



# SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Dear Colleagues,

The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) cordially invites you to its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SAMS International Conference. The conference will be held in **Istanbul, Turkey** from **June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> of 2012**. For the past 13 years, SAMS International Conference has been recognized as a major educational, cultural, social and charitable platform for Syrian American healthcare professionals. This is the first time that the conference is held outside Syria because of the crisis affecting our beloved country.

Our homeland, Syria, is in midst of a major humanitarian and medical crisis. Civilians and healthcare professionals are facing huge challenges. Healthcare delivery is strained in many areas and basic medical needs are not met due to the ongoing violence. Such challenges require strong proactive response from Syrian health professionals.

The theme of the conference "*Arab Spring & Syria Health: The Role of Syrian Medical Expatriates in the New Era*" reflects the historic changes in the Middle East and in Syria, and our role in bridging the gap in healthcare between our adopted country and our homeland. We chose Turkey in response to the majority of SAMS members who participated in our recent survey and because of its proximity to Syria. Istanbul is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, rich in history, monuments and culture.

For the first time in our history, we are collaborating with the International Syrian Medical Association (ISMA), a newly formed umbrella of organizations of Syrian medical societies in the world.

In addition to the CME-accredited scientific program, there will be many workshops, symposiums, charitable program, side visits to Turkish medical and academic institutions and many social and cultural programs for the whole family. A special session will be dedicated for "Medicine and National Crisis". Following the conference, SAMS will organize a medical mission by volunteer physicians to help Syrians residing in Turkey.

We urge you to participate in your conference by submitting your ideas, attending the conference, serving as session leaders, presenting lectures, organizing symposium or workshops and volunteering to visit Syrian citizens.

We are hopeful that this conference will be a unique opportunity for Syrian healthcare professionals in the US, Syria and the world to network, collaborate, organize and plan to address the urgent and long term needs of the healthcare system in Syria.

You should receive more detailed communication about the logistics and reservation soon. Please feel free to contact our Executive Director Lucine Saleh, [lucinesaleh@gmail.com](mailto:lucinesaleh@gmail.com) or any of us for feedback, ideas and suggestions. Thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Tarek Kteleh

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