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**> 1000 members
from 28 countries**

Designed based on the latest UN map: <https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/profite/world.pdf>
South Sudan has not yet been determined.
represents approximately the Line of Control
Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan.
of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been

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Dr. Rawad Rihani

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Message from POEM group President-Elect Dr. Rawad Rihani



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pride and renewed optimism that I welcome you to this edition of the **POEM Newsletter** — a platform that reflects our shared vision, scientific progress, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children with cancer across the Eastern Mediterranean region and beyond.

POEM continues to thrive as a unifying regional network — one that bridges institutions, disciplines, and nations under a common goal: **equitable access, quality care, and collaborative progress in pediatric oncology**. Through education, research, advocacy, and humanitarian engagement, we are building a model of cooperation that continues to inspire and transform outcomes.

Most recently, we had the honor of celebrating a highly successful and well-attended **Fourth POEM Biennial Conference**, held in Amman, Jordan, from May 1–3, 2025, bringing together **more than 350 delegates from over 24 countries**. The conference, themed *"Harnessing Regional Strengths to Improve Equity, Access, and Quality Care,"* featured sessions on **registry development, quality metrics, leukemia implementation science, transplantation, gene therapy, survivorship, and advocacy**. Pre-conference workshops addressed **AI in pediatric oncology, retinoblastoma, nursing leadership, and sarcoma management**, highlighting POEM's commitment to regionally relevant, multidisciplinary education and collaboration.

Looking ahead, **POEM** aims to **expand its reach to more countries and institutions**, ensuring that all pediatric oncology professionals in the region can benefit from shared learning and collaboration.

Message from POEM group President-Elect Dr. Rawad Rihani

Our vision is to **increase membership engagement**, promote cross-border **capacity-building**, and establish new opportunities for **training, mentorship, and research participation**. Strengthening partnerships with national cancer programs, regional societies, and global initiatives will remain central to our efforts — empowering more teams to deliver world-class, resource-adapted care to children with cancer, wherever they are.

As we move forward, I invite all **POEM** members, partners, and trainees to remain actively engaged — to share your innovations, contribute to our committees, and help us extend POEM's reach to new frontiers. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more connected, and more equitable pediatric oncology community for our region and beyond.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Rawad Rihani, MD, MS (GCH)

President-Elect, Pediatric Oncology East & Mediterranean (POEM)

"POEM Group offers numerous opportunities that align with its mission and vision to continuously improve Pediatric oncology care and research in the Eastern Mediterranean region"

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POEM Training Committee is pleased to share that, this year, there has been the addition of the **Aga Khan Cancer Centre** as a new POEM training center to offer **short-term training**. This marks a significant step in expanding our network and strengthening oncology training capacity across the region.

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POEM held its **18th Business Meeting** alongside the Fourth Scientific Conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, Jordan, on **April 30th, 2025**. The meeting included discussions on POEM's activities, Bylaws and future plans, as well as updates from the POEM Committees' Chairs.

POEM's 4th Scientific Meeting: At a Glance!



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



St. Jude Global



مركز الحسين للسرطان
King Hussein Cancer Center



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



Amman, Jordan



**~ 350
attendees
from 24
countries**



**April 30
May 1-3, 2025**



In-person



**InterContinental
Hotel**



POEM 4th Scientific Meeting was held in Amman, Jordan with the theme: ***"Harnessing Regional Strengths to Improve Equity, Access, and Quality Care"***. Dr. Rawad Rihani served as the Conference Chairperson.

[**CLICK HERE for the full program**](#)



POEM- 5th Nursing Workshop

Fostering Excellence and Equity in Care through Shared Regional and International Collaboration

April 30, 2025 | Amman, Jordan

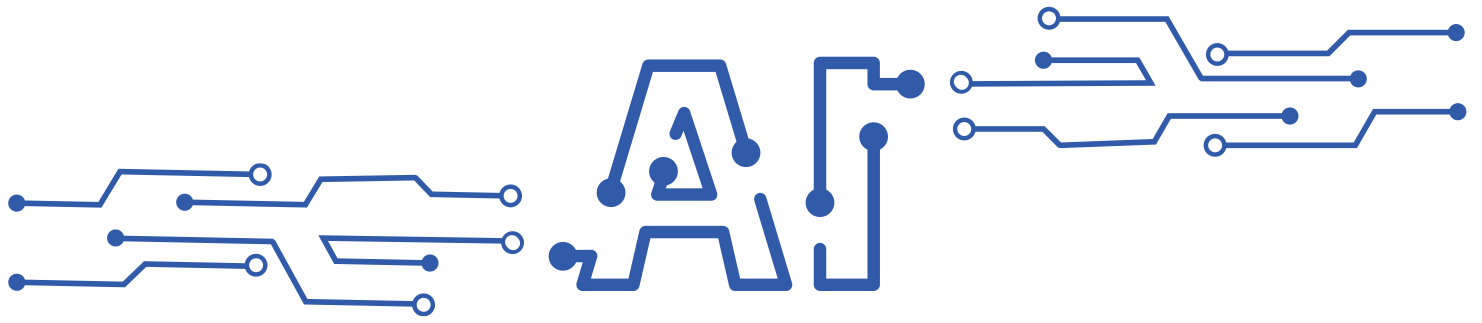
by:

Khaled Al Habaybia, MSGCH, MSHA, BSN, RN
Chairperson, Nursing Care Working Group
Ambassador of POEM – Al Ain, U.A.E

The 5th Nursing Workshop, held in Amman on April 30, 2025, brought together **68 nurses from 20 countries, alongside 10 distinguished speakers**, to engage in a rich and collaborative learning experience. Organized by the Pediatric Oncology East & Mediterranean (POEM) in partnership with St. Jude Global Nursing Department, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) Nursing Department Clinical and Professional Development Center, and the Healthcare Professional Development Center (HPDC), the event marked a milestone in advancing pediatric oncology nursing across the region.....

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AI for Pediatric Oncology and its application in Neuroradiology

April 30, 2025 | Amman, Jordan

by:

Iyad Sultan, MD

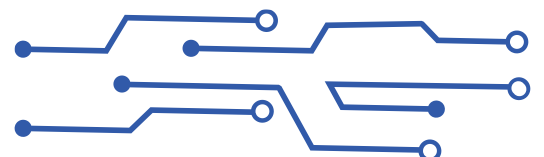
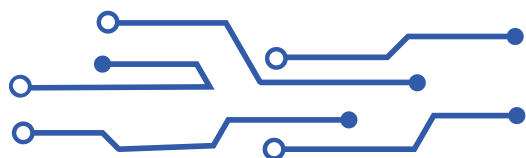
Full Member, Department of Pediatrics (KHCC)

Chief AI Officer (KHCC)

Workshop Overview

On April 30, 2025, we successfully conducted the workshop "AI for Pediatric Oncology and its Application in Neuroradiology" as a pre-conference event to POEM's 4th Scientific Meeting. This intensive, hands-on workshop was designed for young pediatric oncologists, fellows, nurses, pharmacists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals with beginner-level technical skills who are interested in artificial intelligence applications.....

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POEM 4th Scientific Meeting
Retinoblastoma Workshop
April 30, 2025 | Amman, Jordan

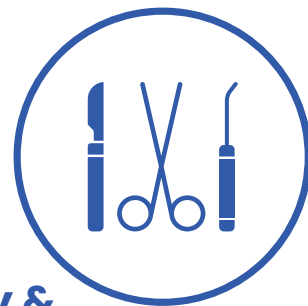
by:

Hadeel Halalsheh, MD
Retinoblastoma Workshop Chair
Consultant, Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist
Head, Solid Tumor Service
Director, Pediatric Residency Program

The Retinoblastoma Workshop, chaired by Dr. Hadeel Halalsheh, opened with a warm and inspiring welcome that set the tone for a day of knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and renewed commitment to improving outcomes for children with retinoblastoma across the POEM region. Dr. Halalsheh emphasized the power of regional strengths, early detection, and global partnerships to transform care and reduce disparities. She acknowledged the generous support of the POEM Group and the St. Jude Global Retinoblastoma Team and welcomed international guests to Amman with gratitude and enthusiasm.....

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POEM 4th Scientific Meeting
**Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity &
Trunk Sarcomas Local Control Workshop**

May 3, 2025 | Amman, Jordan

by:

Bilal Qureshi, MBBS, FCPS, MS
Workshop Chairperson
Aga Khan University, Pakistan

The Local Control Workshop on Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity & Trunk Sarcomas was a successful highlight of the post-conference events at 4th POEM Scientific meeting in Amman, Jordan on May 03, 2025. The agenda was thoughtfully designed by surgical and radiation oncologists with the objectives of developing insights into the intricacies of local treatment decision making using radiotherapy and surgery, understanding the principles of management of sarcomas and critical decision-making points. The goals included collaboration among surgeons, radiation oncologists and pediatric oncologists in managing truncal and extremity sarcomas.....

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Closing Remarks

POEM Communication Committee Chair: Dr. Tezer Kutluk



As we come to the end of another **newsletter**, we take this opportunity to highlight and sincerely appreciate the efforts of all who contributed—not only to this issue, but to the many activities and achievements realized over the past period by our colleagues, partners, and supporters. These milestones stand as proof of what collective efforts can accomplish beyond borders.

As we move forward into a new chapter, and in recognition of **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**, **POEM** continues to remind us of the importance of working together to advance knowledge, strengthen care, and support the children and families who inspire us every day. Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is more than a time of recognition—it is a call to action, urging us to transform awareness into progress and hope.