

Advancing Translational Education: Regional Strategies for Precision Medicine in the MENA Region

Date: 5 November 2025

Venue: Muscat, Oman — Held in conjunction with the World Cancer Congress 2025

Organized by: *International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)*

Format: High-Level Policy Dialogue & Expert Mini-Sessions

Duration: 09:00 – 12:15

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Remarks

Opening perspectives on education as the foundation for regional readiness in precision medicine and equitable access to cancer innovation.

Co-funded by the European Union, the Summit aligns with the broader ambition of Vision Europe 2030 to advance equitable access to innovation, strengthen resilient cancer systems, and deliver meaningful improvements for patients worldwide.

Speakers:

- **H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Jabor Al Thani**, *Chairman, Qatar Cancer Society (QCS)*
- **H.E. Dr. Wahid Ali Said Al Kharusi**, *President, Oman Cancer Association*

Setting the Scene: What is Personalised Medicine?

- **Denis Horgan**, *Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)*

09:30 – 10:30 | Session 1 — Building Competence for Change: Training the Precision Medicine Workforce

Transforming healthcare systems for precision medicine begins with skilled professionals. This session examines how structured, accredited, and tiered education programs can upskill clinicians, scientists, and technical staff across the region. Speakers will explore digital platforms, simulation-based learning, and tele-mentorship models that enable training without borders. Discussion will focus on how to integrate these learning approaches into national and regional frameworks, ensuring sustainability and quality. By linking universities, cancer centers, and policymakers, MENA can build a dynamic learning ecosystem that keeps pace with scientific innovation.

Setting the Scene:

- **Karim Lekadir**, *Director, BCN-AIM Lab, University of Barcelona, Spain*
- **Murallitharan Munisamy**, *Managing Director, National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM), Malaysia*

Moderator: **Denis Horgan**, *Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)*

Speakers:

- **Adhari Al Zaabi**, *Associate Professor, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman*
- **Fawzi Abu Rous**, *Clinical Research Program Manager, Henry Ford Health Cancer Institute, Detroit, USA*
- **Naila Mberik Rashid Al-Khanjari**, *Head of Breast Cancer Awareness, Zanzibar Outreach Program, Zanzibar, Tanzania*
- **Hanen Mhirsi**, *Vice President, Nourane Association for the Prevention of Cancer*
- **Henda Belhadj Ali Rais**, *Professor of Medical Oncology & Board Member, Nourane Association for the Prevention of Cancer*

Key Questions:

- How can regional education programs blend digital, experiential, and accredited training?
- What partnerships can strengthen cross-border learning and faculty exchange across MENA?

Rapporteur: **Zahid Al Mandhari**, *Board Member, Oman Cancer Association* & **Denis Horgan**, *Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition*

10:30 – 10:45 | Networking & Refreshment Break

10:45 – 11:45 | Session 2: Educating for Empowerment: Communication and Patient Navigation in Cancer Care

Education in precision medicine must empower both professionals and patients. This session focuses on communication, patient navigation, and community engagement as pillars of equitable care. Speakers will discuss how co-created educational programs — developed jointly by clinicians, advocates, and patients — can improve understanding of diagnostics, data use, and treatment choices. Building literacy and trust helps ensure that innovation translates into improved survival and quality of life. The discussion will emphasize integrating patient education into cancer control plans and training clinicians in culturally sensitive communication.

Setting the Scene:

- **Sarah Hussein Wehbe**, *Patients' Relation Officer, Children's Cancer Center Lebanon (CCCL), Lebanon*
- **Hadi Mohamad Abu Rasheed**, *Head of Professional Development and Scientific*

Research Department; Member of the Strategic Committee and Cancer Education Center Programs Committee, Qatar Cancer Society (QCS)

Moderator: Denis Horgan, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)

Speakers:

- **Rasha Izzeddin Fakhereddin**, Head of Communication & Social Marketing Unit, Jordan Breast Cancer Program, Amman, Jordan
- **Luckxawan Pimsawadi**, Cancer Survivor, The Thai Cancer Society, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Lisa Mary Strydom**, National Advocacy Coordinator, Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), Pretoria, South Africa
- **Sara Ahmed Nagy Abdelhakam Desouky**, Advocacy Specialist, Baheya Foundation for Early Detection and Treatment of Breast Cancer, Cairo, Egypt

Key Questions:

- How can patient and clinician education intersect to foster shared decision-making?
- What practical tools can enhance literacy and navigation for patients across the region?

Rapporteur: Zahid Al Mandhari, Board Member, Oman Cancer Association & **Denis Horgan**, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition

11:45 – 12:15 | Closing Remarks From Insight to Action: Global Lessons and Regional

This closing dialogue explores how global education initiatives can inspire regional action. Speakers will share insights from successful programs that link policy, training, and digital innovation to strengthen workforce readiness. Discussion will highlight twinning programs, regional fellowships, and technology-enabled learning platforms that can harmonize standards and enhance capacity. The goal is to identify practical steps to localize global best practices — ensuring that MENA's education strategies are rooted in collaboration, sustainability, and shared excellence.

- **H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Jabor Al Thani**, Chairman, Qatar Cancer Society (QCS)
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- **Denis Horgan**, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)

Key Questions:

- What international models of translational education can be adapted to MENA's needs?
- How can cross-regional partnerships sustain long-term capacity building and accreditation?