

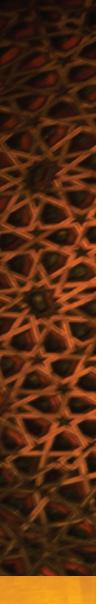
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN, USA

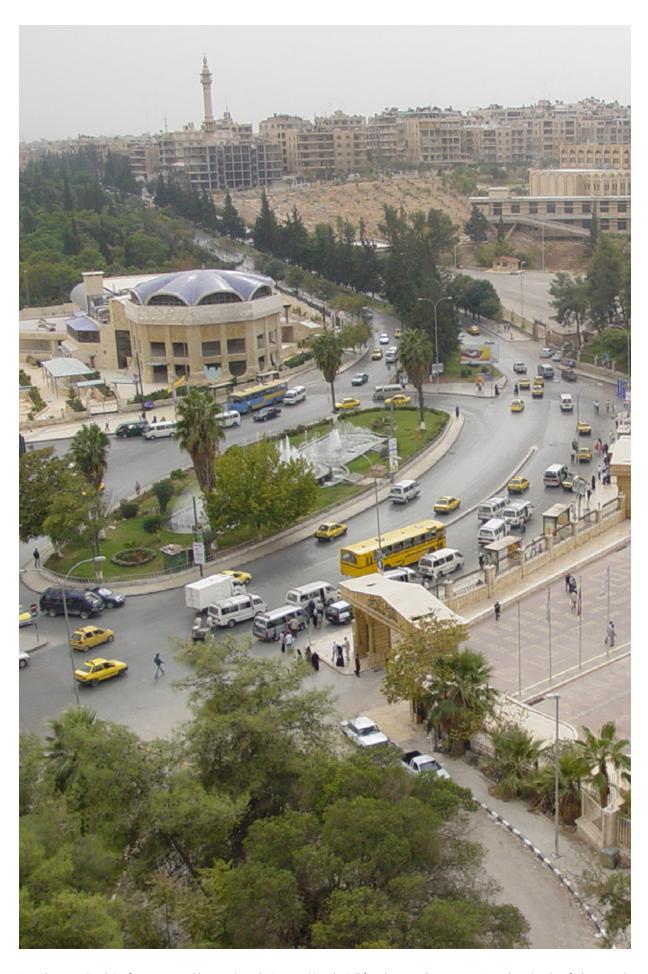
Scientific Program Jointly Sponsored by:













#### Welcome

The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) is pleased to present the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities. This scientific forum continues the fine tradition established in 1998 and reaffirms our strong commitment to prevent disease, reduce health disparities, and promote wellness in the community at large. ACCESS has strategically designed this conference to enhance its partnership with the World Health Organization-Eastern Mediterranean Region Office (WHO-EMRO) and to promote the WHO-EMRO agenda for 2010.<sup>1</sup>

Arab Americans share a cultural and linguistic heritage, as well as common risk factors and disease patterns tied to their Arab ancestry. As is the case for other immigrant groups, when Arab populations settle in areas such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe, they experience socioeconomic transformations, changes in lifestyle, and educational factors that lead to a change in the prevalence of disease, marked by the emergence of chronic illnesses.

In collaboration with the University of Aleppo, the upcoming conference adds an international perspective by offering medical practitioners and public health and mental health professionals the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the Arab region. The University of Aleppo, which was established in 1958, is the second largest university in Syria with approximately 2400 faculty members in 25 schools and colleges including 2 higher institutes enrolling over 61,000 undergraduate and over 1,500 graduate students. The university has joint co-operative programs with many international institutions of higher educations worldwide including the Arab region, USA, Argentina, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Belgium, Hungary and many others. This scientific forum will allow participants to discuss research findings, health programs and activities, and to develop collaborative initiatives across these countries and more.

# **Target Audience**

This conference addresses topics of interest to a diverse audience of:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Public Health Professionals
- Epidemiologists
- Mental Health Professionals
- Health Officials & Policy Makers
- Researchers & Health Analysts
- Environment Experts
- Social Workers
- Students

- Community
   Advocates and
   Representatives
- Other Health Care Interest Groups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> WHO 2010 Agenda http://www.who.int/about/agenda/en/index.html

# **Conference Objectives**

- To provide scientific information related to the following focus areas affecting Arab communities:
  - Social Determinants of Health
  - Genetics and Health with an Emphasis on Chronic Disease
  - Quality Health Care
  - Global Warming/Effect of Climate Change on Public Health
- To establish links between scholars in the Arab world and their counterparts in countries with Arab immigrants, thereby enhancing the understanding of disease patterns and epidemiology.
- To create collaborative initiatives to improve management of chronic diseases in Arab populations across the world.
- To leverage resources available to Arab scholars as they strive to address the social and environmental determinants of disease.
- To increase awareness of the deep impact of global climate change on various aspects of public health.
- To conduct specialized workshops in areas relevant to the conference themes.
- To enhance understanding of non-Arab participants of cultural and social factors that influence health-related behaviors and decision-making among Arab populations.
- To identify barriers and solutions to effective health promotion and disease prevention among Arab and other immigrant communities.

#### **Conference Themes**

I. Social Determinants of Health: 1) To broaden understanding of determinants of health inequities to include social, cultural and economic factors; 2) to consider the spectrum of social determinants in both physical and mental health areas; and 3) to share information on interventions proven effective in reducing health disparities.

II. Genetics and Health with Emphasis on Chronic Disease: 1) To highlight the importance of genetic factors in the etiology of common chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease; 2) to identify challenges in translating scientific breakthroughs into public health practice; and 3) to identify strategies to overcome these challenges for preventing disease and providing risk appropriate care.

III. Quality Health Care: 1) To expand awareness of quality control methods in delivery of health care including patient safety and infection control; 2) to exchange information on effective implementation strategies; and 3) to discuss value of oversight and accreditation in ensuring proper implementation.

IV. Global Warming/ Effect of Climate Change on Public Health: To discuss the health effects of climate change and its variance across geographic regions and populations.



# **Abstract Submission and Presentation Guidelines**

#### A. Abstracts may be submitted by:

- Individuals referenced in the section describing the conference's target audience
- Organizations representing or belonging to the conference's target audience

#### B. Format

- All abstracts must be submitted electronically online at www.arabhealthconference.org
- Selected presentations will be organized in the following formats:
  - Oral Presentations should be in PowerPoint format not to exceed 20 minutes of verbal presentation followed by 10 minutes of discussion. An LCD projector, laptop, and microphone will be provided in all session rooms.
  - Poster Presentations will be displayed at a designated area with planned time for viewing by the audience and discussion with authors. Presentation should fit entirely on 4 ft. x 3 ft. poster boards.
- Multiple submissions by the same individual, institution or organization are allowed.
- Abstracts, including footnotes, must be **500 words** or less. The program chairperson and the editors reserve the right to edit abstracts, if necessary, for clarity, grammar, style, and length. The final copy will be shared with the abstract author.
- Each abstract must have the following sections:
  - Title Must be limited to 10 words or less
  - Authors Must include names and affiliations
  - Introduction
  - Objectives or Hypothesis
  - Materials and Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusions

#### C. Presentation Topics

- The Scientific committee encourages the submission of abstracts related to the following general themes of the conference:
  - Social Determinants of Health
  - Genetics and Health with Emphasis on Chronic Disease
  - Quality Health Care
  - Global Warming/Effect of Climate Change on Public Health
- A number of examples are listed below. The Scientific Committee invites work conducted in or related to the above themes in the areas of:

Mental Health
 Post-traumatic Stress
 Medical Ethics
 Innovative Nursing
 Approaches

Cancer
 Diabetes
 Information Technology
 Effective Health Promotion
 Methods

– Hypertension – Women's Health

Cardiac Diseases
 Economics and Health
 Other relevant fields of
 Other Chronic diseases
 Effects of Poverty on Health
 scholarship

 These examples are not all-inclusive. Prospective attendees are encouraged to submit for consideration any related work that is aligned with the four conference themes and will benefit the target audience.

### Abstract Submission and Presentation Guidelines continued

#### D. Selection Process

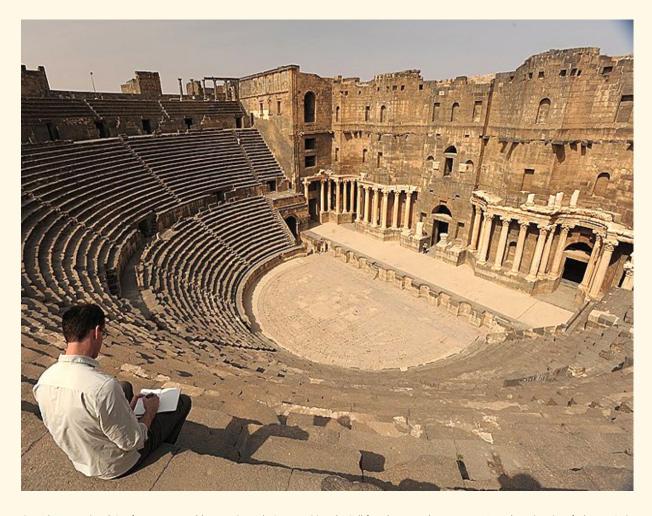
- An Abstract Review Committee appointed by the Scientific Advisory Committee will review all submissions.
- Accepted abstracts will be assigned to an oral or poster presentation by the abstract review committee.
- **E. Payment:** There is no fee for abstract submission.

#### F. Meeting Registration

• Final acceptance to present an abstract is contingent upon completing registration for the conference including the full payment of applicable registration fees.

#### G. Deadlines

- Abstract Submission Deadline ...... September 15, 2010
- Acceptance Notification ...... October 30, 2010
- Speaker Commitment......November 5, 2010



# Social/Cultural Program

The Social/Cultural program will complement the scientific importance of the conference by introducing attendees to the origins of Arab Americans, their history, culture, environment, and religions.

Syria is often described as "The Land of Civilizations." For the past 12,000 years, Syria has, more than any other place in the world, been marked by the birth and interaction of civilizations that changed the course of human history. With its cultural wealth and close links with neighboring peoples, Syria has truly been a crucible in the development of ancient civilizations in the Near East. These in turn have had a marked influence on the Western world.

# Tour of Aleppo/ The Old City

Aleppo is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world; it has known human settlement for at least 4,000 years. Attendees will discover the city's significance in history due to its location at the end of the Silk Road, which passed through central Asia and Mesopotamia. Aleppo's old bazaar (Medina), which has been a trading Mecca through history, has kept its shops and atmosphere intact since the last development of the city in



the 17th century. Visitors step into a maze of specialized shops selling everything from Indian spices to silk and jewelry, and are greeted by friendly vendors and the aroma of fresh spices. Then visitors can stroll though the city's prestigious Khans (caravansaries), which have been converted to trade centers, hotels, offices, and even foreign consulates.

#### The Citadel

A large medieval fortified palace sitting on top of a hill in the center of the old city, the Citadel is considered to be one of the oldest and largest castles in the world. Usage of the Citadel hill dates back at least to the middle of the 3rd millennium B.C. Subsequently occupied by many civilizations including the Greeks, Byzantines, Ayyubids, and Mamluks, the majority of the construction as it stands today is thought to originate from the



Ayyubid period. The tour of the Citadel will include the Byzantine warehouses, the two mosques (one of them dedicated to Abraham the Prophet), the Royal Palace and the Turkish bath and last but not least the Throne Hall, a state-of-the-art snapshot of Islamic architecture and design.

# Maaret al Nouman and Serjella

Maaret al Nouman is the city of Alaa El Din Al Maarri (973-1057), one of the greatest philosophers of the Arab world. This small city offers a very nice museum with an impressive collection of mosaics unearthed from many sites in the area.

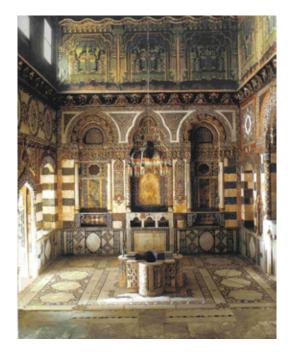
Serjella is one of the 500 Dead Cities of the north of Syria, ghost cities built between the 4th and 7th century that disappeared around the 9th century. Serjella arose in a natural basin and prospered by cultivating grapes and olives. A bath complex indicates the wealth



of the community. It has extensive remains of houses, a church, baths, tombs and sarcophagi, and a two-story villa.

# The Turkish Bath (Hammam) Experience

The hammams in the Ottoman culture started out as annexes to mosques, but quickly evolved into institutions and eventually into separate structural complexes. Visitors taking a Turkish bath first relax in a warm room heated by a continuous flow of hot, dry air, allowing the bather to perspire freely. The bather will receive a bar of Aleppo soap (world-famous soap made with laurel and olive oil) and a massage glove. Bathers may then move to an even hotter room (known as the hot room) before splashing themselves with cold water. After performing a full body wash and receiving a massage, bathers retire to the cooling room for a period of relaxation. The Hammam will be reserved for the exclusive use of our conference guests. Males and females will use the facility alternately. Afterwards, guests will be wrapped in



warm towels and invited to savor a cup of tea or a coffee around the fountain.

#### St. Simeon and Ain Dara

St. Simeon (Deir Samaan) is one of the main sites in Syria. Built in 491 A.D. by the Byzantine Emperor Zenon, this well-preserved church was built in honor of St. Simeon the Stylite, who lived here atop a column for 37 years. The church is visited by pilgrims from all around the area.

Ain Dara is a neo-Hittite site located north of St. Simeon in the Afrin River valley, dating back to the first millennium B.C. with evidence of Greek, Seleucid, and Ara-



bic remains as well. The temple dates from the 10th-9th Century B.C. and is dedicated to Ishtar, the Semitic goddess of fertility.

# Desert (Palmyra/Tadmor)

In ancient times the Aramaic city of Palmyra was an important city in central Syria, located in an oasis 215 km northeast of Damascus. Once dubbed the "Bride of the Desert," Palmyra was a vital stop for caravans crossing the desert. Palmyra was mentioned in the Old Testament as being fortified by Solomon and it flourished in Roman times. There is much to see at the site today, including several temples dedicated to Aramean, Babylonian and Mesopotamian deities. The ancient ruins are a World Heritage Site and are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Syria.



# **Damascus City and Attractions**

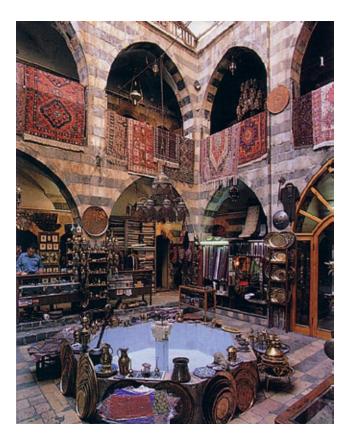
Damascus is considered the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Don't be tempted to merely see this city as the gate to Syria's hilltop fortresses, crumbling Roman ruins and scenic vistas. Damascus itself has charms that only an ancient Middle Eastern city can offer.

Old Damascus is the city's most intriguing sight. Highlights include the Sayyidah Ruqayya Mosque and old Damascene houses within the city walls; the mosaics of the Umayyad Mosque, which was visited by Pope John Paul II; and the Tomb of Saladin.

Damascus epitomizes the history of Syria. Here guests can browse Syrian handicrafts on Straight Street or take in the sights, sounds, and smells of the Souq Al-Hamidiyya. Guests can also sample ethnic cuisine at the Old City Restaurant, or sit down for a bout of traditional storytelling at the Al-Nawfara coffeehouse.









# **Conference Registration**

Early Bird Registration by January 31, 2011: \$350 Late Registration February 1, 2011– March 15, 2011: \$450

Registration fee includes a welcome reception, coffee breaks, breakfasts, lunches, scientific program and material, and shuttle bus transportation to/from host hotels to conference site and transportation from/to airport to host hotels upon arrival/departure.

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

5-Star Hotels

Sheraton Hotel Aleppo www.sheraton.com
 Orient House Aleppo www.darzamaria.com

• Carlton Hotel Aleppo website under construction (newly built hotel)

Special hotel rates will range between \$150-\$200 U.S. dollars per night.

#### **Contacts**

#### Scientific Program

**May Yassine-Darwish**, PhD, Scientific Committee Chair at (517) 324-7308 or myassine@mphi.org

#### Financial Support and/or ACCESS Information

**Adnan Hammad**, PhD, Conference Chair at (313) 216-2239 or ahammad@accesscommunity.org

#### Conference, Registration, Abstracts, and General Information

**Shorouq Shenaq**, MBA, Conference Manager at (313) 216-2240 or sshenaq@arabhealthconference.org

#### LIVE CONFERENCE UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

www.arabhealthconference.org www.accesscommunity.org

# Levels of Support

# Platinum Supporter - \$75,000

- Conference naming rights
- Member of advisory board/steering committee (non-commercial support only)
- Participation in joint press releases and press conferences
- Promotional opportunities in all TV/radio/Internet advertising
- Conference registration and Gala dinner reservations for eight (8) representatives with badge supporter designation
- Speaking opportunity at gala dinners
- Opportunity for organizational video at gala
- Tabletop exhibit space of choice
- Promotional material distribution at gala
- Listed as a Platinum Supporter with logo in the following:
   promotional brochure, conference website (includes link to your website and brief description
   of services), conference PowerPoint presentation, live/podcast, program syllabus, main
   signage, post-conference newsletter (distributed worldwide), email blasts (worldwide with
   emphasis on ethnicity and health related arenas)
- Name listing in ACCESS annual report (distributed to more than 5,000 people)
- Name listing on ACCESS Sustainer's Wall

# Gold Supporter - \$50,000

- Promotional opportunities in all TV/radio/Internet advertising
- Conference registration and Gala dinner reservations for five (5) representatives with badge supporter designation
- Speaking opportunity at gala dinners
- Opportunity for organizational video at gala
- Tabletop exhibit space
- Promotional material distribution at gala
- Listed as a Gold Supporter with logo –
  in the following:
   promotional brochure, conference
   website (includes link to your website
   and brief description of services),
   conference PowerPoint presentation,
   podcast, program syllabus, main signage,
   post-conference newsletter (distributed
   worldwide), email blasts (worldwide with
   emphasis on ethnicity and health related
   arenas)
- Name listing in ACCESS annual report (distributed to more than 5,000 people)
- Name listing on ACCESS Sustainer's Wall



# Levels of Support continued

# Silver Supporter - \$25,000

- Promotional opportunities in all TV/radio/Internet advertising
- Conference registration and Gala dinner reservations for three (3) representatives with badge supporter designation
- Tabletop exhibit space
- Promotional material distribution at gala
- Listed as a Silver Supporter with logo in the following:
   promotional brochure, conference website (includes link to your website and brief description
   of services), conference PowerPoint presentation, podcast, program syllabus, main signage,
   post-conference newsletter (distributed worldwide), email blasts (worldwide with emphasis
   on ethnicity and health related arenas)
- Name listing in ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name listing on ACCESS Sustainer's Wall

# Bronze Supporter - \$10,000

- Conference registration and Gala dinner reservation for one (1) representative
- Tabletop exhibit space
- Listed as a Bronze Supporter with logo in the following:
   promotional brochure, conference website (includes link to your website and brief description
   of services), conference PowerPoint presentation, podcast, program syllabus, main signage,
   post-conference newsletter (distributed worldwide), email blasts (worldwide with emphasis
   on ethnicity and health related arenas)
- Name listing in ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name listing on ACCESS Sustainer's Wall





# **Conference Committees**

Conference Chairman

Adnan Hammad, PhD, Senior Director, ACCESS Community Health and Research Center; Chairman, National & International Health Research Initiative, Michigan, USA

Conference Co-Chair

M. Nizar Akil, PhD, Professor and immediate past President of University of Aleppo, Syria

# **Steering Committee**

**Abouljoud, Marwan**, MD, Division Head, Surgical Director, Transplant Program, Henry Ford Health System **Ahmed, Ismael**, Director, Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS)

Allen, David, ACCESS Board of Directors

Artis, John, PhD, Chief Operating Officer, ACCESS

Berry, Hussein, President, ACCESS Board of Directors

Boumediene, Abdallah, Director of Operations, ACCESS

Chabut, Jean, MPH, Public Health Administrator, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Corcoran, Bill, President, American Near East Refugee Assistance (ANERA)

Elder, Azzam, County Deputy CEO, Wayne County

**Fehmi, Hassan**, MD, Chair of Medical Education, Section Chief, Nephrology & Hypertension Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital

**Fitzgerald, Hiram E.,** PhD, Associate Provost, University Outreach and Engagement, Michigan State University **Freij, Maha**, Deputy Executive Director & CFO, ACCESS

**Hammami, Mouhanad**, MD, Chief of Health Operations, Wayne County Department of Health & Human Services, President Elect, National Arab American Medical Association

Jaber, Hassan, Executive Director, ACCESS

Johnson, Tom, ASCW, CEO, Apex Behavioral Health, PLLC

Khalifa, Rose, RN, BSN, Executive Director, Metro Solutions, President, National American Arab Nurses Association

Killins, Edith, Director, Wayne County Department of Health & Human Services

Mentz, Cindi, Director, External Relations, Middle East/North Africa, US Civilian Research and Development Foundation

Merajver, Sofia D., MD, PhD, Director, University of Michigan Center for Global Health

Mozham, Cathy, Director, Community Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Olszewski, Janet, Director, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Riney, Robert, Executive Vice President, Henry Ford Health System

Sakr, Wael, MD, Professor of Pathology, Wayne State University

**Schlichting, Nancy**, President and CEO, Henry Ford Health System

Seffrin, John, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, American Cancer Society (ACS), Atlanta, USA

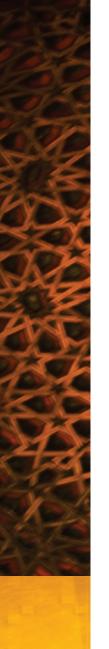
Shaheen, Paul, Senior Outreach Fellow, Michigan State University, Outreach & Engagement

**Tancer, Manual**, MD, Professor and Chair, Wayne State University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Taylor, Jeffrey R., PhD, Executive Director, Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

**Tota, Ken**, Chief of Operations, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC (invited)

Yaw, Nancy, Chief Executive Office, American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Divison



#### Scientific Committee

Scientific Committee Chair

May Darwish-Yassine, PhD, Director, Cancer Control Services Program, Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

**Dubaybo, Basim**, MD, Professor of Medicine (WSU), Internal Medicine Residency Program Director, Providence Hospital

Dakroub, Hassan, MD, Medical Director, ACCESS

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#### **National Consultants**

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**Elzawawy, Ahmed**, MD, President of ICEDOC, International Campaign for Establishment and Development of Oncology Centres, Egypt

Fouad, Fouad, MD Coordinator, Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies

Ghanem, Hassan, MD, Head of Epidemiology Department, Sousse Medical School, Tunisia

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Salti, Ibrahim, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FACP, Professor of Medicine and Head, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, American University of Bruit, Lebanon

Sara, Kassem, Dr. Regional Advisor, WHO Arabic Program, Egypt

Sarhan, Mahmoud, MD, CEO King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan

Shafey, Omar, MPH, PhD, Senior Officer, Medical Research, Health Authority - Abu Dhabi, UAE

Yakan, Abed, Vice President, Research and Postgraduate Studies, University of Aleppo, Syria

## **Conference Planning Committee**

Conference Manager

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Asuncion II, Marvin, Web Designer, ACCESS/Arab American National Museum

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Zerbani, Ola, MD, Logistics Liaison, University of Aleppo, Syria

# **Select Conference Partners**























University Outreach and Engagement















