


# University of Chicago Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy Conference

 28<sup>th</sup> September  
2024

 Rosewood Hotel,  
Abu Dhabi UAE



Accredited for **7.0 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**  
by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing  
Medical Education (EACCME®)



## Welcome Message



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to invite you to the **University of Chicago Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy Conference**, which will take place on **September 28th, 2024**, in a hybrid format at the exquisite **Rosewood Hotel, Abu Dhabi UAE**.

This conference is designed to provide a comprehensive one-day program centered around the latest advancements in Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy research, with a specific focus on Pediatrics and Adults. Renowned faculty members from the University of Chicago Medicine, alongside esteemed regional experts from the Gulf Region, will grace the occasion, ensuring the delivery of cutting-edge insights into the field of Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy. Attendees can expect to immerse themselves in a rich state-of-the-art advancements and groundbreaking discoveries.

The conference serves as an ideal platform for clinicians to engage in enlightening discussions and acquire in-depth knowledge about the latest breakthroughs in the treatment of Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy. It offers a unique opportunity to stay abreast of current challenges while exploring remarkable scientific and clinical developments in the field.

With a remarkable lineup of distinguished speakers, the conference emphasizes the importance of fostering collaboration on both regional and international levels. The exchange of professional expertise among participants from around the globe is certain to catalyze transformative outcomes and advancements in the field of Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy.

The chosen venue for this event holds immense symbolic importance, as it stands at the crossroads where Asia, Africa, and Europe converge. This geographical advantage facilitates the seamless exchange of knowledge and ideas from diverse corners of the world, enriching the conference experience.

At the core of our mission lies a deep commitment to the well-being of patients and the continuous professional growth of healthcare providers. We firmly believe that this extraordinary learning opportunity will provide you with passionate perspectives that will expand your knowledge and inspire you to elevate the quality of care you provide to your patients.

We eagerly anticipate your esteemed presence on September 28th, 2024, in the captivating city of Abu Dhabi. This event holds unparalleled significance and should not be missed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr. John Cunningham**  
Conference Chair,  
George M. Eisenberg Professor of Pediatrics  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Physician-in-Chief, University of Chicago  
Medicine Comer Children's Hospital  
UChicago Medicine

## Scientific Committee



**Sonali M. Smith, MD**

Elwood V. Jensen Professorship of Medicine  
Chief, Section of Hematology/Oncology  
UChicago Medicine



**Michael R. Bishop, MD**

Professor of Medicine,  
Director, Hematopoietic Stem Cell  
Transplantation Program,  
UChicago Medicine



**John M. Cunningham, MD**

George M. Eisenberg Professor of Pediatrics  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Physician-in-Chief, University of Chicago  
Medicine Comer Children's Hospital  
UChicago Medicine



## Organizing Committee



**Diala Atassi, MBA**

Executive Director,  
International Programs  
UChicago Medicine



**Ziad Abdulhak, MD**

Director, Business development  
International Programs  
UChicago Medicine



**James Bae**

Director, Business Development  
International Programs  
UChicago Medicine



**Dr. Muhammad Faisal Khanani**

Chief, Division of Pediatric Hematology  
and Oncology  
Consultant Pediatric Oncology  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



## Speakers



**John M. Cunningham, MD**  
George M. Eisenberg Professor of Pediatrics  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Physician-in-Chief, University of Chicago  
Medicine Comer Children's Hospital  
UChicago Medicine



**Michael R. Bishop, MD**  
Professor of Medicine,  
Director, Hematopoietic Stem Cell  
Transplantation Program,  
UChicago Medicine



**James LaBelle, MD**  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Director, Pediatric Stem Cell and Cellular Therapy  
Program, University of Chicago Medicine, USA



**Alexander T. Pearson, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Medical Oncologist, Hematology and  
Oncology (Cancer) Immunotherapy,  
University of Chicago Medicine, USA



**Sonali M. Smith, MD**  
Elwood V. Jensen Professorship of Medicine  
Chief, Section of Hematology/Oncology  
UChicago Medicine



**Daniel Olson, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Hematology and Oncology (Cancer),  
University of Chicago Medicine, USA



**Lindsay Schwartz, MD**  
Instructor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology  
& Oncology, University of Chicago Medicine  
Comer Children's Hospital, USA



**Adam DuVall, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Hematology and Oncology (Cancer)  
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology  
(Pediatric Cancer),  
University of Chicago Medicine  
Comer Children's Hospital, USA



**Hatoon Ezzat, MD**  
Director, Blood Services Administration, MOH  
Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia  
Consultant Hematologist  
Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH)



**Sondus Ibrahim AlSharidah, MD**  
Director, Paediatric Stem Cell Transplant Program  
Ministry of health, Kuwait  
Chairman of Pediatric Haematology Oncology  
Department, Head of SCT Unit,  
NBK specialized Children's Hospital, Kuwait



**Shahrukh Hashmi, MD**  
Director of Research Development,  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi UAE



**Mohamed AlAmeri, MD**  
Section Head Studies and Special Projects,  
Department of Health, Abu Dhabi UAE



**Mohammed Al Nuaimi, MD**  
Consultant Physician, Pediatric Hematology  
and Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant and  
Cellular Therapy, Adjunct Assistant Professor,  
College of Medicine and Health Sciences,  
United Arab Emirates University,  
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, UAE



**Zainul Aabideen, MD**  
Consultant and Head of Pediatric Hematology,  
Oncology and BMT, Burjeel Medical City  
Abu Dhabi, UAE





## Conference Objectives

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the latest advancements in Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy research.
- Explore the specific applications of Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy in the context of Pediatrics and Adults.
- Acquire knowledge of cutting-edge treatment modalities, techniques, and therapies in the field of Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy.
- Understand the challenges and emerging trends in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of Blood Cancer.
- Explain the latest breakthroughs in gene therapy and its potential in cancer treatment.
- Identify the role of personalized medicine and targeted therapies in the management of Blood Cancer.
- Discuss and evaluate the ethical considerations and regulatory framework surrounding gene therapy.
- Engage in interdisciplinary discussions with renowned faculty members and regional experts to foster collaboration and exchange of professional expertise.
- Enhance clinical decision-making skills by incorporating the latest research findings and evidence-based practices in Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy.
- Foster professional growth and inspire a patient-centered approach to care through exposure to passionate perspectives and innovative approaches in the field.

## Conference Highlights

- Advances in targeted therapies for Blood Cancer.
- Immunotherapy approaches in Blood Cancer treatment.
- Gene editing and gene therapy techniques in the context of Blood Cancer.
- Molecular diagnostics and biomarkers for Blood Cancer.
- Precision medicine in the management of Blood Cancer.
- Updates in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for Blood Cancer.
- Emerging trends in CAR-T cell therapy for hematologic malignancies.
- Pediatric Blood Cancer and Gene Therapy: Challenges and breakthroughs.
- Ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks in gene therapy research.
- Integrating genomic data and precision oncology in Blood Cancer treatment.

### 2023 CONFERENCE GLIMPSE



## Target Audience

- Hematologists and Oncologists
- Geneticists and Genetic Counselors
- Researchers and Scientists
- Pediatricians
- Hematopathologists
- Radiologists
- Clinical Trial Investigators
- Biotechnology
- Residents and Fellows
- Physiotherapists
- Rehabilitation Specialists
- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Healthcare Administrators and Policy Makers
- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Academics
- Patient Advocates and Support Organizations
- Regulatory Authorities and Policy Makers

## Key Features

- Comprehensive Program
- Renowned Faculty
- Regional and International Experts
- Interactive sessions
- Cutting-Edge Research
- Multidisciplinary Approach
- Case-Based Learning
- Latest Technological Advances
- Networking Opportunities
- Patient-Centered Care
- Continuing Education Credits

# Agenda

Saturday, September 28, 2024

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
08:00-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:15	Welcome speech	Dr. Ziad Abdulhak, USA
09:15-09:30	Soft Opening - Introduction About University of Chicago Medicine	Ms. Diala Atassi, USA
09:30-10:00	Official Inauguration	
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break / Exhibition Visit & Networking	
<b>SESSION 1</b>		Session Chair: Dr. John Cunningham
10:15 - 10:35	Emerging therapeutic strategies for high-risk pediatric leukemias	Dr. John Cunningham, USA
10:35 - 10:55	Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Fertility Preservation	Dr. Lindsay Schwartz, USA
10:55 - 11:15	Stem Cell Transplantation and Gene Therapy Approaches to Sickle Cell Disease	Dr. James LaBelle, USA
11:15 - 11:30	Q & A/ Panel Discussion	
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee Break / Exhibition Visit & Networking	
<b>SESSION 2</b>		Session Chair: Dr. John Cunningham
11:45-12:05	The Comprehensive Care of Adolescent Young Adult with Hematologic Malignancies	Dr. Adam DuVall, USA
12:05-12:25	Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation from HLA-matched sibling donors in children. Single Centre Experience from the UAE	Dr. Zainul Abideen, UAE
12:25-12:45	Expanding Horizons: Developing CAR-T Manufacturing Capabilities in New Regions	Dr. Sondus AlSharidah, Kuwait
12:45-13:00	Q & A/ Panel Discussion	
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break / Exhibition Visit & Networking	
<b>SESSION 3</b>		Session Chair: Dr. Michael Bishop
14:00-14:20	The Emirati Genome Program	Dr. Mohamed AlAmeri, UAE
14:20-14:40	Update of CAR T Cells and Bispecifics for Hematologic Malignancies	Dr. Michael Bishop, USA
14:40-15:00	IHBD registry and role in health transformation	Dr. Hatoon Ezzat, KSA
15:00-15:20	Adoptive Cell Therapy for Solid Tumors	Dr. Daniel Olson, USA
15:20-15:35	Q & A/ Panel Discussion	
15:35-15:50	Coffee Break / Exhibition Visit & Networking	
<b>SESSION 4</b>		Session Chair: : Dr. Michael Bishop
15:50-16:10	Regulatory framework for In-Vivo and Ex-Vivo Gene Therapies for systemic disorders	Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi, UAE
16:10-16:30	Integration of machine learning/AI into oncology (focus on head and neck cancers)	Dr. Alexander Pearson, USA
16:30-16:50	Post-Transplant Care	Dr. Mohammed Al Nuaimi, UAE
16:50-17:10	New treatment approaches in lymphoma	Dr. Sonali Smith, USA
17:10-17:25	Q & A/ Panel discussion	
17:25-17:40	Case Discussion	
17:40-17:45	Closing remarks	
17:45	End of Conference	

# 2023 Conference Glimpse

University of Chicago Oncology Conference for Adults & Pediatrics  
17-18 February, 2023 | Grand Hyatt Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**250**  
Virtual  
Delegates

**12**  
CME Credits

**247**  
In Person  
Delegates

**20**  
Speakers

**24**  
Lectures

**2**  
Days  
Hybrid Event

## HIGHLIGHTED SESSIONS

### Adults:

- Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Cell Therapy
- Stomach Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Brain Tumors
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Pediatric Case Discussion (4-5 cases)

### Pediatric:

- Blood Cancer
- Pediatric Leukemia & Lymphoma
- Pediatric Brain Tumor
- Neuroblastoma/Sarcoma
- Neuroblastoma/Cancer of the nerves
- Cancer of Bone and soft tissues
- Pediatric Case Discussion (4-5 cases)



## DELEGATES

## PARTICIPATION FROM **22** COUNTRIES

### PHYSICAL ATTENDEES - 247

Qatar-1  
Germany-1  
KSA-1  
USA-18  
UAE-226

International - 21  
Domestic - 226

### VIRTUAL ATTENDEES - 250

Azerbaijan-1  
Bahrain-7  
Canada-1  
Egypt-5  
France-1  
India-3  
Iraq-1

Jordan-1  
Kuwait-2  
Saudi Arabia-12  
Lebanon-1  
Oman-6  
Pakistan-6  
Palestine-1

Philippines-3  
Qatar-12  
Syria-1  
Tunisia-2  
UK-3  
UAE-181

International - 69 , Domestic - 181



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University of Chicago Oncology Conference for Adults & Pediatrics  
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## HOW TO REGISTER

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### Personal Details

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Yes, I would like to receive information on future events by e-mail.  I do not want my address to appear on the delegates list.

### Registration Fees

Please select the conference that is relevant to your speciality.

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	Physical	Virtual
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctors	AED 400	AED 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Doctors	AED 250	AED 150

\*Additional 5% VAT will be Applicable on all Fees

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your registration form. Please note that full payment must be received prior to the event. Payment can be made via Online / Credit card / Cheque/Bank drafts in AED. All payment should be in favour of Mena Conference

### Payments

Please choose one of the following mode of payment

- By Online ([www.menaconference.com](http://www.menaconference.com))  
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### Organizing Office

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Middle East North Africa Conference Company LLC

[www.menaconference.com](http://www.menaconference.com)

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### Cancellation / Substitution Policy

If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate will be very welcome in your place. If this is not suitable, a 20% administration fee will apply. Registrations cancelled less than two weeks before the event are non refundable.


### Event Venue



Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Abu Dhabi, UAE



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 **28<sup>th</sup> September  
2024**

 **Rosewood Hotel  
Abu Dhabi UAE**



Managed by

شركة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا للمؤتمرات ذ.م.م.

  
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