

AUGUST 2020

NAAMA Newsletter



A message from the President

Dear members,

As we are still in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic, I would like to extend a word of gratitude to everyone who is working to combat the virus while putting their lives at risk.

NAAMA National and its chapters have been taking great steps to keep our members safe and informed at the same time. Therefore, we are going to have our **National Medical Convention this year in a virtual format**. We will have a one-day lecture program with CME, free to all, provided the participant's membership is current. The convention will be **on Saturday October 24, 2020 at 8:00 AM Pacific Standard Time**.

The Delegates Meeting will also be held virtually (date to be announced soon). In the meantime, please save the date and stay tuned for more details.

Our COVID-19 Task Force and NAAMA NextGen have been providing virtual town halls and lectures with experts from the US and the Arab world, discussing the effects of the Coronavirus on multiple aspects of our lives. The sessions are posted regularly on our website and social media outlets.

The COVID-19 Giving Campaign raised \$4,250 so far thanks to your generosity. Please, continue to donate. The money is going to support communities in need in the US and the Arab World. Check out the Foundation News to learn more about the grants that were dispersed so far.

Please renew your membership and stay connected by visiting our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.



Sincerely,

Imad Shbeeb, MD, FASCRS

NAAMA Foundation News

GRANTS APPROVED TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS IMPACT IN THE US AND THE ARAB WORLD:

1. 70 dialysis machines donated by Henry Ford Health System. The machines are used yet in good working condition. NAAMA will pay for the packing and shipping expenses to deliver them to ANERA in Lebanon where they will be distributed amongst multiple locations in the country.
2. A \$10,000 grant to Amel Association International to support their program "Amel's Response to COVID-19: Screening Mobil Unit". The organization works in multiple locations in Lebanon and serves Syrian and Palestinian refugees and low-income Lebanese communities.
3. A \$10,000 grant to Arab American Family Services to support their program "AAFS COVID-19". The organization serves Arabs and other minorities in the South Suburban Chicagoland area.

4. A \$5,000 grant to Questscope in Syria to help in their efforts to assist over two million internally displaced persons to secure, food, shelter and sanitation.
5. A \$10,000 grant to ANERA to support medical institutions' response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Gaza Strip.
6. A \$10,000 grant to ANERA to support a youth jobs program in Lebanon that is focused on the production of masks for use by Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese people in vulnerable communities.
7. A \$20,000 grant to support merit and need-based scholarships for 3 Arab- American medical students and one Arab-American dental student, as part of NAAMA's NextGen initiative.
8. A \$10,000 grant to the Arab-American Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) in Dearborn, Michigan to support 800 refugee families in southeastern Michigan who have been impacted by the economic crisis. ACCESS is providing food support, help to find jobs, and other social services.

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE OUR MISSION AND DONATE GENEROUSLY.

[Click to donate to the COVID-19 Giving Campaign](#)

NextGen News

- The Wayne State University School of Medicine WSUSOM NAAMA NextGen Chapter is collaborating with the Wayne State University NAAMA NextGen Chapter and Arab American Health Initiative (AAHI), a local nonprofit organization, to host a two-part series on Women in Healthcare. Our goal is to create a space for students and health professionals to discuss how we can challenge the Arab cultural stigma of women in the workforce. At the first event, on August 8th from 1:00 - 2:00 PM, we are interviewing successful female leaders in healthcare, including our very own Dr. Rouba Ali-Fehmi, who will shed light on their experiences and the social transition of accepting women in leadership. The second event is on August 15th from 1:00 - 2:00 PM where we are inviting male and female healthcare professionals who will share ways to advocate for Arab American Women in Healthcare and build a supportive community for all. Please join the conversation and join the movement. RSVP link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-UW-aAP5psYEHvk1qSLQ1JReWunBWWsHhhc0Fx_45B-XvQg/viewform
More information and testimonials from current health care providers can be found on our [Instagram page](#).
- The California NAAMA NextGen Chapter is working hard to plan a few upcoming events. On August 22nd the chapter is hosting a Resume Workshop, and on August 29th an Interview Workshop. Please join us!
- The New Jersey NAAMA NextGen Chapter is making great progress on the COVID-19 research project, engaging many members and student volunteers, under leadership of Dr. Mahmoud Aqel. In addition, the chapter is hosting an event on August 9th at 12 PM titled "The Science of Exercise". Please join us!
- The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Central Michigan University and School of Medicine, Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, and Florida NAAMA Nextgen Chapters are also meeting and finalizing details on various projects that will begin soon. Stay tuned for more updates!

Chapter Events

San Diego Chapter

The San Diego Chapter, through our student volunteers, continues to support a [Community Outreach Program](#) designed to assist our residents most affected and at risk of COVID-19. This program is designed for our older adults who are isolated and/or practicing social distancing.

The San Diego Chapter joined San Diego State and county public health officials in the [Communities Fighting COVID program](#) to train and recruit community health workers and students from the Arab community to bolster contact tracing efforts in the region.

The San Diego Chapter is actively involved with the [COVID-19 Equity Task Force of San Diego County](#). A collaboration of professional, government, and community stakeholders organized to discuss, advocate, and implement equitable strategies to address the disproportionate negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic is inflicting on the racially diverse and highly impacted communities in San Diego County. Our Chapter is firmly advocating for the Arab community in San Diego county.

San Diego Chapter physicians volunteered time to answer questions about COVID-19 from Arabic and Chaldean speaking audience of the [Chaldean Radio](#) in El-Cajon with scientific and medical information fighting myths and misinformation. Many of our members were guests on the radio with a mission of promoting health and education for the community.



Los Angeles Chapter

- Started a Facebook account to educate the Arab community in our area about medical issues (Supervisor is Dr. Rafif Mousa)
- Working on Zoom lecture: COVID-19 most recent updates
- Connecting with old LA members to encourage them to REJOIN NAAMA

New York Chapter

Our New York chapter is remodeled, restructured and re-energized. We are excited about bringing back our previous members and reaching out to our current members. This is to support members' needs and interests. We have a new membership informational forum and will be sending an email addressing any questions for potential new members. This will give those who are interested a way to easily get in touch with the New York State chapter. We are all unified in the direction we are taking. Our goal is to fulfill chapter members needs and interest while attempting to grow the chapter. As chapter president, I want to thank everyone for their tremendous effort and energy. A special thanks to Ream, Moustafa, Taysir & Khalid. It also goes without saying thank you to Rouba and our National Office!

With Gratitude,

Sherif El Bayadi, Chapter President

Upcoming Events:

NAAMA National Medical Convention, (Virtual with CME), Saturday October 24, 2020.

NAAMA Delegates Meeting, (Virtual), date to be announced soon.

NAAMA International Medical Convention, Morocco, Summer 2021.

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