnosis with ION; Oncological criteria of the surgery; Lung sparing resections (Segmentectomy, sleeve resection); Systematic 3D planning; ERAS program and teaching.



**Dr. Hassan Jaafar**

Medical Oncologist,  
Oncology Medical Director  
Burjeel Cancer Institute,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Jaafar is board-certified in Medical Hematology and Oncology from the American University of Beirut Medical Center and holds the position of Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, UAE University & from Khalifa university. He is an active member of several esteemed professional organizations, including ASCO, ESMO, and the Scientific and Education Committee of the Arab Collaborative Hematology and Oncology Group (ACHOG). He contributes to various regional and international advisory groups, such as the NCCN MENA subcommittees for hepatocellular and lung cancers, the GIST Working Group, the Africa Middle East Cancer Research Intergroup (AMCI), the UAE Oncology and Radiation Therapy Association, and the Lebanese Hematology Oncology Association.

Dr. Jaafar has authored or co-authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts. He has also served as a principal or co-investigator in more than 24 regional and international phase II and III clinical trials, with a focus on breast, lung, and gynecologic malignancies.



**Ms. Zamayengwayo Mfusi**

Territory Manager  
Johnson & Johnson  
United Arab Emirates



Mfusi is a Dubai-based professional at Johnson & Johnson, bringing a strong commitment to innovation, professionalism, and continuous growth. She holds a background from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is actively engaged in building her career within a dynamic, purpose-driven environment. Zama is passionate about contributing to organizations that uphold strong values, clear vision, and a culture of leadership. She is dedicated to fostering creativity and learning, and aims to make meaningful contributions within innovative and collaborative settings.

With a focus on developing her expertise over time, Zama aspires to become a highly competent leader in her field. She is recognized for her integrity, sense of responsibility, and positive outlook, consistently demonstrating a willingness to learn, grow, and deliver impact in every role she undertakes.

### Oral Presenters` Biography



**Dr. Mamdoh Al-Ameri**  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgeon  
Karolinska University Hospital,  
Stockholm, Sweden



Dr. Mamdoh Al-Ameri is an accomplished thoracic surgeon with extensive clinical and academic experience at Karolinska University Hospital. He has played a key role in advancing minimally invasive thoracic surgery, particularly through the development and implementation of uniportal video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) techniques, including segmentectomy and lobectomy.

Dr. Al-Ameri has been instrumental in establishing subxiphoid uniportal VATS as a standard approach for thymectomy and the removal of mediastinal tumors. He also contributed to the development of VATS at Karolinska University Hospital, introducing the technique in 2012 and later leading the transition to uniportal VATS as the standard approach for anatomical lung resections by 2020.

In addition to his surgical innovations, he initiated a fast-track program in general thoracic surgery in 2018 to enhance patient recovery and outcomes. He is an active member of the hospital's trauma group and is dedicated to education, serving as a supervisor for postgraduate training in general thoracic surgery. Through his clinical leadership, innovation, and commitment to training, Dr. Al-Ameri continues to contribute significantly to the advancement of thoracic surgery.



**Dr. Parvin Akhmedov**  
Consultant, Thoracic Surgeon  
The Loginov Moscow Clinical  
Scientific Center, Russia



Dr. Parvin Akhmedov is a thoracic surgeon specializing in lung, esophageal, and mediastinal cancer surgery. He currently practices at The Loginov Moscow Clinical Scientific Center, where he has been working since 2020. He completed his residency in thoracic surgery at the N.N. Blokhin National Medical Research Center of Oncology (2017–2020) after earning his medical degree from I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University (2011–2017).

Dr. Akhmedov is the author and co-author of more than 30 scientific publications and serves as a reviewer for scientific journals. He is actively involved in clinical research, with multiple international conference presentations focused on lung cancer, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, and advanced treatment strategies for thoracic malignancies. He has also completed internships at leading clinics worldwide.

## Oral Presenters` Biography



**Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad**  
Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad  
Senior Clinical Fellow, Thoracic Surgery  
Glenfield Hospital, UK



Mr. Huzaifa completed his medical education in Europe before establishing his surgical career in the Republic of Ireland in 2016. Building upon a strong foundation of clinical practice, he moved to the United Kingdom to further specialise in Thoracic Surgery. Currently, He hold the position of Senior Clinical Fellow in Thoracic Surgery at Glenfield Hospital, where I contribute to complex thoracic surgical management and patient outcomes.



**Prof. Ramkaran Chaudhary**  
Professor and Chief, Thoracic Surgery Unit  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,  
Jodhpur, India



Prof. Ramkaran Chaudhary established the Thoracic Surgery Unit at AIIMS, Jodhpur introducing thoracic, thoracoscopic and robot-assisted thoracic surgery in Western Rajasthan. Presented multiple papers at National and International Conferences. Served as Organizing Secretary for ISTSCON 2025, held at AIIMS, Jodhpur.



**Prof. Khaldoon Abo Dakka**  
Cardiothoracic Surgeon,  
Prime Hospital, Dubai, UAE



Dr. Khaldoon Abo Dakka is a qualified General Thoracic Surgeon with a Doctorate Degree in Thoracic Surgery from Damascus University, works at Prime Hospital Dubai, with 20 years of experience in thoracic surgery field. Based in the United Arab Emirates since 2015, he specializes in various minimally invasive thoracic surgical procedures in adults and pediatrics, particularly Uniportal Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS) for Intrathoracic tumors and other thoracic conditions including Surgery of lung cancer, Thymus, pleural diseases, airways, diaphragm, and chest wall. His experience includes roles at renowned medical institutions.

## Poster Presenters

Poster 4.

**Modified Nuss Procedure in Patients with Severe Pectus Excavatum with a Haller Index Greater Than 7: A Case Series** by Dr. Mohammad Kenan Atasi

Poster 5.

**Minimally Invasive Resection of Large Mediastinal Thymomas: Comparative Review of VATS and Robotic-Assisted Surgical Approaches and Complications** by Dr. Maysoon Azzam

Poster 6.

**Clinical Implications for Risk Stratification in Thoracic Surgery: Preoperative Frailty and Sarcopenia as Predictors of Postoperative Outcomes Following Lung Resection** by Dr. Mr. Syed Aasim Syed Nasir

### About Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, occupying 84 per cent of the national landmass territory. It has 200 islands and a long coastline stretching 700km. Its total area is 67,340 sq. km. Abu Dhabi city in the emirate is the federal capital of the UAE.

#### Population

According to Abu Dhabi Statistics Centre The estimated population of the emirate around mid-2016 was 2,908,173 (comprising 1,857,618 males and 1,050,555 females). 551,535 were UAE nationals and 2,356,638 were expatriates. The average annual population growth rate for the years from 2010 to 2016 was 5.6 per cent.

#### Location and Geography

The emirate of Abu Dhabi lies on the coast of the Arabian Gulf and is bordered by Sultanate of Oman to the east, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the south and the west and the emirate of Dubai to the northeast. The three main regions of the emirate are:

- the city of Abu Dhabi
- Al Ain in the east
- Al Dhafrah (earlier known as Al Gharbia) in the west.

In the eastern region, to the south of Al Ain city is Jebel Hafeet - the emirate's highest peak (1,240 metres).

Al Dhafrah has seven main cities: Liwa, Madinat Zayed, Ghayathi, Ruwais, Mirfa, Sila and Delma Island.

The city of Abu Dhabi is connected to the mainland by four bridges: Maqta bridge, Mussafah bridge, Sheikh Zayed bridge and Sheikh Khalifa bridge.

#### Economy

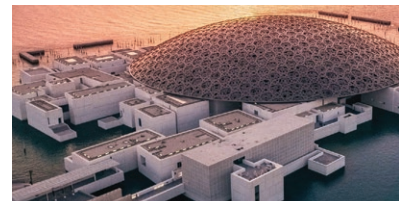
Over the recent decades, the emirate of Abu Dhabi has undergone a significant transformation in economic growth. Due to the vision of Abu Dhabi's leaders and the abundance of oil and natural gas reserves, the emirate has grown to become a dynamic hub and major competitor on the global stage. While recognising the success of the oil sector, Abu Dhabi is working hard to reduce its hydrocarbons reliance and broaden the emirate's economy. Investment in infrastructure, tourism, transport, health and education is continuing, in line with the government's 2030 economic plan. Tourism is playing an integral role in Abu Dhabi's economic development. Major investment in new luxury resorts and business hotels is underway. Abu Dhabi has many things to offer to its visitors and residents: a versatile landscape, thriving investment hub, and a friendly environment boasting one of the highest per capita incomes and one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

#### Touristic Importance

Abu Dhabi has become a centre for world-class sporting events such as: the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, the prestigious Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge cross-country rally and the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

In addition, the city will soon house the world's largest concentration of premier cultural institutions which will include the Sheikh Zayed National Museum, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is rich in natural wonders too. While the emirate's famous Liwa oasis in the south of the emirate is home to some of the largest and most beautiful sand dunes in the world, the garden city of Al Ain in the foothills of Jebel Hafeet is home to several heritage sites.



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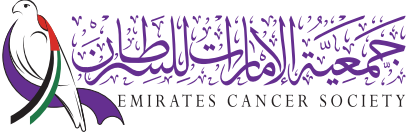


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