

Editorial



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This is a special issue of the journal that concentrate on highlight of conferences and academic activities in the region. There is a special announcement of the coming one day seminar in geriatric in Kuwait in celebration of WHO international elderly day on Oct 1st 2024. The seminar will take place in Dar Al Shifa Hospital in Kuwait which is a hybrid event and there are no registration fees.

There are two volunteer academic organizations that play key roles in developing and promoting geriatric education in the region which include The Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing & The Middle East & North Africa Association of Aging & Alzheimer's.

The Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing was founded in 2002 to stimulate the development of health care services for older people in the region. It was established by a number of professors and teachers from the Middle East and Europe. The Model of MEAMA was taken from the European Academy for Medicine of Ageing (EAMA). The mission of MEAMA is to create a hub for education and training in the field of ageing in the Middle East.

Abyad Medical Center and Middle East Longevity Institute were instrumental in organizing the first course of the MEAMA. Over the previous years, several reputable official governmental, regional and international organizations helped in the development of the academy including The Health Ministers' Council for the Cooperation Council States, Ministry of Health in Bahrain, The European Academy for Medicine of Ageing, The European Union of Geriatric Medicine Society, the Geriatric Medicine Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, medi+WORLD International, Multimedia Medical University, Al Jinan University, Azm & Saade Association, Hamad Medical Corporation, National Guard National Health Affairs -King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences and others. In 2018 MEAMA entered in close collaboration with International Institute on Ageing-United Nation-Malta. Most recently Medical Faculty of University of Monastir, Tunisia is collaborating with MEAMA. All certificates and Diploma carries the three logos of MEAMA, INIA and University of Monastir.

So far the academy had done seven Advanced Postgraduate Courses in the field of Age & Aging. The course is directed towards physicians, nurses, social workers, and health care officers, responsible for the health care of older people. In addition to faculty members of medical, nursing, social and physiotherapy schools interested in developing the field of geriatrics and gerontology. The complete program aims to increase scientific, clinical, educational and managerial competences in medical gerontology. A certificate is issued by the Group of Executive Board of the MEAMA after successfully conclusion of the four sessions.

The second session of the eighth postgraduate course took place in person between March 16th to 17th, 2023. The third session will be a hybrid session and it will coincide with the how to stay young seminar in Kuwait.

The Middle East & North Africa Association of Aging & Alzheimer's is a Regional Association with a membership base comprising, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals from the MENA and elsewhere.

MEAAA (Middle East Association on Aging & Alzheimer's) was first established in Lebanon in July 2005. It was established to improve the quality of life of the Region's older people by sharing research results on health, welfare, and rights, functioning as a Regional network to achieve the goal. MEAAA has contributed to and organized five regional Middle East Congresses on Age & Alzheimer's, the last one was held in Tripoli in April 2018. There are current existing regular members and organization members.

Recently we felt that there is a need for a wider umbrella to address the increased need of aging in the MENA Region. Therefore the name and the structure of MEAAA will be changed. The new name is Middle East and North Africa Association of Aging & Alzheimer's (MENAAA).

This year the MEAMA and MENAAA are continuing with the two course the regular postgraduate certificate course in Geriatric and the Dementia cycle

1. Dementia course was well received in the MENA Region therefore we will continue with the third and fourth sessions between 2024-2025.

2. We will continue the sessions for the postgraduate course in Geriatric we are in the eighth cycle and the plan is for two sessions to finalize the course

We renewed our agreement with INIA where we are the Satellite center for INIA for the MENA region however owing to funding problem, INIA will not be contributing financially to MEAMA in the coming three years.

We are including at the end the abstract booklet of the 5th National congress of Geriatrics and 5TH Euro Med Geriatric meeting that took place in Tunisia between 18 to 19 May, 2024. The theme of the conference was Healthy Ageing. The conference is organized by the Tunisian society of geriatrics in collaboration with International Institute of Ageing INIA, and Internal association of gerontology IAGG and Middle East and North Africa Association of Ageing and Alzheimer's MENAAA and Murghab Academy for Medicine of Ageing.