Dementia in MENA 2027

Together Towards Earlier Detection and Better Patient Outcomes

The Fourth SAF Life Sciences Conference

Scientific Programme

8 - 10 January 2027 · Online · All times in Cairo Standard Time (GMT+2)

Date	Time (Cairo ST)	Session Type	Title / Description	Speakers / Moderators
DAY 1 · Friday, 8 January 2027 · Theme: Cellular, Tissue & Organoid Models				
8 Jan 2027	4:00 - 4:05 PM	**Opening**	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**	Organizing Committee
8 Jan 2027	4:05 - 4:45 PM	**Keynote**	**Molecular views of toxic protein aggregates in neurodegeneration**	Ali H. Shaib (University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany)
8 Jan 2027	4:45 - 4:55 PM	Break	Break	
8 Jan 2027	4:55 - 5:45 PM	**Scientific Session 1**	**Cellular, Tissue & Organoid Models — Part I · Chair: Ahmed Eltokhi**	
8 Jan 2027	4:55 - 5:20 PM	Talk	Decoding Alzheimer's Heterogeneity at Single-Cell Resolution	Ahmed Mahfouz (Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands)
8 Jan 2027	5:20 - 5:45 PM	Talk	How Single-Cell Perspectives Reveal New Alzheimer's Therapeutic Targets	Mohamed Noureldein (LSU Health Shreveport, USA)
8 Jan 2027	5:45 - 5:55 PM	Break	Break	
8 Jan 2027	5:55 - 7:10 PM	**Scientific Session 2**	**Cellular, Tissue & Organoid Models — Part II · Chair: Mariam Gamaleldin**	
8 Jan 2027	5:55 - 6:20 PM	Talk	Genomic Stability at the Interface Between Health and Disease	Sherif El-Khamisy (University of Bradford, UK)
8 Jan 2027	6:20 - 6:45 PM	Talk	Anti-Aggregation Drug Discovery Targeting Tau Protein in Dementia	Elias Akoury (Lebanese American University, Lebanon)
8 Jan 2027	6:45 - 7:10 PM	Talk	Next-Generation Curcumin Analogues for Restoring Cognitive Function in Alzheimer's Disease	Ines ElBini (Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia)
8 Jan 2027	7:10 - 7:30 PM	Flash Talks	*Flash-talk session (≈15-20 min) — short talks selected from submitted abstracts*	Early-career presenters — TBD

Date	Time (Cairo ST)	Session Type	Title / Description	Speakers / Moderators
8 Jan 2027	7:30 - 8:00 PM	Panel	**Panel / Moderated Discussion — "Modelling the Dementias: Cells, Organoids & Single-Cell Approaches"**	Ahmed Mahfouz · Mohamed Noureldein · Elias Akoury · Ines ElBini Moderator: Mariam Gamaleldin
8 Jan 2027	8:00 - 8:05 PM	**Closing**	**Closing Remarks & Preview of Day 2**	Organizing Committee
DAY 2 · Saturday, 9 January 2027 · Theme: Animal & Translational Models				
9 Jan 2027	4:00 - 4:05 PM	**Opening**	**Welcome & Recap of Day 1**	Organizing Committee
9 Jan 2027	4:05 - 4:45 PM	**Keynote**	**Defining Resilience in Cognitive Aging Research**	Mohamed Salama (American University in Cairo, Egypt)
9 Jan 2027	4:45 - 4:55 PM	Break	Break	
9 Jan 2027	4:55 - 6:10 PM	**Scientific Session 1**	**Animal & Translational Models — Part I · Chair: Ahmed Eltokhi**	
9 Jan 2027	4:55 - 5:20 PM	Talk	Cell-Type-Specific Mechanisms Shaping Cortical Inhibitory Circuit Function	Leena Ibrahim (KAUST, Saudi Arabia)
9 Jan 2027	5:20 - 5:45 PM	Talk	Metabolism Meets Memory: Rethinking Dementia Through a Metabolic Lens	Sara Elfarrash (Fakeeh College for Medical Sciences, Saudi Arabia)
9 Jan 2027	5:45 - 6:10 PM	Talk	Beyond Amyloid: Targeting Neuroinflammation and Cellular Stress for Neuroprotection in Alzheimer's Disease	Nesrine El Sayed (Cairo University / Al Ryada University, Egypt)
9 Jan 2027	6:10 - 6:30 PM	Flash Talks	*Flash-talk session (≈15-20 min) — short talks selected from submitted abstracts*	Early-career presenters — TBD
9 Jan 2027	6:30 - 6:40 PM	Break	Break	
9 Jan 2027	6:40 - 7:55 PM	**Scientific Session 2**	**Animal & Translational Models — Part II · Chair: Mariam Gamaleldin**	
9 Jan 2027	6:40 - 7:05 PM	Talk	Beyond Glycemic Control: Repurposing the SGLT2 Inhibitor Dapagliflozin to Target Autophagic Deficits and Anxiety in Alzheimer's Disease	Noha Abdelkader (Cairo University, Egypt)
9 Jan 2027	7:05 - 7:30 PM	Talk	The Therapeutic Potential of Retinoids in Neurodegenerative Diseases	Thabat Khatib (Arab American University, Palestine)

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9 Jan 2027	7:30 - 7:55 PM	Talk	Sea Urchin-Derived Bioactive Compounds as Potential Neuroprotective Agents: Insights from Experimental Neurotoxicity	Eman Khalil (American University in Cairo, Egypt)
9 Jan 2027	7:55 - 8:25 PM	Panel	**Panel / Moderated Discussion — "From Preclinical Models to Therapies: Bridging the Translational Gap"**	Nesrine El Sayed · Noha Abdelkader · Thabat Khatib · Sara Elfarrash · Leena Ibrahim · Moderator: Ahmed Eltokhi
9 Jan 2027	8:25 - 8:30 PM	**Closing**	**Closing Remarks & Preview of Day 3**	Organizing Committee
DAY 3 · Sunday, 10 January 2027 · Theme: Clinical, Population, Cultural & Neuroethical Perspectives				
10 Jan 2027	4:00 - 4:05 PM	**Opening**	**Welcome & Recap of Day 2**	Organizing Committee
10 Jan 2027	4:05 - 4:45 PM	**Keynote**	**Keynote — TBD**	Lamiaa Bahnassawy (Abbvie, Germany)
10 Jan 2027	4:45 - 4:55 PM	Break	Break	
10 Jan 2027	4:55 - 5:45 PM	**Scientific Session 1**	**Clinical, Population & Cultural Perspectives — Part I · Chair: Mariam Gamaleldin**	
10 Jan 2027	4:55 - 5:20 PM	Talk	Advancing Dementia Research in the Arab Region: Insights from the Lebanon Study on Aging and Health (LSAHA)	Monique Chaaya (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)
10 Jan 2027	5:20 - 5:45 PM	Talk	Psychosocial Determinants of Cognitive Aging Among Middle-Aged and Older Adults in Lebanon: The 3LC Study	Martine Elbejjani (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)
10 Jan 2027	5:45 - 5:55 PM	Break	Break	
10 Jan 2027	5:55 - 7:10 PM	**Scientific Session 2**	**Clinical, Population & Cultural Perspectives — Part II · Chair: Ahmed Eltokhi**	
10 Jan 2027	5:55 - 6:20 PM	Talk	Machine Learning Applications to Alzheimer's Disease	Ahmed Moustafa (Bond University, Australia)
10 Jan 2027	6:20 - 6:45 PM	Talk	Alzheimer's Disease Genetics in Lebanon: What Transfers and What Does Not	Said El Shamieh (Beirut Arab University, Lebanon)
10 Jan 2027	6:45 - 7:10 PM	Talk	Neuroimaging of Traumatic Brain Injury and Dementia: Bridging the Link	Abdalla Z. Mohamed (United Arab Emirates University, UAE (online))
10 Jan 2027	7:10 - 7:30 PM	Flash Talks	*Flash-talk session (≈15-20 min) — short talks selected from submitted abstracts*	Early-career presenters — TBD

Date	Time (Cairo ST)	Session Type	Title / Description	Speakers / Moderators
10 Jan 2027	7:30 - 7:55 PM	**Scientific Session 3**	**Neuroethical Perspectives · Chair: Mariam Gamaleldin**	
10 Jan 2027	7:30 - 7:55 PM	Talk	Neuroethics: Where Neuroscience Meets Society	Katherine Bassil (UMC Utrecht, Netherlands)
10 Jan 2027	7:55 - 8:00 PM	**Closing**	**Closing Remarks & Conference Wrap-up**	Organizing Committee