



# National Arab American Medical Association Houston Chapter

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Samir N. Tuma, M.D.

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Distinguished Community Members,

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend and support the National Arab American Medical Association – Houston Chapter, (NAAMA) Ben Qurrah Medical Gala on February 4, 2023 at the Four Seasons hotel in Houston. Since its inception in 1975, NAAMA has been an all-inclusive association that acts as the voice of all Arab American health care professionals. Through educational, philanthropic and service activities, NAAMA promotes the professional development and cultural identity of healthcare professionals with roots or affinity to the Arab World.

Named for the 8th Century Arab Physician renowned for his work to modernize mathematics and medicine, the AAMA recognizes prominent scientists of Arab origin who have made major contributions to science, medicine and health care.

This year we are honoring:

**Dr. Hana El Shaly**, Professor of Molecular Virology and Microbiology and Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Baylor College of Medicine as the Houston honoree.



Dr. El Sahly is especially deserving of this award at this particular time because of the critical and prominent role her research played in the global success of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. As co-chair and co-first author of the study that first established the efficacy of the Moderna mRNA vaccine to prevent COVID-19, Dr. El Sahly's work has impacted national and global health policy, saving and improving the lives of millions around the globe. Studies she has conducted on other agents, such as remdesivir and baricitinib, have defined and will continue to define how persons hospitalized with COVID-19 are treated around the world and are cited in US federal and society treatment guidelines. She currently serves as the Principal Investigator of Baylor's Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit and chair of the FDA's Vaccine and Related Biological Product Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Elias Jabbour**, Professor of Medicine, Department of Leukemia, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as the National/International honoree.

Selected for his pioneering work in the field of leukemia, and responsible for several practice-changing discoveries that markedly improved outcomes for adult patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Treatments he has discovered were recently approved by the FDA and have become standard of care, and his transformative treatments for ALL and CML were endorsed by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and European LeukemiaNet (ELN). He regularly organizes seminars and educational forums in the Middle East, paying forward the advances in research garnered at MD Anderson.





**Dr. Zaina Al-Mohtaseb**, Cataract, Refractive, & Cornea Surgeon, Director of Research, Whitsett Vision Group, Clinical Associate Professor, Baylor College of Medicine as the Rising Star Award honoree.

Dr. Al-Mohtaseb will be the inaugural recipient of the NAAMA Rising Star award. Her leadership and dedication in the Arab-American community in the past decade have been inspiring. Academically, she has won national and international awards for her work in ophthalmology, and for adoption of innovative surgical techniques. She is the winner of Ophthalmology Management's National Top 40 Under 40, the International Award Ophthalmology's Power List - Top 100 Ophthalmologists, the American Academy of Ophthalmology National Achievement Award, BCM Women of Excellence Award & Excellence in Patient Care, the National Award Outstanding Leader in Ophthalmology, and the National Award Rising Star in Ophthalmology. She loves education and has won the BCM Dan B Jones Resident Teaching Award and is the Chair of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Young Eye Surgeon committee which serves to educate young surgeons nationally and internationally through lectures, webinars, and wet labs.



And from the 2020 pandemic selection:



**Dr. Nizar Tannir**, Endowed Ransom Horne, Jr. Professorship for Cancer Research at The University of Texas (UT), MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). He served as Deputy Chair (April 2012-February 2019) then as Chair ad interim (March 2019-August 2020) of the Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology.

Dr. Tannir is nationally and internationally renowned for his expertise in renal cell carcinoma (RCC). His expertise in RCC and novel trial design provided him with the opportunity to serve as steering committee chair and global principal investigator for several industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials, leading to FDA approval of several drugs for the treatment of kidney cancer. His translational research is focused on deciphering the molecular underpinnings of the common and rare types of RCC. He is the Founding President of the Renal Medullary Carcinoma Alliance and has been instrumental in bringing together researchers to accelerate discovery and novel therapies for this aggressive cancer.

Dr. Tannir received numerous awards at MDACC. He was voted Teacher of The Year six times. He received the Division of Cancer Medicine Gerald P. Bodey Award for Excellence in Education in 2013, the Waun Ki Hong Award for Leadership in Education in 2014, the Melvin L. Samuels Award for Excellence in Patient Care in 2014, the UT Cancer Foundation Faculty Achievement Award in Patient Care in 2016, the Distinguished Clinical Faculty Mentor Award in 2020, and the John Mendelsohn Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021. In 2017, Dr. Tannir received the Eugene P. Schonfeld Award from the Kidney Cancer Association, which is the highest award given for research in the RCC field.

Dr. Tannir has authored more than 300 manuscripts which received over 19,000 citations and has an h-index of 71. Many of his manuscripts were published in high-impact journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Annals of Oncology, Cancer Discovery, JAMA Oncology, Cancer Cell, Science Translational Medicine, and CA Cancer Journal for Clinicians. He contributed several book chapters and is Editor of two books, Renal Cell Carcinoma, published by Oxford University Press in 2014, and Rare Kidney Tumors/A Multidisciplinary Approach, published by Springer in 2019. Dr. Tannir mentored more than forty fellows and junior faculty who later joined academic centers in the US, Canada, France, Brazil, and the Middle East.



Since its inception, winners of this award included leaders in their medical or literary fields. Winners of past years were:

<b>Year</b>	<b>National /International Honoree</b>	<b>Houston Honoree</b>	<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>
1998	<b>Dr. Dawood Hanania</b>		<b>Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz</b>
2000	<b>Dr. Mohamad Ghoniem</b>	<b>Dr. Wadi Suki</b>	
2002	<b>Ramzi Cotran</b>		
2004	<b>Dr. Amin Arnaout</b>	<b>Dr. Hazem Safi</b>	
2006	<b>Sir Magdi Yacoub</b>	<b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b>	<b>Dr. Michael DeBakey</b>
2008	<b>Dr. Elias Zerhouni</b>	<b>Dr. Issam Raad</b>	
2010	<b>Dr. Francois Abboud</b>	<b>Dr. Hagop Kantarjian</b>	
2012	<b>Dr. Wafaa El Sadr</b>	<b>Dr. Michel Mawad</b>	
2014	<b>Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh</b>	<b>Dr. Raymond Sawaya</b>	
2016	<b>Huda Akil, Ph.D.</b>	<b>Dr. Hashem B. El-Serag</b>	<b>Dr. Samir Tuma</b>
2018	<b>Dr. Fadlo Khuri</b>	<b>Dr. William Zoghbi</b>	

The NAAMA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax ID number 76-0413463. Our mission is three-fold: humanitarianism, education, and cultural enrichment.

Over the past few years, the Houston Chapter has donated thousands of dollars to charities that benefit Arabs. NAMMA's donations have supported multiple humanitarian missions including relief efforts during recent hurricanes. On the education level, scholarships were awarded to applicants of Arab origin working or training in the medical field in Houston. These are meant to help further their efforts for higher medical education. NAMMA has hosted numerous presentations featuring recognized experts in health sciences during our lecture meetings. In addition, NAAMA has provided a forum for the congregation of Arab doctors and their families in Houston to meet and celebrate their common heritage and philosophies.

The Gala, our key fund-raising event of the year will host professionals from various fields of medicine with an anticipated attendance of approximately 350 including over 200 physicians and health professionals.

**We seek your support for this event as an underwriter.** Underwriter tables of 10 seats are available at the Gold level (\$10,000), Silver (\$5,000) and Bronze (\$3,000). Individual tickets are available for \$200. Sponsor a trainee ticket for \$150. Exhibit tables are available in the amount of \$2,500. At the Gold level, a complementary full-page color insertion of your advertisement in the 2023 Ben Qurrah Award Gala Program booklet is offered. At the silver level, a full-size black and white advertisement, half a page black and white one at the bronze level, are also complementarily offered.

We ask that your tax-exempt donation be made to "The Arab American Medical Association – Houston Chapter." There is no condition of purchase, use or recommendation of specific products associated with this request. There will be prominent acknowledgement of company support displayed in the booklet distributed to all attendees the evening of the event and display space will be provided depending on levels of support.

Thank you in advance for your support, which will enable the NAAMA to expand professional relationships, medical knowledge and charity across America, Arab countries and the world.

Sincerely,

Nidal Moukaddam, MD, PhD  
NAAMA Houston President  
Associate Professor, Menninger Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Ben Taub Adult Outpatient Services Director  
Medical Director, Stabilization, Treatment & Rehabilitation (STAR) Program for Psychosis