

1st Emirates International Congress in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

"Exploring Multidisciplinary Care Models in a world of Neurodiversities"



May 17 - 18, 2025



Sofitel Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

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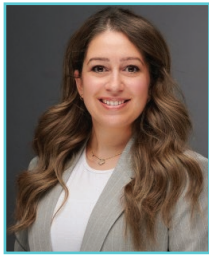
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Dr. Dalal Elsoni
Conference Chair



Dr. Zeinab Alloub
Conference Co-chair



Dr. Shola Faniran
Conference Co-chair



Dr. Viren A. D'Sa, MD
Conference Co-chair



Dr. Pamela High
Conference Co-chair

Welcome Message

Dear Colleagues,

It's with great pleasure and anticipation that we extend an invitation to attend the upcoming **"1st Emirates International Congress in Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics"** will be held on **17th - 18th May, 2025** at **Sofitel Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE**.

Our theme for this year's congress, **"Exploring Multidisciplinary Care Models in Children in a World of Neurodiversities"** underscores our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence. We have gathered a diverse group of experts and practitioners from around the globe to share their insights, research, and best practices. Together, we aim to ignite new ideas, inspire groundbreaking approaches, and drive forward the care of children with developmental and behavioral challenges.

The congress will encompass a broad spectrum of topics, featuring the latest evidence-based screening and assessment tools, comprehensive family-centered care, and innovative therapeutic interventions. It will also highlight ongoing research focused on addressing children's developmental challenges, presenting new treatment options. Additionally, the event will spotlight the latest advancements in AI-powered medical devices designed to support children with Behavioral and developmental disorders, including neurodevelopmental issues. The congress will also emphasize the role of multidisciplinary rehabilitation specialists and clinical psychologists in these fields.

We will explore cultural competence and diversity in the care of children with neurodiversities, importance of early intervention, and the integration of multidisciplinary care models into management planning. Furthermore, we will shed a light on innovative educational programs and advocacy efforts with respect to developmental and behavioural pediatrics in primary care and in subspecialty care.

We are particularly excited about the workshops on hot topics in developmental and behavioral pediatrics which aims at providing practical solutions to the challenges we face in our day-to-day practice. Additionally, this congress Covers an invaluable opportunity to network with peers, share experiences, and build professional connections that will enhance patient care.

We look forward to an enriching and productive congress and hope you leave with new knowledge, Skills and connections that will benefit your patients.

We look forward to having you join us in Abu Dhabi in May 2025.

Warm Regards.

Dr. Dalal Elsoni
Conference Chair
Consultant Development &
Behavioural Paediatrician
Maudsley Health Abu Dhabi, UAE

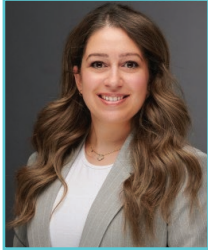
Dr. Zeinab Alloub
Conference Co-chair
Consultant Pediatrician
Neurodevelopment Al Jalila
Children's Hospital
Clinical Associate Professor, MBRU
Dubai, UAE

Dr. Shola Faniran
Conference Co-chair
MBBS, PhD, FRACP
Consultant Paediatrician &
Developmental Paediatrician
Adjunct Clinical Associate
Professor of Pediatrics, MBRU
Mediclinic Hospital, UAE

Dr. Viren A. D'Sa, MD
Conference Co-chair
Director, Division of Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics,
Hasbro Children's Hospital,
Rhode Island, USA

Dr. Pamela High
Conference Co-chair
Fellowship Program Director,
Division of Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics,
Hasbro Children's Hospital, USA

Committee Chairs



Dr. Dalal ElSORI
Conference Chair
Consultant Development & Behavioural Paediatrician
Maudsley Health
Abu Dhabi, UAE



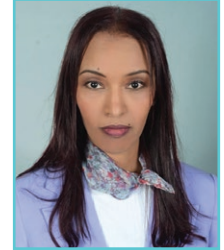
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Neurodevelopment Al Jalila
Children's Hospital
Clinical Associate Professor, MBRU
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi
Chair of the Advisory Board
IDIC Council, Pediatric Infectious
Diseases Consultant,
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
Senior Advisor, Hayat Biotech
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Dina Ahmed Saleh
MBBch, Msc, MD
Chair of Scientific Committee
Consultant Pediatric Neurology/
Head of Department
Reem Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Associate Clinical Professor (adj),
Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Professor of Pediatric Neurology
Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt



Ahlam Abbas Gadalla
Chair of Organizing Committee
President & CEO
Senior Medical Education Advisor
International Children Ambassador
NCL (Nicoland) World Academy,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Advisory Committee



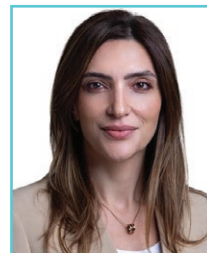
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Chair of the Advisory Board
IDIC Council, Pediatric Infectious
Diseases Consultant, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
Senior Advisor, Hayat Biotech
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Prof. Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi
Director of Research Development
Department of Health
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Fatima Abdullah Al Hammadi
Social Expert
Family Development Foundation
UAE



Ms. Nancy ElKaraan
Head of People of Determination Section
Abu Dhabi Department of Community Development
Abu Dhabi Government
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Rashed Arif Alnooryani
Early Childhood Policy Senior Specialist
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority
Ophthalmology Physician
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

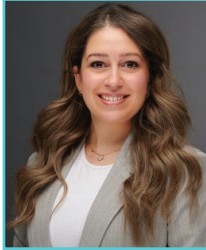


Mrs. Amna Ahmed Alhosani
Child Protection Lead Specialist
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Sedra Al Mansouri
Director of the People of Determination Services
Zayed Higher Organization for
People of Determination
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Organizing Committee



Dr. Dalal ElSori
Conference Chair
Consultant Development &
Behavioural Paediatrician
Maudsley Health
Abu Dhabi, UAE



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Conference Co-Chair
Consultant Pediatrician
Neurodevelopment Al Jalila
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Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Medhat Elsabbahy
Chair, Section on Psychiatric Rehabilitation WPA
Consultant Psychiatrist, Reem Neuroscience Centre
Head of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Division,
Arab Federation of Psychiatrists
Founder of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Unit
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Mr. Khaled Afifi
Chief Executive Officer
MENA CONFERENCE
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Zaid Al Aubaidi
Head of the Pediatric Orthopedic and Spine unit
Al Zahra hospital
Dubai, UAE

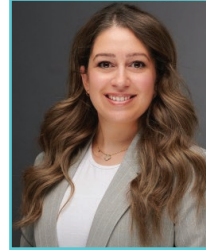


Mr. Waleed Mubarak Al Jneibi
Mental Health and Family Counseling Specialist
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Scientific Committee



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MBBch, Msc, MD
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Conference Co-chair
Fellowship Program Director,
Division of Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics,
Hasbro Children's Hospital, USA



Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician
Neuropedia Children's Neuroscience Center
Dubai, and Sharjah, UAE



Dr. Azhar Abu Ali
Consultation Liaison Mental Health Lead/
Senior Clinical Psychologist
Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital
Infant Mental Health Committee Chair-
ESCAM-WAIMH Affiliate
Dubai, UAE

Learning Objectives

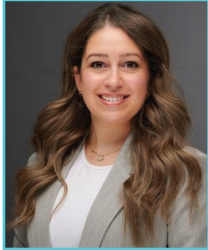
- Describe the latest evidence-based screening and assessment tools for early detection of neuro-developmental issues.
- Apply best practices in delivering comprehensive, family-centered care for children with neuro-developmental disorders.
- Address the unique needs of children with autism spectrum disorder
- Describe evidence-based therapies that optimize motor, cognitive, and behavioral functioning in children and adolescents with neuro-developmental differences.
- Design and implement interdisciplinary approaches to developmental rehabilitation, integrating various therapeutic modalities.
- Recognize and effectively manage co-occurring mental health conditions in children and adolescents with neuro-developmental differences.
- Implement evidence-based interventions and collaborative care models to support the overall mental well-being and positive behavioral outcomes of their patients.
- Develop and advocate for school-based initiatives that promote mental health and emotional regulation in pediatric populations with neuro-developmental disorders.
- Share research, innovative educational programs, and advocacy efforts with respect to developmental-behavioural paediatrics in primary care and in subspecialty care.
- Workshops on Hot Topics in behavioural and neuro-developmental Pediatrics to help you overcome key challenges of day-to-day practices.
- To meet peers and colleagues working in the same field, share experiences and build up networking for better patient service.
- Recognize the developmental Benefits of Expressive Art therapy.
- Benefits of Art Therapy for children with developmental challenges.

By achieving these learning objectives, the attendees of the 1st Emirates International Congress in developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics will be better equipped to provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and culturally responsive care for children and adolescents with a wide range of neuro-developmental and behavioral challenges in the UAE and the broader region.

Target Audience

- Pediatricians and Child Neurologists
- Developmental and Behavioral Pediatricians
- Neurodevelopment Paediatricians
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
- Rehabilitation Specialists (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists)
- Clinical Psychologists and Behavioral Therapists
- Teachers, counselors, administrators and School-Based Professionals
- Researchers and Academic Professionals
- Family Medicine & Family Physicians
- Families of children with neurodiversities
- Self advocates
- General pediatricians
- Genetic and metabolic specialists
- Genetic counselors
- Pediatric residents
- Nurses
- AI Experts/Technologists for Children Devices & Tools

Speakers



Dr. Dalal ElSori
Conference Chair
Consultant Development &
Behavioural Paediatrician
Maudsley Health Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Pamela High
Conference Co-chair
Fellowship Program Director,
Division of Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics,
Hasbro Children's Hospital, USA



Mrs. Amna Ahmed Alhosani
Child Protection Lead Specialist
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Tracey Ferguson
Head of Mainstream Schools Inclusion
Department of Education and Knowledge
ADEK
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Huda Sadek
MBBCh, MRCPCH
Consultant, Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Saqib Latif
MBBS, MA, FRCPsych
Consultant Child &
Adolescent Psychiatrist
Maudsley Health, UAE



Dr. Habib Abdullah
Paediatric Clinical Psychologist
Mubadala Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Mohamed Osman Eltahir Babiker
MBBS, DPH, MD, FRCPCH, CCT
(Paed Neurology)
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist
Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, UAE



Dr. Thanooja Naushad, PhD
Physiotherapy/NICU Intervention
Senior Physiotherapist
Latifa Hospital, Dubai, UAE



Dr. Shola Faniran
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MBBS, PhD, FRACP
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Neurodevelopment Al Jalila
Children's Hospital
Clinical Associate Professor, MBRU
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Sharifa Yateem
PhD, MSc, BCBA, JBA, CAS
Founder & Clinical Director
Sharifa Yateem Center for Rehabilitation,
UAE

Speakers



Ms. Nannette R. Wicker
MA, MOT, SIPT-C
Founder, CEO
Occupational Therapist
KidsFIRST Medical Center, UAE



Ms. Danielle Hadchith
Speech and Language Therapist
Kids Heart Medical Center,
Abu Dhabi UAE



Dr. Viren A. D'Sa, MD
Conference Co-chair
Director, Division of Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics,
Hasbro Children's Hospital,
Rhode Island, USA



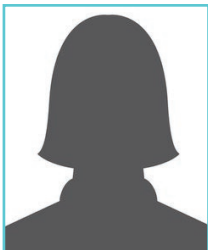
Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician
Neuropedia Children's Neuroscience Center
Dubai, and Sharjah, UAE



Dr. Alain Michel Sabri
MD, MPH, FACS
CEO, Avicenna Healthcare Consultancy Group
Professor of Otolaryngology-Head &
Neck Surgery CMO-EMEA, Health Quest Global,
UAE



Dr. Ruba Tabari
Consultant Educational Psychologist
Intercare Health Center /
The Developing Child Center, UAE



Ms. Nipa Bhuptani
Founder & Chief Values Officer
Applied & Behavioral Training Institute
UAE

Workshop Faculties



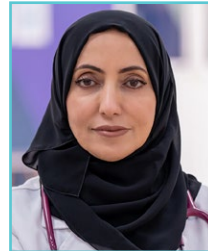
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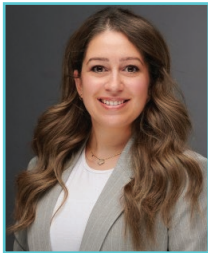
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Dr. Rashed Arif Alnooryani
Early Childhood Policy Senior Specialist
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority
Ophthalmology Physician
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



Dr. Emma Mills
Art Psychotherapist,
Associate Lecturer on the
Domestic Abuse MA
Goldsmiths College,
University of London, UK

Scientific Program

Agenda Day 1

17 May 2025, Saturday
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
07:30 - 08:30	Registration	
08:30 - 08:45	Welcome & Introduction	Dr. Dalal ElSORI, UAE
SESSION 1: Early Childhood Development Chairs: Xx		
08:45 - 09:00	Milestones and Red Flags in Early childhood Development	Dr. Dalal ElSORI, UAE
09:00 - 09:15	The Importance of Early diagnosis and Early Intervention (EI)	Dr. Pamela High, USA
09:15 - 09:30	Integrating Mental Health Awareness, Screening, and Referral Services in Educational Settings	Dr. Cairo Fatima Ali Arafat, UAE Mrs. Amina Ahmed Alhosani, UAE
09:30 - 09:45	The Role of Early Education Systems in Developmental Surveillance: Collaboration between schools and health providers	Dr. Tracey Ferguson, UAE
09:45 - 10:00	Panel Discussion	
10:00 - 10:30	OFFICIAL INAUGURATION	
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 2: Developmental Disorders Chairs: Xx		
10:45 - 11:00	Speech and Language delays: when to worry?	Dr. Huda Sadek, UAE
11:00 - 11:15	Emerging Trends in ADHD Medications/management: What's New?	Dr. Meshal Sultan, UAE
11:15 - 11:30	The Impact of Screen Time on Development in Young Children: Latest research findings	Dr. Binu George, UAE
11:30 - 11:45	Neurodiversity Lecture	Dr. Haitham ElBashir, UAE
11:45 - 12:00	Panel Discussion	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 3: Mental Health Chairs: Xx		SESSION 3: Role of community and childhood authorities in early childhood initiatives
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel		Turquoise Ballroom (P3 Level) Sofitel Hotel
13:00 - 13:20	Infant Mental health Dr. Azhar Abu Ali, UAE	12:55 - 13:00 Welcome Remarks Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi, UAE
13:20 - 13:40	Anxiety and Mood Disorders in Neurodivergent children Dr. Saqib Latif, UAE	13:00 - 13:20 Abu Dhabi Strategy for People of Determination: An emirate roadmap to achieve the inclusion of People of Determination Ms. Nancy ElKaraan, UAE
13:40 - 14:00	Development of Adolescence Dr. Ruba Rizk, UAE	13:20 - 13:40 The role of Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination in providing support services for children with disabilities in early childhood Ms. Sedra Al Mansoori, UAE
14:00 - 14:20	Role of Sleep in Pediatric Mental Health and Behavior: Effective sleep interventions for children with developmental delays Dr. Habib Abdullah, UAE	13:40 - 14:00 The Family Development Foundation's efforts to guarantee the long-term social development of children Dr. Fatma Abdulla Alhammadi, UAE
14:20 - 14:40	Panel Discussion	
14:40 - 15:00	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	

Scientific Program

Agenda Day 1

17 May 2025, Saturday
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
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SESSION 3: Role of community and childhood authorities in early childhood initiatives

Turquoise Ballroom (P3 Level) Sofitel Hotel

14:00 - 14:20 **Panel Discussion on How to streamline the efforts with medical facilities**

Moderator: Ms. Nancy ElKaraan
Participants:
Dr. Nawal Al Kaabi,
Dr. Dalal ElSori,
Dr. Fatma Abdulla Alhammadi,
Dr. Rashed Arif Alnooryani,
ADEK representative,
DOH representative,
Ms. Sedra Al Mansouri

14:20 - 14:40 Interaction between the audience, panel, and experts that presents scenarios and some of the family's experiences in addition to presenting "first step" application from Zayed Higher Organization

14:40 - 15:00 Summary of Future Recommendations

15:00 - 16:00 Conclusion

SESSION 4: Genetics/ Neurology

Chairs: Xx

15:00 - 15:20 Role of genetic testing in children with neuro-developmental condition Dr. Amal Altenajji, UAE

15:20 - 15:40 Metabolic work up for children presenting with developmental delay Dr. Hamda Abouhou, UAE

15:40 - 16:00 Movement Disorder Dr. Mohamad Babaker, UAE

16:00 - 16:20 Early Identification of children with cerebral palsy: latest updates? Dr. Thanooja Naurshad, UAE

16:20 - 16:40 **Panel Discussion**

16:40 **End of Day 1**

Scientific Program

Agenda Day 2

18 May 2025, Sunday
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
08:00 - 08:50	Registration	
08:50 - 09:00	Welcome & Introduction	Dr. Dalal ElSORI, UAE
SESSION 5: Autism Spectrum Disorder Chairs: Xx		
09:00 - 09:15	Diagnosing Autism: an evidence-based approach	Dr. Shola Faniran, UAE
09:15 - 09:30	CAM – ASD	Dr. Zeinab Alloub, UAE
09:30 - 09:45	ABA: The controversy (debunking some myths on ABA)	Dr. Sharifa Al Yateem, UAE
09:45 - 10:00	Transition to adulthood in children with autism	Ms. Neena Raina, UAE
10:00 - 10:15	Panel Discussion	
10:15 - 10:30	Best Poster Awards	
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 6: Comprehensive Care: Integrating Multidisciplinary Approaches through Ancillary Therapies Chairs: Xx		
10:45 - 11:00	Occupational Therapy: approach to sensory Processing	Ms. Nannette R. Wicker, UAE
11:00 - 11:15	Feeding problems in ND	Dr. Mpho Monese, UAE
11:15 - 11:30	Speech therapy topic: AAC	Ms. Danielle Hadchity, UAE
11:30 - 11:45	Gait Lab	Mr. Freddy Krishnan, UAE
11:45 - 12:00	Panel Discussion	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 7: Education /Resources /Research Chairs: Dr. Tracy		SESSION 7: Unlock the power of Art & music therapy for children with development disabilities: Benefits and challenges
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel		Turquoise Ballroom (P3 Level) Sofitel Hotel
13:00 - 13:20	Brain Development in the Early Years: Insights from neuroscience Dr. Viren Dsa, USA	12:55 - 13:00 Artistic and creative opening (KIDS) Dr. Dalal ElSORI, UAE
13:20 - 13:40	Breaking New Ground: Recent Research Advances/biomarkers in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics/ Autism Spectrum Disorder Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju, UAE	13:00 - 13:20 Early intervention with art therapy Ms. Sara Powel, UAE
13:40 - 14:00	Managing stress and avoiding burnout in Pediatric caregivers and educators: a new stepwise approach for wellness and prevention Dr. Alain Sabri, UAE	13:20 - 13:40 Case study of a child (Sensorimotor Art Therapy (SAT)) Ms. Chris Storm, Australia
14:00 - 14:20	Building Inclusive Education Systems Dr. Ruba Tabari, UAE	13:40 - 14:00 Art therapy benefits on children with emotional abuse Ms. Emma Mills, UK
14:20 - 14:40	Panel Discussion	14:00 - 14:20 Panel Discussion Moderator: Sara Powel Participants: Ms. Sara Powel Panelists: Ms. Chris Storm, Dr. Zeinab Alloub, Ms. Sara Powel, Dr. Lamees Bu Haleeqa, Ms. Emma Mills
14:40 - 15:00	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	

Scientific Program

Agenda Day 2

18 May 2025, Sunday
Crystal Ballroom (P2 Level) Sofitel Hotel

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
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SESSION 3: Role of community and childhood authorities in early childhood initiatives

Turquoise Ballroom (P3 Level) Sofitel Hotel

14:20 - 14:40	Healing developmental disorders with sounds (music therapy) (Creative Interactive session) Dr. Abeer Khidr
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14:40 - 15:00	Future of Art/ Music therapy in the region: How to move forward Moderator: Ahlam Gadalla Participants: Ms. Mariam Al Halawani, Dr. Awad Alyami, Dr. Wael Hassan, Dr. Abeer Khader
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15:00 - 15:20	Art therapy exhibition & life workshops
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SESSION 8: Empowering Families: Supporting Caregivers in Nurturing Development and Well-Being

Chairs: Xx

15:00 - 15:20	Parenting Through Challenges: Navigating Developmental Delays and Behavioral Issues	Ms. Nipa Bhuptani, UAE
15:20 - 15:40	Role of Evidence Based Programs in Supporting Parent and Child Wellbeing	Mrs. Nancy Merheb
15:40 - 16:00	My journey: A Self-Advocate's Perspective on Living with Autism	Self-advocate (US and local – c/o Dr. Haneesha)
16:00 - 16:20	United for Change: The Power of Parent Advocates and Support Networks for Children with Disabilities	Parent advocate/ support group leader
16:20 - 16:40	Panel Discussion	
16:40	End of the Conference	

1st Emirates International Congress in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics



May 17 - 18, 2025



Sofitel Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

How to Register



www.eidbcongress.com



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*Additional 5% VAT will be Applicable on all Fees

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- Seats are limited only for in-person / physical registration.
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Organizing Office

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Middle East North Africa Conference Company LLC

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Cancellation / Substitution Policy

If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate will be very welcome in your place. If this is not suitable, a 20% administration fee will apply. Registrations cancelled less than two weeks before the event are non refundable.

Event Venue



Sofitel Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

