

BUSINESS COUNCIL REPORT

الوطنية للتصلب المتعدد National Multiple Sclerosis Society



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Nov 2024



Fast Facts

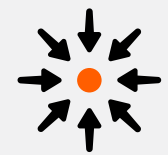


Founded In
2022



Created to

better the lives of people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and their communities in the U.A.E. through education, advocacy and advancing global efforts to finding a cure for MS



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NMSS's Programs

**Workplace Awareness
U.A.E. Treatment Guidelines for MS
Research Grant
Talks**

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National Multiple Sclerosis
Society

U.A.E.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Established in 2022 under the Ministry of Community Development, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) is a U.A.E.-based NGO created to better the lives of people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and their communities in the U.A.E. through education, advocacy, and advancing global efforts to finding a cure for MS.

NMSS is governed by a board of trustees, advised by a local and international Strategic Advisory Committee and Medical Advisory Committee, and supported by MS ambassadors and volunteers. Together, they ensure that people living with MS have access to high quality care and get the guidance they need through reliable resources.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society works with leading national medical institutions and renowned global partners to build a trusted network of healthcare providers and support organizations. The society aims to raise awareness of MS, create a holistic ecosystem for the MS community in the U.A.E., and provide support and resources for individuals affected by MS.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Programs

Workplace Awareness

Workplace Awareness is an educational program aimed at creating an inclusive and informed work environment by raising awareness about MS. This program will be following research and publication of a whitepaper documenting the experiences of Patients with Multiple Sclerosis (PwMS) in the workplace and employer perspectives on inclusivity in the U.A.E. NMSS will also serve people with MS as a target audience, delivering advocacy workshops across both physical and virtual platforms.

U.A.E. MS Treatment Guidelines

The U.A.E. MS Treatment Guidelines are aimed at developing clinical treatment guidelines for MS tailored specifically to the U.A.E. healthcare system. Recognizing the wide variations in health insurance coverage and the diverse preferences of patients and providers regarding treatment, this program seeks to establish a unified and effective approach to managing MS within the unique context of the U.A.E.

Research Grant

In June 2023, NMSS launched its first-ever call for research proposals, promising to offer grant funds totaling \$544,514 USD to projects that aligned closest with its mandates and priorities, and that address some of the key questions and challenges surrounding MS in the U.A.E. These priorities focus on innovative treatments to combat MS, as well as understanding clinical characteristics, epidemiology, incidence, and prevalence of MS in the U.A.E., along with the role of genetics in the disease.

The society received 12 applications in response to its initiative, with six research projects being selected as grant award winners from 5 leading research institutions in the U.A.E., include Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, NYU Abu Dhabi, and Harley Street Medical Center, amongst others.

The second research grant cycle 2024 - 2025 for MS research has received 46 applications. This represents an annual growth rate of over 280% in the number of applications received.

Talks

This program facilitates discussions across different platforms and formats, both physically and virtually. Themed discussions for and by the people living with MS, with the presence and support of decision-makers, experts and professionals in various fields are delivered. The purpose is to provide guidance, support and MS-related education within different community settings, while providing an opportunity for the decision-makers and the society to hear directly from people living with MS about their needs and challenges. Talks also provide opportunities to meet and build an MS community across the U.A.E.

Leadership

The NMSS operates under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, who serves as the vice-chair of NMSS alongside H.E. Ahmed Al Shamsi, and Maral Alexandrian, who serves as the partnerships and fundraising director and acting director of NMSS.



H.E.
Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi

Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi serves as the director general of the newly established Emirates Drug Establishment. She concurrently holds the position of Executive Director of the Abu Dhabi Bone Marrow Transplant Program (AD-BMT©) at Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Center since 2019 and serves as the vice-chair of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees. Dr. Al Kaabi is a prominent figure in the U.A.E.'s healthcare sector.

Her academic background includes an MPH from Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and an MSc in Cancer from University College London in 2012. Additionally, she completed her fellowship in hematology at the Royal Free Hospital in the United Kingdom.

Previously, Dr. Al Kaabi held various leadership positions, including Executive Director of Emirates Genome and Health Affairs at the Abu Dhabi Executive Office (ADEO) and Head of Adult Hematology/Oncology and Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi. Across her roles, Dr. Al Kaabi continues to contribute significantly to the healthcare sector, utilizing her expertise and commitment to drive positive change and advancements in the field.



H.E. Ahmed Al Shamsi

H.E. Ahmed Taleb Al Shamsi, appointed CEO of the Emirates Foundation in September 2019, is a prominent leader in youth empowerment. With a strong background in leading youth development programs and fostering partnerships, he has also been the vice-chair of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees since its inception.

In addition to his role at the Emirates Foundation, Al Shamsi serves as Director of the National Experts Program at The Crown Prince Court Abu Dhabi – Office of Strategic Affairs. He spearheads efforts to establish a sustainable mentorship model for youth and advises on government policies.

Previously, Ahmed chaired the Abu Dhabi Youth Council and was the first U.A.E. UN Youth Ambassador. He led the launch of numerous youth empowerment programs and centers, aligning with the vision of H.H. Sheikh Zayed al Nahyan.

As Secretary of the Abu Dhabi Global Shapers community, Al Shamsi coordinates programs and played a key role in hosting SHAPE MENA in Abu Dhabi. He has also overseen major events such as Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi and the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi opening.

Al Shamsi holds a degree in International Relations from the American University of Washington DC, with additional qualifications from Georgetown, Oxford, Harvard, Columbia, and the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst.



Maral Alexandrian

Maral Alexandrian, currently serving as the partnerships and fundraising director and acting director of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, brings over 15 years of extensive work experience in the U.A.E. Maral's professional journey commenced in Finance and Consulting, where her innate ability to connect people and cultivate meaningful relationships became apparent. With a deep-rooted passion for the environment and community, Maral has consistently demonstrated a talent for fostering partnerships that contribute to a sustainable ecosystem.

Her dedication to bringing together the right partners has resulted in impactful collaborations, elevating the NMSS's mission and driving positive change. Maral's expertise lies in nurturing fruitful relationships and leveraging her network to achieve shared goals, making her a valuable asset in advancing the organization's mission.

Maral holds an MBA from the University of Cambridge.

Website

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
www.nationalmssociety.ae



Social Media

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/nmssocietyuae>

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YouTube

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