

DECEMBER 2020

NAAMA Newsletter



A message from the President

Dear NAAMA Colleagues,

The year 2020 is coming to an end. It has been a challenging year, but just like all of you brave, honorable medical workers, NAAMA stayed the course and remained active and productive. We continued to provide information and updates on the pandemic in the form of town halls, conventions, Post on our social media outlets in addition to our philanthropic work. Although we could not hold our in-person national and international conventions, we held our first very successful virtual convention in October. Over the course of 2 days, speakers from around the world provided their expertise and knowledge about the coronavirus pandemic and offered the latest data and best ways to deal with its effect on various aspects of our lives. The convention was free and offered 10 CME hours to NAAMA members. We are thankful for the impressive work the convention committee has done along with the 50 speakers.



Our delegates meeting also took place virtually on December 9th, with nine chapters present. The NAAMA business meeting discussed the organizational work during the year and approved the 2021 International Convention, to be held during the 4th of July Break in Morocco, and the National Convention, to be held over Labor Day weekend in Southern California. We are planning to monitor the virus spread and the vaccine results and modify our plans accordingly, if needed. Stay tuned for our future announcements.

In addition, and due to COVID-19, the NAAMA Board of Directors has approved the extension of the serving period of both the Executive Committee and the Foundation Board for one more year/term. Therefore, there will be no election held in December 2020.

We are very proud of our NAAMA Foundation that arranged for the donation of 81 dialysis machines to be delivered to Lebanon, which was hit especially hard with the economic situation paired with the Beirut Port explosion. I also want to thank you on behalf of NAAMA Leadership for your donations to the Beirut Emergency Appeal that the Foundation spearheaded. We were able to send \$119,450 to the Lebanese Red Cross thanks to your generosity and compassion.

Finally, please renew your and your spouses' memberships before the end of the year to take advantage of the tax break, and stay connected by visiting our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts and our [YouTube Channel](#).

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Imad Shbeeb, MD, FASCRS
NAAMA President

Surviving the Global Pandemic

NAAMA 42nd International Medical Convention (Oct 24 & 25, 2020)

Due to the Coronavirus situation, NAAMA had to cancel its planned in-person International Convention and National Convention. Instead, NAAMA held its 1st virtual convention on October 24 and 25, 2020, with 5 hours each day and 165 attendees. The convention was free and offered 10 CME hours to NAAMA members. With two distinguished keynote speakers, Dr Tala Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman Founder of TAG Global Jordan, and special guest speaker Mr. Michael J. Nyenhuis, President and CEO of UNICEF USA, in addition to 50 experts from around the world, the convention earned the title of International Convention and covered the pandemic effects on multiple levels from mental health, to dental and oral health, to the influence of the pandemic on the students and medical graduates, to the pharmaceutical role, to the financial effect to global healthcare and the role of philanthropy, to world updates and the latest research. The recording of both days is available on Facebook on both [NAAMA Page](#) and [NAAMA Group](#) and our [YouTube channel](#). At the end of day two, the winners of NAAMA Best Manuscript Award were announced. They each received a scholarship of \$5,000 and got a chance to present their published paper. During day one, a parallel dental session offered 1h CME to its attendees.

Surviving the Global Pandemic

NAAMA 42nd International Medical Convention



Thank you

NAAMA Moderators

					
Imad Shbeeb MD, FASCRS <small>NAAMA President</small>	Omar Lattouf MD, PhD <small>NAAMA Foundation Chair, Convention Co-Chair</small>	Rouba Ali-Fehmi MD <small>NAAMA NextGen Chair NAAMA Past President Convention Co-Chair</small>	Imad Sabbagh DDS <small>NAAMA Vice-President Dental Session Chair</small>	Nidal Moukaddam MD, PhD <small>NAAMA CME Director</small>	Yaman Kaakeh Pharm.D <small>NAAMA Office Manager</small>
					
Nabil Khoury MD <small>NAAMA Past President</small>	Omar Fehmi <small>NAAMA NextGen National Core</small>	Osama Kashlan MD, MPH	Mohammad Tina Pharm.D <small>NAAMA CME Director</small>		

+ NAAMA Virtual Conference

NAAMA Foundation 2020 Report

Thanks to your support and generosity the Foundation dispersed the following grants and donations:

Donations/Grants		
Beneficiary	Amount	Cause
ACCESS, MI	\$ 10,000.00	COVID-19 Basic Needs Emergency Relief
ANERA - Gaza	\$ 10,000.00	COVID-19 Emergency Response in Gaza
ANERA - Lebanon	\$ 10,000.00	COVID-19 Response for Lebanon
Questscope to Syrian Society for Social Development - Syria	\$ 5,000.00	Mental Health and Psychological Support to Conflict Affected Communities in Syria
NextGen	\$ 20,000.00	4 Student Scholarships
Arab American Family Services, IL	\$ 10,000.00	AAFS COVID-19
Life for Relief and Development, MI	\$ 12,744.70	Shipping 81 Dialysis Machines to Lebanon
Amel Association International - Lebanon	\$ 10,000.00	Amel's Response to COVID-19: Screening Mobile Unit
Lebanese Red Cross	\$ 119,450.00	Beirut Port Explosion Emergency Relief
Total	\$ 207,194.70	

CME News

NAAMA continues to be a licensed CME provider. In 2020, NAAMA held its first virtual convention. The attendees gained a total of 10 hours. In addition, several chapters held their own virtual lectures and attendees gained CME according to each event. NAAMA is in the process of applying for a license renewal in 2021.

NAAMA Delegates Meeting

NAAMA held its business meeting virtually on December 9, 2020. Delegates from 9 chapters were present. A total of 50 members were in attendance. The Delegates went over NAAMA's work in 2020 and approved the 2021 International Convention, to be held during the 4th of July break in Morocco, and the National Convention, to be held over Labor Day weekend in Southern California.

NextGen News

Our NAAMA NextGen Chapters have been very busy and productive for the last few months. Congratulations to our leaders and members on all their hard work!

The University of Michigan Undergraduate hosted events such as the Michigan Med School Student Panel, MCAT Prep Q&A, and the Vaccine Townhall. The University of Illinois Dental School hosted a community holiday chocolate distribution. Oakland University Undergraduate hosted a panel on medical and dental school with Oakland Alumni. Central Michigan University Undergraduate and Medical School hosted a mentorship event to learn more about medical residency. Wayne State University Undergraduate hosted mentorship meetings and held a community volunteering event with the World Health Organization. Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine served a free clinic within their community. Wayne State University School of Medicine sponsored a session of their institution's Diversity Week titled "Identities and Intersectionalities." Michigan State University College of Human Medicine hosted a post-election debrief event on Healthcare Policy and Advocacy with Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and raised over \$1,300 for "Keys for Syrian Kids."

NAAMA NextGen Students for Yemen has fundraised \$19,450, and we are hoping to hit \$20,000 as funds continue to trickle in.

A large part of the project was the social media campaign which aimed to educate on the Yemen crisis and culminated in a "bingo" fundraising graphic. For this segment, we had involvement from over 45 student organizations and 440 educational Instagram posts. Other projects done by student organizations involved with Students for Yemen include a sticker decal sale by the organization Global Marks, which resulted in the sale of 75 NAAMA/Yemen themed stickers, a gift card raffle by NAAMA NextGen UMich with over a hundred entries, and a virtual running event done by the Michigan Running Club in collaboration with UNICEF UM, which had over 9 additional running clubs involved with 110 participants.

We are so proud of our NextGen chapters and are excited for what is to come in the next few months!

Chapter Events:

San Diego Chapter was a key organizer of the [San Diego Arab and Muslim Community Coalition](#), which recently held its fourth biennial Community Forum last week. This year's forum took place in the unprecedented Zoom fashion due to COVID-19 and public health concerns. The forum was attended by various prominent community members, including representatives of elected officials and local figures. We presented a [video](#) of the frontline Arab-American health care workers facing COVID-19, as well as highlighting the response of Arab and Muslim-American communities to COVID-19.

Saint Louis Chapter is adding another episode on their YouTube channel talking about the coronavirus vaccine.

Follow Saint Louis Chapter news on their [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Los Angeles Chapter held 2 virtual CME lectures: “SARS_CoV-2, COVID 19 Updates” and “The Coronavirus: Changed Our Lives Or Changed Our World”.

Michigan Chapter is starting an educational series for the community. The following topics have been covered:

Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Dr. Bishr Al-Ujayli)

What is Going on in our Emergency Rooms During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Dr. Nabil Khoury)

Checkout the frequent updates about the coronavirus and the vaccines on NAAMA Michigan’s [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

Upcoming Events:

Save the date, details to follow

NAAMA International Medical Convention, Morocco, 4th of July weekend 2021.

NAAMA National Convention, Southern California, Labor Day weekend 2021.

[Click to renew your membership before the end of 2020](#)

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