



# POEM 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting

**"Harnessing Regional  
Strengths to Improve Equity,  
Access, and Quality Care"**

**MAY 1-3, 2025**  
**AMMAN-JORDAN**



AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
MEDICAL CENTER  
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأمريكية في بيروت



St. Jude Global



مركز الحسين للسرطان  
King Hussein Cancer Center

# General Information

## Program Overview

POEM (<https://www.poemgroup.org/>) is a collaborative pediatric oncology regional group, formed in 2013 as a cooperative platform for physicians, scientists, and healthcare professionals from institutions in the Middle East, North Africa, and West Asia region, with the goal of sharing experience, initiation of cooperative studies, and establishing common strategies to achieve optimization of the care of pediatric oncology patients. POEM carries out several educational activities throughout the year, including educational symposia, workshops, and a biannual Scientific Conference.

## Scientific Meeting Learning Objectives

**By the end of the event, the attendee will be able to:**

1. Discuss advancements in pediatric oncology research and clinical practice
2. Foster multidisciplinary approaches: and collaboration among pediatric oncologists, researchers, and other healthcare professionals to provide holistic care
3. Strengthen capacity building and enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare professionals through training and professional development opportunities
4. Promote policy and advocacy efforts that support pediatric oncology care and research
5. Enhance data sharing and research collaboration to advance the understanding of pediatric cancers and improve treatment protocols
6. Establish metrics and evaluate frameworks to measure the impact of conference initiatives and ensure continuous improvement in pediatric oncology care
7. Identify and address disparities and inequities in pediatric oncology care, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to treatment and resources for all patients in the region
8. Explore strategies for utilizing regional resources to improve pediatric oncology outcomes

## Target Audience

This activity is designated for physicians, scientists, nurses, pharmacists, foundations and healthcare professionals involved in childhood cancer care and research.

## Format and Date

**Format:** In person

**Date:** April 30, 2025 (pre-conference workshops)

**Scientific meeting:** May 1-3, 2025

**Venue:** InterContinental Hotel- Amman, Jordan

**In addition to the Scientific Meeting Program, four workshops will take place: AI for the Pediatric Oncology and its application in Neuroradiology (Open for Registration), Retinoblastoma Workshop (Closed by invitation), Nursing Workshop (Closed by invitation) and Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity & Trunk Sarcomas: Local Control Workshop (Open for registration).**

## Activity Director

**Dr. Rawad Rihani**

## Scientific Committee

**Dr. Rawad Rihani (Chair)**

**Dr. Abdulhakim Al Rawas**

**Dr. Alia Ahmad**

**Dr. Aqeela Rashid**

**Dr. Gevorg Tamamyan**

**Dr. Iyad Sultan**

**Dr. Julia Hoveyan**

**Dr. Purva Kanvinde**

**Dr. Siham Cherkaoui**

**Dr. Tezer Kutluk**

**Dr. Zainul Dein Abdeen**

**Ms. Farah Ghamloush**

## Organizing Committee

**Dr. Rawad Rihani (Chair)**

**Dr. Faiha Bazzeh**

**Dr. Hadeel Halalsheh**

**Dr. Muhammad Rafie Raza**

**Dr. Siham Cherkaoui**

**Mrs. Barehan Shaghoor**

**Mrs. Ghada Qatawneh**

**Mrs. Hanan Mohidin**

**Ms. Mariam Fanous**

## Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the essential areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the American University of Beirut Medical Center. The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC designates this live activity for a maximum of 23.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Faculty Disclosure Statement

The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC has implemented a policy to comply with the current Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education "Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education" requiring identification, mitigation and disclosure of all faculty financial relationships with ineligible companies. Faculty declaring a relevant financial relationship will be identified in the activity syllabus.

## Registration

**Registration fees exemption is possible for non-locals. Apply through:**

- Becoming a POEM Member, if not already a member ([Click here to join POEM Group for free](#))
- Sending to [info@poemgroup.org](mailto:info@poemgroup.org) evidence of ticket and hotel reservation

**Medical Physicians** USD 50

**Residents & Fellows** USD 25

**Nurses** USD 25

**Medical Students** USD 20

**Other Healthcare Professionals** USD 25

Please note that the "**Registration Fees Exemption**" is not available for local attendees.

# Scientific Program

## Pre-Conference Workshop

**April 30, 2025**

**AI for Pediatric Oncology and its application in  
Neuroradiology – Limited Places**

### Objectives

1. Illustrate the real-world impact and value of AI in a clinical pediatric oncology setting.
2. Explore the AI lifecycle in neuroradiology from idea inception, dataset development, team building, validation, and potential clinical approval.
3. Emphasize the ethical and regulatory considerations of implementing AI in healthcare.
4. Discuss applications of AI in radiological image analysis, including inference, evaluation, and clinical workflows.
5. Demonstrate how to prompt and interact with AI models effectively.
6. Introduce the basics of Python for data and AI applications.
7. Familiarize participants with the Hugging Face Transformers framework.

### Target Audience

Young pediatric oncologists, fellows, nurses, pharmacists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals with beginner coding or technical skills who are interested in AI.

For detailed workshop program, [click here](#).

**Pre-Conference Workshops (Closed) on April 30:**

- Retinoblastoma Workshop
- Nursing Workshop

# DAY 1

## THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

### SESSION 1

#### Registry/Data Analysis, Quality Improvements and Metrics

**8:00–8:30 am**

Registration

**8:30–9:30 am**

Meet the Expert Sessions (Two Sessions in Parallel)

Session 1

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Raul Ribeiro

Session 2

Recent Advances: Infantile Leukemia ALL

Iman Sidhom

**9:30–9:35 am**

Opening Remarks

Rawad Rihani

**9:35–9:55 am**

POEM in 2025: Challenges and Achievements

Gevorg Tamamyan (POEM president)

**9:55–10:20 am**

Harnessing Data for Progress: The Role of Registries and Data Metrics in Pediatric Oncology Advancements

Nickhill Bhakta

**10:20–10:45 am**

Advanced Data Analysis Techniques in Pediatric Oncology Research

Meenakshi Devidas

**10:45–11:10 am**

Poster Session – Coffee Break

**11:10–11:30 am**

PrOFiLE implementation and Moving Forward With Dashboard and Regional Benchmarking

Paola Friedrich

### **11:30 am–12:00 pm**

**Status of ProFILE within the POEM region: Experience from Jordan, Pakistan and KSA**

Rawad Rihani, Jordan

Alia Ahmad, Pakistan

Omar Chamdine, KSA

### **12:00–1:00 pm**

Lunch Break

### **1:00–1:45 pm**

**Panel Discussion: Leveraging Data Analysis and Metrics for Pediatric Oncology Improvement in the POEM Region**

Moderator

Tezer Kutluk

Panelists

Khaled Ghanem

Venkatraman Radakrishnan

Sanjeeva Gunasekera

Meenakshi Devidas

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## **SESSION 2**

**Innovations in Pediatric Transplantation and CAR-T:  
Strategies for Implementation and Growth**

### **1:45–2:05 pm**

**Bone Marrow Transplantation: Advances and Cellular Therapy**

Leslie Lehmann

### **2:05–2:25 pm**

**Updates: Haploidentical BMT in Children; Alternate BMT and Alpha Beta Depleted Transplant**

Brandon Triplett

### **2:25–2:45 pm**

**Establishing a CAR T-cell Program in India (Status in the POEM Region)**

Gaurav Narula

### **2:45–3:05 pm**

**CAR T-cells Basics: How to Establish a CAR T-cell Program**

Brandon Triplett

### **3:05–3:25 pm**

**Poster Session- Coffee Break**

## SESSION 3

### From Research to Reality: Clinical Trials, Implementation Science, and Pediatric Leukemia Care

**3:25–3:50 pm**

**Bridging Gaps in Pediatric ALL care: Disparities and Challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

Asim Belgaumi

**3:50–4:15 pm**

**Implementation Science in Leukemia**

Caitlyn Duffy

**4:15–4:40 pm**

**Clinical Trials in Limited resources**

Victor Santana

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## SESSION 4

### Oral and Poster Presentations

**4:40–5:30 pm**

**Oral Presentations of the Top Abstract Winners**

**5:30–5:45 pm**

**POEM's Ambassadors Recognition**

**5:45–6:30 pm**

**Poster Presentations- Session 1 (non-CME)**



# DAY 2

## FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

### SESSION 1

#### Advocacy, Equity and Access in Pediatric Oncology Care

**8:00–9:00 am**

Meet the Expert Sessions (Two Sessions in Parallel)

##### Session 1

**Soft Tissue Sarcoma**

Raya Saab

##### Session 2

**Neuroblastoma**

Victor Santana

**9:00–9:20 am**

**Innovations in Increasing Access to Pediatric Oncology Treatment**

Scott Howard

**9:20–9:40 am**

**Strengthening Partnerships: Collaborative Models for Advancing Pediatric Oncology Care: APHOG Experience**

Akira Nakagawara

**9:40–10:00 am**

**Advancing Global Pediatric Oncology: St. Jude's Role in Bridging Disparities**

Catherine Lam

**10:00–10:40 am**

**Panel Discussion: Breaking Barriers: Strategies for Achieving Equity and Access in Pediatric Oncology Care**

##### Moderator

Gevorg Tamamyan

##### Panelists

Sima Jeha (St. Jude)

Giuseppe Troisi (WHO)

Ishtar Espejo (Aladina Foundation)

Mayya Assaad (BASMA Association)

Nisreen Qatamish (KHCF)

**10:40–11:00 am**

**Poster Session- Coffee Break**

## SESSION 2

### Utilization of Regional Resources for Improvement

#### 11:00–11:40 am

**Education in Pediatric Oncology: Fellowship Programs, Expertise Exchange between Centers: International and regional experiences**

Daniel Moriera (International)

Asim Belgaumi (Regional)

#### 11:40 am–12:00 pm

**Collaborative Strategies for Resource Sharing and Capacity Building: Updates on the Osteosarcoma Project**

Ruzanna Papyan

#### 12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch Break

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## SESSION 3

### Stories That Heal: Harnessing Qualitative Research to Advance Childhood Cancer Care

#### 1:00–1:20 pm

**Turning Stories into Science: The Importance of Qualitative Research in Advancing Cures for Children with Cancer**

Dylan Graetz

#### 1:20–1:40 pm

**Qualitative Health Research with Children: Just the Same as Research with Adults?**

Gemma Bryan

#### 1:40–2:00 pm

**Qualitative Research with Refugee Populations in the Middle East**

Richard Harding

#### 2:00–2:50 pm

**Panel Discussion: Qualitative Research**

**Moderator**

Tharwa Bilbeisi

**Panelists**

Dylan Graetz, Gemma Bryan, Richard Harding, QR Abstracts Winners

#### 2:50–3:20 pm

**Poster Session– Coffee Break**

## SESSION 4

### Transforming Care in Blood Disorders: Gene Therapy, Lifelong Impact of Childhood Cancer, and Advancing Treatment Strategies

**3:20–3:45 pm**

Gene therapy (Hemoglobinopathy) and bleeding disorders

Dr. Rabbi Hanna

**3:45–4:10 pm**

Sickle cell disease: Clinical, Research and intervention Program

Dr. Parul Rai

**4:10–4:35 pm**

The Lifetime Impact of Childhood Cancer and Cancer Therapy

Dr. Greg Armstrong

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## SESSION 5

### Poster Presentations (Non-CME)

**4:35–5:30 pm**

Poster Presentations– Session 2

## DAY 3

# SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

### SESSION 1

#### CNS Tumors Redefined: Advances in Diagnosis, Novel Therapies, and Regional Access

**8:00–8:20 am**

CNS Tumors and New Classifications

David Ellison

**8:20–8:40 am**

Novel Therapies– Low Grade Glioma Brain Tumors

Ibrahim Qaddoumi

**8:40–9:00 am**

Access to Novel Therapies in the POEM Region

Julieta Hoveyan

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### SESSION 2

#### Global Comfort Promise Improvement Science in Action (ISIA) Program

**9:00–9:20 am**

Palliative Care (Initiative with WHO in the Region)

Michael McNeil

**9:20–9:40 am**

Global Comfort Promise Improvement Science in Action– Regional Impact and Lessons from the Region: Experience from Jordan and Pakistan

Anwar Nassan (Jordan)

Sadaf Altaf (Pakistan)

**9:40–10:00 am**

Coffee Break

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### SESSION 3

#### Pediatric Lymphoma: Innovations and Equity

**10:00–10:20 am**

Lymphoma: Leveraging Regional Assets for Enhanced Equity, Accessibility, and Quality Care

Dr. Burça Aydın

**10:20–10:40 am**

Updates on Hodgkin Lymphoma

Dr. Matt Ehrhardt

## SESSION 4

### Optimizing Antibiotic Use: Stewardship and MDR Bacteremia Management in Pediatric Oncology

**10:40–11:00 am**

Updates in the Management of Multidrug Resistant Bacteremia in Children with Cancer  
Riham Abdelaziz Khedr

**11:00–11:20 am**

Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Children with Cancer and its Impact to Combat AMR  
Sheena Mukadda

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## SESSION 5

### Global Child Health

**11:20 am–12:40 pm**

Panel Discussion: Collaborating for Systems-level Change to Enhance Global Child Health

Moderators

Shaloo Puri  
Julie Laveglia  
Brooke Happ

Panelists

St. Jude Global Scholars:  
Venkatraman Radakrishnan  
Alia Ahmad  
Sanjeeva Gunasekera

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## Closing Session

**12:40–1:00 pm**

Closing Session: Call to Action: Commitments for Collaborative Efforts Going Forward  
Rawad Rihani

**1:00–2:00 pm**

Lunch Break

## **Post-Conference Workshop**

**May 3, 2025**

### **Multidisciplinary Management of Extremity & Trunk Sarcomas: Local Control Workshop**

#### **Objectives**

1. To comprehend the principles, indications, procedures, and challenges associated with radiotherapy for extremity and trunk sarcomas.
2. To gain insight into the role of surgery in treating extremity and trunk sarcomas, as well as the associated challenges.
3. To understand the selection and sequencing of local control modalities in common tumors such as NRSTS, RMS, Osteosarcoma, and Ewing's sarcoma.
4. To highlight the importance of multidisciplinary management of these tumors and emphasize the early involvement of all disciplines—pediatric oncology, surgery, and radiation oncology—in the decision-making process.

#### **Target Audience**

Trainees and consultant in pediatric oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology and orthopedic surgery.

For detailed workshop program, [click here](#).



## Organized By

Healthcare Professional Development Center–American University of Beirut,  
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