



POEM 4th Scientific Meeting

**"Harnessing Regional
Strengths to Improve Equity,
Access, and Quality Care"**

MAY 1-3, 2025 | AMMAN, JORDAN

Syllabus



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
MEDICAL CENTER
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت



St. Jude Global



مركز الحسين للسرطان
King Hussein Cancer Center

General Information

Program Overview

POEM (<https://www.poemgroup.org/>) is a collaborative pediatric oncology regional group, formed in 2013 as a cooperative platform for physicians, scientists, and healthcare professionals from institutions in the Middle East, North Africa, and West Asia region, with the goal of sharing experience, initiation of cooperative studies, and establishing common strategies to achieve optimization of the care of pediatric oncology patients. POEM carries out several educational activities throughout the year, including educational symposia, workshops, and a biannual Scientific Conference.

Scientific Meeting Learning Objectives

By the end of the event, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss advancements in pediatric oncology research and clinical practice
2. Foster multidisciplinary approaches: and collaboration among pediatric oncologists, researchers, and other healthcare professionals to provide holistic care
3. Strengthen capacity building and enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare professionals through training and professional development opportunities
4. Promote policy and advocacy efforts that support pediatric oncology care and research
5. Enhance data sharing and research collaboration to advance the understanding of pediatric cancers and improve treatment protocols
6. Establish metrics and evaluate frameworks to measure the impact of conference initiatives and ensure continuous improvement in pediatric oncology care
7. Identify and address disparities and inequities in pediatric oncology care, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to treatment and resources for all patients in the region
8. Explore strategies for utilizing regional resources to improve pediatric oncology outcomes

Target Audience

This activity is designated for physicians, scientists, nurses, pharmacists, foundations and healthcare professionals involved in childhood cancer care and research.

Format and Date

Format: In person

Date: April 30, 2025 (pre-conference workshops)

Scientific meeting: May 1-3, 2025

Venue: InterContinental Hotel- Amman, Jordan

In addition to the Scientific Meeting Program, four workshops will take place: AI for the Pediatric Oncology and its application in Neuroradiology (Open for Registration), Retinoblastoma Workshop (Closed by invitation), Nursing Workshop (Closed by invitation) and Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity & Trunk Sarcomas: Local Control Workshop (Open for registration).

Activity Director

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Vice-President, Japanese Society for Quantum Medical Science

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Scientific Program

Pre-Conference Workshop

April 30, 2025

**AI for Pediatric Oncology and its application in
Neuroradiology – Limited Places**

Objectives

1. Illustrate the real-world impact and value of AI in a clinical pediatric oncology setting.
2. Explore the AI lifecycle in neuroradiology from idea inception, dataset development, team building, validation, and potential clinical approval.
3. Emphasize the ethical and regulatory considerations of implementing AI in healthcare.
4. Discuss applications of AI in radiological image analysis, including inference, evaluation, and clinical workflows.
5. Demonstrate how to prompt and interact with AI models effectively.
6. Introduce the basics of Python for data and AI applications.
7. Familiarize participants with the Hugging Face Transformers framework.

Target Audience

Young pediatric oncologists, fellows, nurses, pharmacists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals with beginner coding or technical skills who are interested in AI.

For detailed workshop program, [click here](#).

Harnessing Regional Strengths to Improve Equity, Access, and Quality Care

Retinoblastoma Workshop

Objectives

1. Present global perspectives on access to care for children with retinoblastoma.
2. Review diagnostic approaches and pathological features relevant to early and accurate detection.
3. Discuss current and advanced treatment modalities, including systemic and localized chemotherapy.
4. Explore the role of genetics and screening in predicting disease onset.
5. Highlight successful models of care, such as the KHCC experience, for adaptation across the region.
6. Identify research priorities and opportunities specific to the POEM region.
7. Foster exchange of regional experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions from member countries.
8. Promote sustainable collaboration among healthcare providers and institutions working on retinoblastoma.

Target Audience

Ophthalmologists, pediatric oncologists and fellows, pathologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists and health care workers involved in retinoblastoma care.

For detailed workshop program, [click here](#).

DAY 1

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

8:00–8:30 am

Registration

8:30–9:30 am

Meet the Expert Sessions (Two Sessions in Parallel)

Session 1

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Raul Ribeiro

Session 2

Recent Advances: Infantile Leukemia ALL

Iman Sidhom

9:30–9:35 am

Opening Remarks

Rawad Rihani

SESSION 1

Registry/Data Analysis, Quality Improvements and Metrics

Moderators

Venkatraman Radhakrishnan and Iyad Sultan

9:35–9:55 am

POEM in 2025: Challenges and Achievements

Gevorg Tamamyan (POEM president)

9:55–10:20 am

Harnessing Data for Progress: The Role of Registries and Data Metrics in Pediatric Oncology Advancements

Nickhill Bhakta

10:20–10:45 am

Advanced Data Analysis Techniques in Pediatric Oncology Research

Meenakshi Devidas

10:45–11:10 am

Poster Session – Coffee Break

11:10–11:30 am

PROFILE implementation and Moving Forward With Dashboard and Regional Benchmarking

Paola Friedrich

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Status of ProFILE within the POEM region: Experience from Jordan, Pakistan and KSA

Rawad Rihani, Jordan

Alia Ahmad, Pakistan

Omar Chamdine, KSA

12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00–1:45 pm

Panel Discussion: Leveraging Data Analysis and Metrics for Pediatric Oncology Improvement in the POEM Region

Moderator

Mustafa Tezer Kutluk

Panelists

Khaled Ghanem

Venkatraman Radakrishnan

Sanjeeva Gunasekera

Meenakshi Devidas

SESSION 2

Innovations in Pediatric Transplantation and CAR-T: Strategies for Implementation and Growth

Moderators

Zainul Aabideen Kandy and Amr Qudeimat

1:45–2:05 pm

Bone Marrow Transplantation: Advances and Cellular Therapy

Leslie Lehmann

2:05–2:25 pm

Updates: Haploidentical BMT in Children; Alternate BMT and Alpha Beta Depleted Transplant

Brandon Triplett

2:25–2:45 pm

Establishing a CAR T-cell Program in India (Status in the POEM Region)

Gaurav Narula

2:45–3:05 pm

CAR T-cells Basics: How to Establish a CAR T-cell Program

Brandon Triplett

3:05–3:25 pm

Poster Session– Coffee Break

SESSION 3

From Research to Reality: Clinical Trials, Implementation Science, and Pediatric Leukemia Care

Moderators

Sima Jeha and Iman Sidhom

3:25–3:50 pm

Bridging Gaps in Pediatric ALL care: Disparities and Challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Asim Belgaumi

3:50–4:15 pm

Implementation Science in Leukemia

Caitlyn Duffy

4:15–4:40 pm

Clinical Trials in Limited resources

Victor Santana

SESSION 4

Oral and Poster Presentations (Non-CME)

Moderators

Roula Farah and Nasir Zain

4:40–5:30 pm

Oral Presentations of the Top Abstract Winners

5:30–5:45 pm

POEM's Ambassadors Recognition

5:45–6:30 pm

Poster Presentations– Session 1 (non-CME)

DAY 2

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

8:00–9:00 am

Meet the Expert Sessions (Two Sessions in Parallel)

Session 1

Soft Tissue Sarcoma

Raya Saab

Session 2

Neuroblastoma

Victor Santana

SESSION 1

Advocacy, Equity and Access in Pediatric Oncology Care

Moderators

Gevorg Tamamyan, Siham Cherkaoui and Abdulhakim AlRawas

9:00–9:20 am

Innovations in Increasing Access to Pediatric Oncology Treatment

Scott Howard

9:20–9:40 am

Strengthening Partnerships: Collaborative Models for Advancing Pediatric Oncology Care: APHOG Experience

Akira Nakagawara

9:40–10:00 am

Advancing Global Pediatric Oncology: St. Jude's Role in Bridging Disparities

Catherine Lam

10:00–10:40 am

Panel Discussion: Breaking Barriers: Strategies for Achieving Equity and Access in Pediatric Oncology Care

Moderator

Gevorg Tamamyan

Panelists

Sima Jeha (St. Jude)

Giuseppe Troisi (WHO)

Ishtar Espejo Castella` (Aladina Foundation)

Mayya Assaad (BASMA Association)

Nisreen Qatamish (KHCF)

10:40–11:00 am

Poster Session– Coffee Break

SESSION 2

Utilization of Regional Resources for Improvement

Moderators

Syed Ahmer Hamid and Ayhan Dağdemir

11:00–11:40 am

Education in Pediatric Oncology: Fellowship Programs, Expertise Exchange between Centers: International and regional experiences

Daniel Moreira (International)

Asim Belgaumi (Regional)

11:40 am–12:00 pm

Collaborative Strategies for Resource Sharing and Capacity Building: Updates on the Osteosarcoma Project

Ruzanna Papyan

12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch Break

SESSION 3

Stories That Heal: Harnessing Qualitative Research to Advance Childhood Cancer Care

Moderator

Tharwa Bilbeisi

1:00–1:20 pm

Turning Stories into Science: The Importance of Qualitative Research in Advancing Cures for Children with Cancer

Dylan Graetz

1:20–1:40 pm

Qualitative Health Research with Children: Just the Same as Research with Adults?

Gemma Bryan

1:40–2:00 pm

Qualitative Research with Refugee Populations in the Middle East

Richard Harding-Swale

2:00–2:50 pm

Panel Discussion: Qualitative Research

Moderator

Tharwa Bilbeisi

Panelists

Dylan Graetz, Gemma Bryan, Richard Harding–Swale, QR Abstracts Winners

2:50–3:20 pm

Poster Session– Coffee Break

SESSION 4

Transforming Care in Blood Disorders: Gene Therapy, Lifelong Impact of Childhood Cancer, and Advancing Treatment Strategies

Moderators

Miguel Abboud and Hasan Hashem

3:20–3:45 pm

Gene therapy (Hemoglobinopathy) and bleeding disorders

Rabi Hanna

3:45–4:10 pm

Sickle cell disease: Clinical, Research and intervention Program

Parul Rai

4:10–4:35 pm

The Lifetime Impact of Childhood Cancer and Cancer Therapy

Gregory Armstrong

SESSION 5

Poster Presentations (Non-CME)

4:35–5:30 pm

Poster Presentations– Session 2

DAY 3

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

SESSION 1

CNS Tumors Redefined: Advances in Diagnosis, Novel Therapies, and Regional Access

Moderators

Nilgün Kurucu, Nisreen Amayri and Ayman Saleh

8:00–8:20 am

CNS Tumors and New Classifications

David Ellison

8:20–8:40 am

Novel Therapies– Low Grade Glioma Brain Tumors

Ibrahim Qaddoumi

8:40–9:00 am

Access to Novel Therapies in the POEM Region

Julieta Hoveyan

SESSION 2

Global Comfort Promise Improvement Science in Action (ISIA) Program

Moderator

Hiba ALTarrah

9:00–9:20 am

Palliative Care (Initiative with WHO in the Region)

Michael McNeil

9:20–9:40 am

Global Comfort Promise Improvement Science in Action– Regional Impact and Lessons from the Region: Experience from Jordan and Pakistan

Anwar Al-Nassan (Jordan)

Sadaf Altaf (Pakistan)

9:40–10:00 am

Coffee Break

SESSION 3

Pediatric Lymphoma: Innovations and Equity

Moderator

Faiha Bazzeh

10:00–10:20 am

Lymphoma: Leveraging Regional Assets for Enhanced Equity, Accessibility, and Quality Care
Burça Aydın

10:20–10:40 am

Updates on Hodgkin Lymphoma
Matthew Ehrhardt

SESSION 4

Optimizing Antibiotic Use: Stewardship and MDR Bacteremia Management in Pediatric Oncology

Moderators

Hani Saleh and Neriman Sari

10:40–11:00 am

Updates in the Management of Multidrug Resistant Bacteremia in Children with Cancer
Riham Abdelaziz Khedr

11:00–11:20 am

Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Children with Cancer and its Impact to Combat AMR
Sheena Mukadda

SESSION 5

Global Child Health

11:20 am–12:40 pm

Panel Discussion: Collaborating for Systems-level Change to Enhance Global Child Health

Moderators

Julie Laveglia
Brooke Happ

Panelists

St. Jude Global Scholars:
Venkatraman Radakrishnan
Alia Ahmad
Sanjeeva Gunasekera

Closing Session

12:40–1:00 pm

Closing Session: Call to Action: Commitments for Collaborative Efforts Going Forward
Rawad Rihani

1:00–2:00 pm

Lunch Break

Post-Conference Workshop

May 3, 2025

Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity & Trunk Sarcomas: Local Control Workshop

Objectives

1. To comprehend the principles, indications, procedures, and challenges associated with radiotherapy for extremity and trunk sarcomas.
2. To gain insight into the role of surgery in treating extremity and trunk sarcomas, as well as the associated challenges.
3. To understand the selection and sequencing of local control modalities in common tumors such as NRSTS, RMS, Osteosarcoma, and Ewing's sarcoma.
4. To highlight the importance of multidisciplinary management of these tumors and emphasize the early involvement of all disciplines—pediatric oncology, surgery, and radiation oncology—in the decision-making process.

Target Audience

Trainees and consultant in pediatric oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology and orthopedic surgery.

For detailed workshop program, [click here](#).



Organized By

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