



# IV INTERNATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

Abu Dhabi UAE



## Scientific Program

Abu Dhabi Energy Center  
**April 25-28, 2026**

Hybrid | In-Person & Virtual  
[autismconference-uae.ai](http://autismconference-uae.ai)



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IV INTERNATIONAL  
AUTISM CONFERENCE  
Abu Dhabi UAE

Abu Dhabi Energy Center  
April 25-28, 2026

# Under the Patronage of His Highness



**H.H. Sheikh Khalid  
Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

**\*Advancing Autism Care Through AI and Innovation\***

The conference is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Zayed Authority for People of Determination, with wide international participation from experts, specialists and decision-makers.

His vision emphasizes the critical role of innovation and artificial intelligence in enhancing services tailored for individuals with autism.

Hosting the IV International Autism Conference 2026 embodies the UAE's commitment to caring for all segments of society, especially people of determination, by promoting global cooperation, sharing knowledge, and exploring innovative ways to improve care and inclusion for children and adults with autism worldwide.



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## Organizers





# Welcome Letter

## Dear Valuable Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Fourth International Autism Conference 2026, themed "Advancing Autism Care through Artificial Intelligence and Innovation," scheduled for April 25–28, 2026, at the Abu Dhabi Energy Center, United Arab Emirates. This year, we are excited to offer a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual participation to accommodate a diverse audience.

This prestigious international conference serves as a vital platform for addressing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as a multifaceted medical, educational, and social challenge. Our goal is to unite experts from various fields to share insights, advance scientific research, and promote solutions centered around six core pillars: Healthcare Excellence, Reimagined Education, Community Integration, Scientific Research, Innovation & AI, and Inclusive Workspaces.

We anticipate a dynamic gathering of leaders and innovators, including researchers, healthcare professionals, educators, technology and AI advocates, policymakers, and families—all dedicated to enhancing the understanding and support of individuals with autism. Participants will have the opportunity to earn 30 CME credits (Continuing Medical Education) for their involvement in this enriching experience.

As the UAE embraces AI and innovation as key components of its national strategy, we recognize the transformative potential of these advancements in autism care. They enable personalized interventions and foster inclusive environments that empower individuals with autism to thrive. In alignment with the UAE's designation of 2026 as the Year of Family, we emphasize the crucial role families play in supporting individuals with autism and are committed to creating a conference experience that honors these essential connections.

The conference will feature an exhibition showcasing cutting-edge technologies and solutions from global experts and startups in the field of autism care. This exhibition presents a unique opportunity for providers to demonstrate their expertise across various domains, including healthcare, education, social inclusion, and workplace integration. Attendees will have the chance to engage with industry leaders and explore groundbreaking innovations that enhance the quality of care and support available.

Participants can look forward to a rich program of scientific sessions, interactive discussions, and impactful visual presentations highlighting the latest evidence-based approaches to autism. Additionally, hands-on workshops led by international experts and a global media campaign will further support children with autism and their families.

We are confident that the Fourth International Autism Conference 2026 will foster meaningful collaboration, inspire innovation, and contribute to improving the quality of care, inclusion, and overall quality of life for individuals with autism across diverse communities. We eagerly anticipate your participation in this transformative event.

Sincerely,

**IV International Autism Conference  
Organizing Committee**





# Organizing Committee



**Mrs. Amina Haidan**

CEO of the Conference



**Afaf El-Ansary, PhD**

Chair of Scientific Committee



**Fatma Ridene, MD**

Secretary General-Organizing Committee  
Deputy CEO and Medical Director  
Lotus Holistic medical Center



**Hameed Biju, MD**

Consultant Paediatric Neurologist,  
SEHA Tawam Hospital



**Taha Ridene, PhD**

XR & AI & Digital Health R&D Expert,  
CIO, Professor (Skills4Mind)



**Mrs. Baur Richter  
Renate**

Director, Institute for Inclusion &  
Accessibility (fia-institute)



**Islam Mohamed  
El-Tantawy, MD**

General Manager of Insights Research  
Organization & Solutions (IROS)



**Mr. Kevin Baskerville**

General Manager  
(Topland People of Determination)



**Saher Alsabbah, PhD**

Associate Professor, Head of Department,  
and Head of Innovation (Fatima College of  
Health Sciences)



**Ms. Khulood Mohammed**

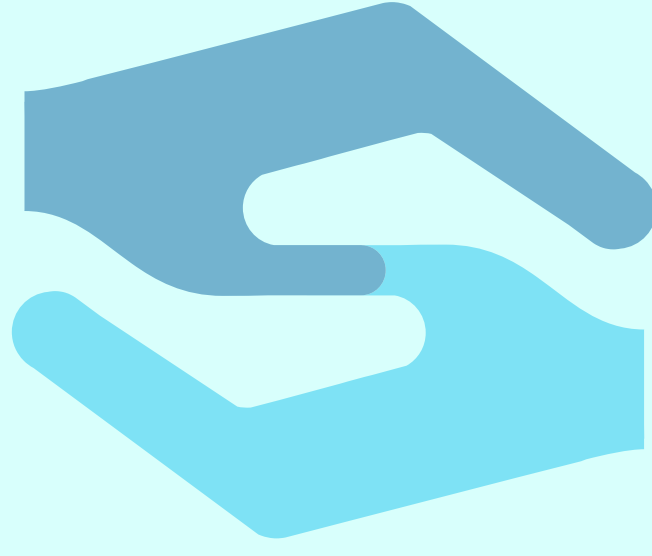
Director of Care and Rehabilitation  
Centers Department  
Zayed Authority for People of Determination



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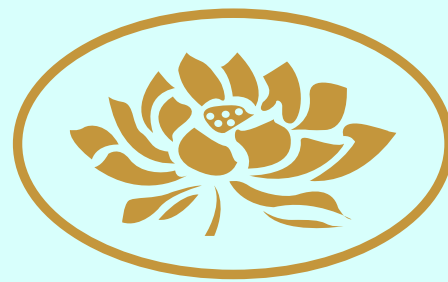
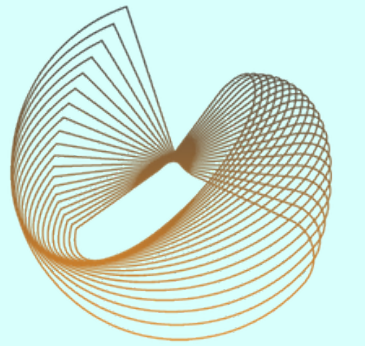
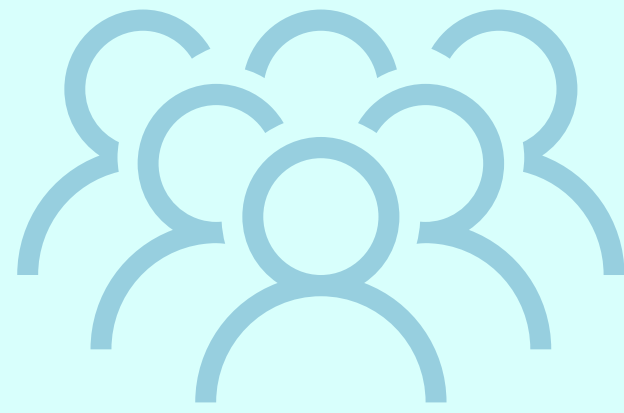


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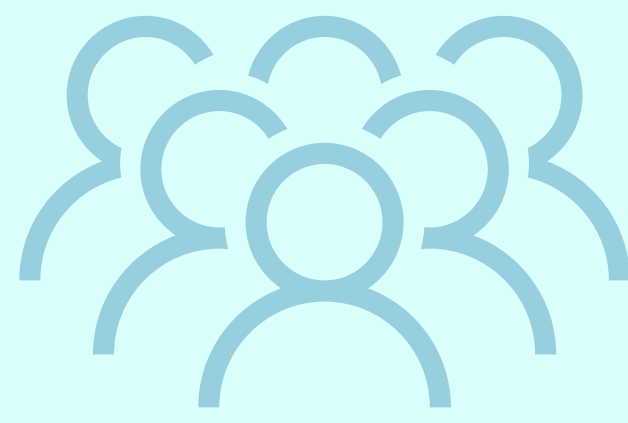
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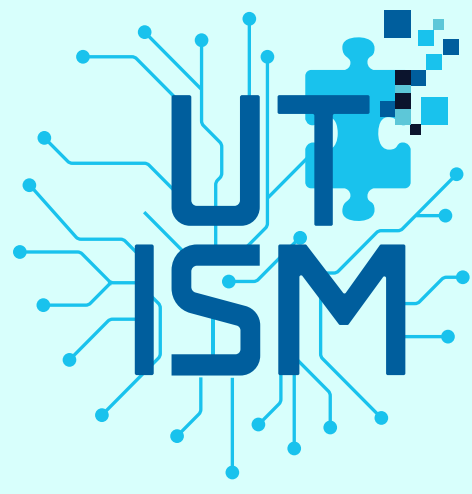
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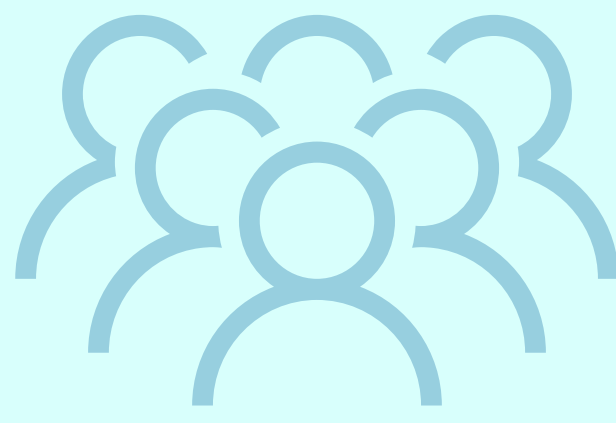
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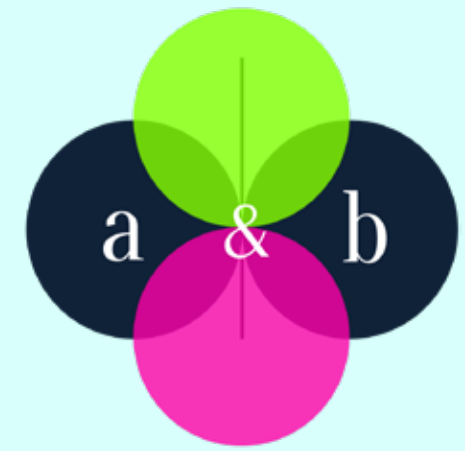
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# Program

# DAY 1

**25** April  
2026



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ABU DHABI UAE



**DAY 1 | APRIL 25, 2026**

**MURBAN AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
11:00 AM	Opening Ceremony	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
12:05 PM	Panel	Shaping the Future of Autism: Collaborative Approaches Across Key Pillars <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center</p> <p><b>Mrs. Renate Baur-Richter</b> - Director FiA Institute for Inclusion and Accessibility</p> <p><b>Dr. Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, SEHA Tawam Hospital</p> <p><b>Mr. Kevin Baskerville</b> - General Manager Topland People of Determination</p> <p><b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR &amp; AI R&amp;D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)</p> <p><b>Mrs. Khulood Mohammed</b> - Director of Care and Rehabilitation Centers Department, ZA</p>
12:30 PM	Panel	Strengthening Early Detection and Diagnosis - DOH <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator: HE Dr. Fayeza Saif Nasir Alyafei</b> - Executive Director of the Healthcare Quality Sector at the DOH – Abu Dhabi</p> <p><b>Mrs. Ayesha Hamad Salem Badowah Albedwawi</b> - Senior Analyst Specialised Programmes- DOH</p> <p><b>Dr. Fatima Y. Ismail</b> - Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the (UAEU) and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.</p> <p><b>Dr. Binu George</b> - Consultant Neurodevelopmental Disability Pediatrician and Special Needs Service Manager for the Sakina Clinic in Abu Dhabi.</p> <p><b>Mrs. Tracey Ferguson</b> - Acting Director of Student of Determination Office – ADEK</p> <p><b>Mrs. Nancy Elkaraan</b> - Head of People of Determination Section Department of Community Development - Abu Dhabi Government</p> <p><b>Dr. Halima Abdalla Al Shehhi</b> - Consultant in Family Medicine – SEHA</p> <p><b>Mrs. Hanaa Alabri</b> - Best seller author of “Raising Me” and Parent with lived experience</p>
01:35 PM	Panel	Autism Beyond 18: Transition to Adulthood and Sustainable Care Models <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Nancy Elkaraan</b> –Head of People of Determination Section Department of Community Development - Abu Dhabi Government</p> <p><b>Philip Thompson</b> – Director Student of Determination Office &amp; Acting Director Education Improvement Division- ADEK</p> <p><b>Hiba Al Qutub</b> – Senior PoD specialist - DCD</p> <p><b>Zeinab AlDhaheri</b> – Autism section head in Al Ain Autism center - Zayed Authority for POD</p> <p><b>Simone Carter</b> – Clinical operation Manager - “WEYAK: Independent living center for PoD”</p> <p><b>Marilena di Coste</b> - CEO &amp; Founder - Butterfly</p> <p><b>Dr. Sharifa Yateem</b> – DoH-DHA Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Board certified Behavior analyst, founder Sharifa Yateem center for Rehabilitation Abu Dhabi and head start speech center Dubai</p> <p><b>Amal Alnuaimi</b>- Proud Parent with lived experience</p>
02:35 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
03:05 PM	Panel	Person Centred Planning is a Way of Organising Around One Person to Define & Create a Better Future <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Mr. Kevin Baskerville</b> - General Manager Topland People of Determination</p> <p><b>Mr. Colin Newton</b> - Cofounder inclusive solutions</p> <p><b>Mr Derek Wilson</b> - Cofounder inclusive solutions</p>
03:35 PM	Keynote	Autism: Differences not Deficits: Focusing on a Strengths Based Model When Working with Children & Young People with Autism <b>English</b>	<p><b>Kevin Baskerville</b> - General Manager, Topland People of Determination</p>
04:05 PM	Keynote	Data: The Blue Gold of the 21st Century - Opportunities and Risks in the Autism Context <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator: Prof. Hanane BOUSSI</b> - Vice President, University of Tunis El Manar; Senior Researcher, University of the West of England, UK</p> <p><b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR &amp; AI R&amp;D Expert, CIO Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)</p>
04:35 PM	Panel	Inclusive Futures: AI and Digital Transformation in Supporting Autistic Students in Higher Education <b>English</b>	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Taha RIDENE</b> - XR &amp; AI R&amp;D Expert, CIO Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)</p> <p><b>Prof. Ghassan Aouad</b> - Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University</p> <p><b>Prof. Hanane Boussi</b> - Vice President, University of Tunis El Manar; Senior Researcher, University of the West of England, UK</p> <p><b>Prof. Monojit Choudhury</b>- Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), UAE</p>



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**DAY 1 | APRIL 25, 2026**

**AL GHAF 1**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
03:00 PM	Workshop	Reimagining Education Through a Neurodiversity Lens <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Uzma Akser</b> - Special Education Needs Coach and Mentor and the founder of Coaching with Uzma.
04:00 PM	Workshop	Therapeutic Classrooms: Creating Calm, Inclusive Environment for Children <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Shahana Knight</b> - Director of TPC and Therapeutic Classrooms.
05:00 PM	Workshop	Education While Discovering Autism: Raising my Son <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Hanaa Alabri- Tamkeen</b> - Corporate Compliance, Risk Management, and Governance Manager Neurodivergent Advocate and Conscious Connectivity. Best seller author of "Raising Me" and Parent with lived experience



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**DAY 1 | APRIL 25, 2026**

**AL GHAF 2**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
08:00 AM	Workshop	Learning Support Assistant (LSA) Workshop: Hands on support for Autism in the classroom - <b>English</b>	<b>Dr. Catherine O'Farrell</b> - Founder CEO Includun
09:00 AM	Workshop	Learning Support Assistant (LSA) Workshop: Managing Challenging Behaviours - response <b>English</b>	<b>Dr. Catherine O'Farrell</b> - Founder CEO Includun
03:00 PM	Workshop	What Families Need to Know About Work: Practical Strategies and Pathways. <b>English</b>	<b>Dr. Melvin Attard</b> - Director for Educational Services and Research Autism Practitioner and Researcher The Malta Autism Center, Director of Educational Services and Research, Autism Practitioner and Researcher <b>Mr. Grant Javier</b> - Executive Director Project Inclusion Network Inc <b>Dr. Yanika Attard</b> - Director for Educational Services and Research Autism Practitioner and Researcher
03:45 PM	lecture	Implications for ASD Trauma Care in Conflict-Affected Populations. <b>English</b>	<b>Ms. Magdalena Filcek</b> - Researcher in safety engineering and the mechanisms of ASD, PTSD, and sepsis Neuroarchitect / Founder of Vinci
04:00 PM	lecture	Maternal and infant hyperglycemia – emerging evidence of impact on risk and symptoms of autism and diagnostic advances. <b>English</b>	<b>Prof. Naila Rabbani</b> - Professor of Basic Medical Sciences and Head of Proteomics, AGEomics and Diabetes Research Group, Qatar University (UK, Qatar)
04:30 PM	lecture	Social Skills Interventions for Adolescents with Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder <b>English</b>	<b>Prof. Antonio Narzisi</b> - Psychologist and psychotherapist with a PhD in developmental neuroscience, Specializing in autism and neurodevelopmental disorders

**DAY 1 | APRIL 25, 2026**

**AL GHAF 6-7**

08:00 AM	Workshop	The Introductory Session - Umumah Wa Intimaa <b>English</b>	<b>Nipa Bhuptani</b> - CEO A&B educational consultancy
03:00 PM	Workshop	تمكين مقدمي الرعاية لاصحاب الهمم Empowering Caregivers of People of Determination <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Dr. Alya AlShehhi</b> - Senior Social Specialist, Social and Psychological Care Department Zayed Authority for People of Determination
04:00 PM	Workshop	رحلتي مع طفلي من التوحد: بين التحديات وصناعة الأمل My Journey with My Child with Autism: Between Challenges and Creating Hope <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Dr. Alya AlShehhi</b> - Senior Social Specialist, Social and Psychological Care Department Zayed Authority for People of Determination <b>Ghareebah Saud Al-Hababi</b> - Diploma in Professional Empowerment for Parents of People of Determination, Mother of two children with Autism <b>Maryam Al-Shawi Al-Quraishi</b> - Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Certified Autism Specialist, Mother of a child with Autism <b>Rusll Ghaleb Al-Saadi</b> - University Lecturer Al-Mustansiriya University. Mother of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

**DAY 1 | APRIL 25, 2026**

**AL GURM EXHIBITION**

03:00 PM	Round Table	From Awareness to Action: Youth Leading Early Autism Intervention <b>English</b>	<b>Moderator: Mrs. Amal Al Mehairi</b> – Physiotherapist ZA <b>Mrs. Meera Alshamsi</b> – Genetic Analyst   Chair, Youth Council, Zayed Authority Vice Chair Rehabilitation International RI Global <b>Dr. Hamda Alremeithi</b> - Family medicine specialist, public health expert and advisor <b>Ms. Sara Alkarbi</b> - Nutrition and public health
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# Program

# DAY 2

**26** April  
2026



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**A B U D H A B I U A E**



**DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026**

**MURBAN AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Keynote	State of the Art in Global Digital Health: AI, Agentic Systems, and Data Standardization — The Autism Care Use Case <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Hanane Boussi</b> - Vice President, University of Tunis El Manar; Senior Researcher, University of the West of England, UK <b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
10:30 AM	Keynote	Knowledge, Attitude, and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Special Need Centers in UAE <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof. Hanane BOUSSI</b> -Vice President, University of Tunis El Manar; Senior Researcher, University of the West of England, UK <b>Dr. Mohammad Fteiha</b> - SFHEA Director of Al Ain Campus Director of the Center for Faculty Development and Learning Innovation
11:00 AM	Keynote	AI and Autism: Mirrors of Mind and Meaning <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Nicolas Lomenie</b> - Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence in Paris cite University
11:30 AM	Lecture	Autism: More than what meets the eye <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>Dr. Arif Khan</b> - Consultant Pediatric Neurologist
11:50 AM	Lecture	Screening to Intervention: Scaling Autism Care in Resource-Limited Settings <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Sheffali Gulati</b> - Professor at AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi)
12:10 PM	Lecture	Shaping the Future of Early Diagnostic with Digital Medicine <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Sharief Taraman</b> - Pediatric Neurologist CEO Cognoa
12:30 PM	Panel	Bridging Autism & Clinical Genomics <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist in London (UK) <b>Dr Aisha Al Shamsi</b> - Division Chief TAWAM PEDS Metabolic / Genetic
01:00 PM	Lecture	Rare metabolic disorders presenting with autism spectrum features <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr Aisha Al Shamsi</b> - Division Chief TAWAM PEDS Metabolic / Genetic
01:20 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Keynote	XR & AI Best Pracitices in Autism Care <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof. Hanane BOUSSI</b> - Vice President, University of Tunis El Manar; Senior Researcher, University of the West of England, UK <b>Dr. Dionysis ZAMPLARAS</b> - Expert XR & AI - Skills4Mind / Institut Imagine
02:30 PM	Keynote	AI and Digitalization of the Autism Care Pathway: Empowering First-Line Medicine <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Dionysis ZAMPLARAS</b> - Expert XR & AI - Skills4Mind / Institut Imagine <b>Professor Hanane BOUSSI</b> - University of the West of England (UK) University of Tunis El Manar (TN) <b>Dr Halima Mohamed</b> - Researcher in Global Public Health and Policy University of Oxford
03:30 PM	Keynote	Sensory, Systemic & Social: A Clinician's Approach to Oral Health in Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Ilham Abbas</b> - Pediatric Special Care Dentist, Healthpoint UAE
04:00 PM	Keynote	Empowering families : early detection and autism awareness <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Ali Al Mousawi</b> - Head of Enablement & Community Development Programs Section at the Ministry of Family <b>Mrs. Amna Al Sereidi</b> - Special Education Teacher – Autism (ASD) Category
04:30 PM	Plenary	The Special Olympics Global Center Academy: A Global Hub for Inclusive Education <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Farah Al Zein</b> - Assistant Professor, Special and Inclusive Education, Emirates College for Advanced Education <b>Mrs. Salyne El Samarany</b> - Vice President Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion <b>Mr. Ahmad Al Gergawi</b> - CEO & Founder of Dyemension A Creative House Director of Communications, Partnerships, & Outreach at Special Olympics International <b>Mr. Clement Clouston</b> - Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion



# IV INTERNATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

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Abu Dhabi Energy Center

April 25-28, 2026

## DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026

## AL GHAF 1

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
08:00 - TO 10:00 AM	Workshop	<b>AI BOOTCAMP ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
10:00 AM	Workshop	Aligning Disciplines for Better Outcomes – from fragmented intervention to cohesive, child-centred systems <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Rekha Warriar</b> - Director Early Intervention   Applied & Behavioral Training Institute – Dubai. Consultant   Applied & Behavioral Consultancy
11:00 AM	Workshop	Speech & Language Therapy for Autism: Arabic Sound Production العلاج النطقي واللغوي لاضطراب التوحد: إنتاج الأصوات بالعربية <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mr. Osama Alzourri</b> - Speech and Language Pathologist <b>Dr. Sharifa Yateem</b> - PhD, MSc, BCBA, IBA, CAS- Sharifa Yateem Center for Rehabilitation
01:00 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	Leading Autism Provision Across Aldar Charter Schools <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Kieran Breslin</b> - MEd Education - Inclusion Specialist Aldar Education <b>Mr. Johannah Rodich</b> - MEd Education - Inclusion Specialist Aldar Education <b>Mr. Lorenz Dover</b> - MEd Education - Inclusion Specialist Aldar Education <b>Mrs. Salma Kamel</b> - MEd Education - Inclusion Specialist Aldar Education

## DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026

## AL GHAF 3

02:00 PM	Presentation	Transitioning from Education to Employment for people on the Autism Spectrum” <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mariliena de Coste</b> - The Butterfly <b>Chris Dimal</b> - The Butterfly <b>Mishiel Ayub</b> - The Butterfly <b>Iris Fernandes</b> - Person with Autism
03:00 PM	Workshop	Beyond the Diagnosis: Building Systems That Actually Work for Autistic Families <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Amira Hasson</b> - CEO and Founder, The Journey for Social and Family Consultancy
04:40 PM	Workshop	Evidence-Based Advances in Art Therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Manale Elewah</b> - Art Therapy Consultant,- Certified Expressive Art Therapist, WHO CCI Egypt Representative for GICC.

## DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026

## AL GHAF 5

10:00 AM	Workshop	دور الذكاء الاصطناعي في خدمات العلاج الوظيفي The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Services <b>ARABIC</b>	هداية عواد - أخصائية علاج وظيفي مركز زهره اللوتس للتوحد <b>Hedaya Awad</b> - Occupational Therapist, Zahrat Alotus Autism Center
11:00 AM	Workshop	بين الحب والعدالة: حقوق الطفل داخل أسرته Between Love and Justice: Children's Rights Within Their Family <b>ARABIC</b>	د. نسرين عدلان - مدير حالة مركز زهره اللوتس للتوحد <b>Dr. Nasreen Adlan</b> - Case Manager Zahrat. Alotus Autism Center
12:00 PM	Workshop	أهمية تعليم المفردات الأساسية للأطفال المصابين باضطراب طيف التوحد لتنمية تفاعلهم الاجتماعي The Importance of Teaching Core Vocabulary to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to Enhance Their Social Interaction <b>ARABIC</b>	بلال شهيحي - أخصائي نطق ولغة مركز زهره اللوتس للتوحد <b>Bilal Shehhi</b> - Speech and Language Specialist, Zahrat Alotus Autism Center
02:00 PM	Workshop	Human lecture Ethics Then and Now: How History Shaped Modern Protections <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Marie Ibrahim</b> - IROS Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs
02:45 PM	Workshop	The manuscript writing and publishing of lecture paper	<b>Dr Subhashini Ganesan</b> - IROS Research Manager
03:30 PM	Workshop	Informed Consent: Not just a form <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Marie Ibrahim</b> - IROS Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs



**DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026**

**AL GHAF 2**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
08:00 AM	Lecture	الإسعافات الأولية لأصحاب طيف التوحد First Aid for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mrs. SALWA MOHAMMED</b> - EMT / Trainer 999
10:00 AM	Lecture	Bioactive lipids in the prevention and management of autism. <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Undurti N Das</b> - MD, DSc, FRSC, FAMS UND Life Sciences
10:45 AM	Lecture	Enhancing Autism Readiness for Aquatic Intervention: Integrating Virtual Reality Social Stories within the A.A.I.F. Framework <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Nur Amalina Binti Samsudin</b> - Special Education Lecturer, School of Educational Studies - Universiti Sains Malaysia
11:15 AM	Presentation	Starting with the employer: job carving, coaching and structured partnerships <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Grant Javier</b> - Executive Director Project Inclusion Network Inc,
12:00 PM	Lecture	The transition gap: coordinating family, education, and corporate support for neurodivergent careers <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Uzma Akser</b> - Special Education Needs Coach and Mentor and the founder of Coaching with Uzma.
12:30 PM	Lecture	Autism and Mental Health <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Huda Sadek</b> - Consultant Developmental Paediatrics NMC Royal Hospital
01:15 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	Recognising Autism Early: Clinical Pathways and Practical Approaches <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Raziya Adam Kadwa (Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, NMC)</b> <b>Dr. Ahlam Alkhateri ( Family Medicine Consultant, Medical Director, Primary Care, NMC)</b> <b>Dr. Bhavna Gupta, Paediatrician, Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah</b>
03:00 PM	Workshop	Clinical genomics counselling for professional <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Aisha Al Shamsi</b> - Division Chief TAWAM PEDS Metabolic / Genetic <b>Mr. Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, SEHA Tawam Hospital
03:30 PM	Workshop	Autism Hub Model: Policy, Pathways, and Implementation under the New DOH Framework <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, SEHA Tawam Hospital <b>Dr. Binu George</b> - Sakina Consultant General Paediatrics with a primary interest in Paediatric Neuro-development and Neuro disability <b>Dr. Sameera Alobeidli</b> - Program Development ChairGHEC 2027 Advisory Board Member - GHEX <b>Khaled Mohamed Kadry</b> - Medical Director, Sakina
04:25 PM	lecture	Rethinking Autism Advocacy: From Global Evidence to Local Action <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Sumaiya Al-Hadhrani</b> - Consultant, Development Pediatrics Qaboos University Hospital University Medical City
04:50 PM	Lecture	Care, Beyond Diagnosis: Understanding Autism Through Needs, Not Labels <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Ms. Mezna Albreiki</b> - Assistant Psychologist - MOWJ Early Intervention Centre <b>Dr. Shaikha Mohammed Aljenaibi</b> - Consultant Pediatrics NMC Royal Hospital <b>Ms. Rawdha Almheiri</b> - Assistant Psychologist NMC ROYAL Hospital



**DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026**

**AL GHAF 6-7**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
11:00 AM	Workshop	القراءة المبسطة باللغة العربية ... مدخل عملي لتصميم محتوى شامل ومفهوم Easy Read Arabic: A Practical Introduction to Designing Accessible and Inclusive Content <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mr. Mohammed Al Nabulsi - الأستاذ محمد النابلسي</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الإنسانية - SCHSUAE
12:00 PM	Workshop	بناء كفاءات معلم الظل في المدارس الدامجة Building the Competencies of Shadow Teachers in Inclusive Schools <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Ms. Nana Abdalla Mansour - الأستاذة نانا عبد الله منصور</b> <b>Ms. Hafsa Rashida Abdelrahman Al Naqbi - الأستاذة حفصة راشد عبد الرحمن النقبي</b> <b>Ms. Amel Ali Obaid Altaffaq Almarashda - الأستاذة أمل علي عبيد الثفاق المراشده</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الإنسانية - SCHSUAE
01:00 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	دعم الأسر للتغلب عن الضغوطات النفسية Supporting Families in Coping with Psychological Stress <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Ms. Safa Alsir Abdalla Al Hassan - الأستاذة صفاء السر عبد الله الحسن</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الإنسانية - SCHSUAE
04:00 PM	Workshop	Journey of Hope – My Inspiration, Rawda, Changed My Life رحلة الأمل – ملهمتي روضة غيّرت حياتي <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mrs. Fidaa Dyab - Mother of Autistic Child</b>

**DAY 2 | APRIL 26, 2026**

**AL GURM EXHIBITION**

01:00 PM	Keynote - Recorded Session	Making the invisible visible with the hidden disability sunflower <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Paul White - CEO - The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower</b>
01:30 PM	Round Table	Empowering People of Determination in the Workforce <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Mrs. Jawhara Al Junaibi – Vice Chair, Youth Council</b> <b>Mr. Mansoor Al Menai – Head of Vocational Rehabilitation Unit (Al Ain), Zayed Authority for People of Determination</b> <b>Mr. Issa Al Marzouqi – Youth Representative, trainee Zayed Authority for People of Determination</b> <b>Mr. Kadhim Ali Zaher – Youth Representative, trainee Zayed Authority for People of Determination</b> <b>Mrs. Eiman Al Hammadi – Youth Representative, trainee Zayed Authority for People of Determination</b>
03:00 PM	Workshop	Widgit Symbols & inclusion for autistic people in classroom settings Widgit Symbols & inclusion for autistic people in the community <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Lisa Pinkerton - Widgit Head of Education</b> <b>Rebecca Lynch - Global Symbol and Education Specialist Widgit</b>



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# Program

# DAY 3

**27** April  
2026



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**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1 L2**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
11:30 AM TO 03:30 AM	Close Roundtable	WHO Health Equity & Stakeholders <b>ENGLISH</b>	

**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**MURBAN AUDITORIUM - GROUND FLOOR**

10:00 AM	Panel	What Families Need to Know About Work: Practical Strategies and Pathways <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Yanika Attard</b> - Director for Educational Services and Research, Autism Practitioner and Researcher The Malta Autism Center <b>Dr. Melvin Attard</b> - Director for Educational Services and Research, Autism Practitioner and Researcher The Malta Autism Center Director of Educational Services and Research, Autism Practitioner and Researcher
10:30 AM	Keynote	Preparing for what's next: neurodivergent talent in tech and the evolving digital economy <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Francec Sistach</b> - CEO - Specialisterne
11:00 AM	Keynote	Where is work going for neurodivergent individuals: Platforms, corporations, or ventures.	<b>MRS. RENATE BAUR-RICHTER</b> - DIRECTOR FIA INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY
11:30 AM	Presentation	Corporate readiness and UAE framework aligned to best international practices <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Marilena di Coste</b> - Founder and CEO The Butterfly Butterfly Team <b>Chris Dimal</b> - The Butterfly
12:15 PM	Keynote	Expanding Understanding of the Differences Neurodiversity Brings for the Classroom Teacher and the School Leadership <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Joy Carol Young</b> - Neurodiversity Educator, Author, and Speaker, Atlanta, USA
01:00 PM	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
01:30 PM	Panel	First Hand Account Panel: Hearing from People with Autism: Reflecting on my Education - what was needed and what can we Learn? <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Kevin Baskerville</b> - General Manager Topland People of Determination <b>Mr. Angus Baskerville</b> - Autistic Speaker & Entertainer - Magician <b>Chris Dimal</b> - The Butterfly <b>Ms. Iris Fernandes</b> - Legal and Compliance Intern Siemens Energy and Disability Advocate <b>Mrs. Toni Metcalfe</b> - Brand Representative Runderwear <b>Mrs. Maire Crouchman</b> - Psychotherapist & Executive Coach Founder, See Me Middle East
02:30 PM	Keynote	Autism and Physical Health <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Omar Al-Rubaie</b> - Doctoral Scientist in University Of CAMBRIDGE (UK)
03:00 PM	Keynote	A Virtual Therapy Modality with Real-World Results <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Mrs. Ala Alsardieh</b> - Regional Business Growth Manager AirMed International <b>Mr. Vijay Ravindran</b> - CEO, Floreo   Amazon and Washington Post alum
04:00 PM	Panel	AI & XR Innovative Solutions in Therapy and Education <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Vijay Ravindran</b> - CEO, Floreo   Amazon and Washington Post alum <b>Mrs. Ala Alsardieh</b> - Regional Business Growth Manager AirMed International <b>Dr. Dionysis Zamplaras</b> - Expert XR & AI - Skills4Mind / Institut Imagine <b>Dr. Taha RIDENE</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
05:00 PM	Keynote	Intelligent Systems for Children with Complex Communication Needs. <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Tom CHAU</b> - University of Toronto — Canada



**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**AL GURM EXHIBITION**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
02:00 PM	Round Table	When Museums Become a Language for Everyone <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Emaad</b> - Guggenheim Abu Dhabi <b>Mrs. Amna Alhammadi</b> - Community Engagement & Accessibility Section Head Zayed National Museum <b>Mrs. Noura Almansouri</b> - Museum Educator - Louvre Abu Dhabi <b>Mrs. Monique Lacey Reed</b> - Public Programmes Unit Head - Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi
04:00 PM	Workshop	Widgit Visual Symbols: 9 Reasons for Using Symbols <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Rebecca Lynch</b> - Global Symbol and Education Specialist Widgit

**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**AL GHAF 1**

08:00 AM TO 10:00 AM	Workshop	<b>AI BOOTCAMP</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
10:00 AM	Workshop	The Joyful, Amazing, but Always a Learning Experience of Living & Working with our Autistic Students <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Christo Schoeman</b> - Samar International School ADEK Approved Head of Inclusion
11:00 AM	Lecture	الاختبار التفاعلي السريع للكشف عن اضطراب طيف التوحد عند الأطفال الصغار RITA-T The Rapid Interactive Screening Test for Autism in Toddlers <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mr. Samer Mutlaq Ayasrah</b> - Associate Professor of Special Education/Giftedness and Creativity. Director of the Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
11:30 AM	Workshop	Practical Strategies for Parents to Build Emotional Resilience <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Nipa Bhuptani</b> - CEO A&B educational consultancy
12:30 PM	Workshop	Best Practices for Therapeutic Supports into the Classroom <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Tegan Morris</b> -Senior Speech & Language Pathologist   Education & Lifestyle Consultant   Bespoke Therapy Solutions <b>Mrs. Mishkah Small</b> - Senior Occupational Therapist   Education & Lifestyle Consultant   Bespoke Therapy Solutions
01:30 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	Following a Person Centred Plan: Visioning with Professionals - creating a vision for inclusion in the UAE <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Colin Newton</b> - Inclusive Psychologist. Co-Founder Inclusive Solutions <b>Mrs. Jacqueline Newton</b> - Graphic facilitator and Co-trainer Inclusive Solutions
03:00 PM	Workshop	Following a Person Centred Plan: Visioning with Parents - creating a vision for inclusion in the UAE <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Colin Newton</b> - Inclusive Psychologist. Co-Founder Inclusive Solutions <b>Mrs. Jacqueline Newton</b> - Graphic facilitator and Co-trainer Inclusive Solutions
04:00 PM	Workshop	A Parent's Perspective: Parents of Children with Autism reflecting on their Children's needs, Expectations and Challenges within Education <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Anna Kaminiski</b> - CEO NeuroKinds <b>Mrs. Kate Baskerville</b> - Mother of Autistic son <b>Mrs. Uzma Asker</b> - Special Education Needs Coach and Mentor and the founder of Coaching with Uzma. <b>Mrs. Amira Hasson</b> - The Journey for Social and Family Consultancy <b>Mrs. Romona Fernandes</b> - Mother of Autistic child <b>Hanaa Alabri</b> - Best seller author of "Raising Me" and Parent with lived experience <b>Mr. Christo Schoeman</b> - Samar International School ADEK Approved Head of Inclusion
05:00 PM	Panel	Doesn't Every Child Deserve a Safe Space? <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Laura Burberry</b> - Sales & Customer Service Manager Safespaces <b>Mr Alastair Demick</b> - Managing Director Safespaces



**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**AL GHAF 2**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Presentation	From lecture to workplace reality: Autism CRC turns evidence into advocacy <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Cheryl Mangan</b> - Chief Innovation Officer Autism CRC <b>Mr. Ashton Bartz</b> - Research and Community Engagement Officer Autism CRC
10:45 AM	Lecture	Autism and Early Interventions – From Discovery to Impact <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Giacomo Vivanti</b> - Associate Professor, AJ Drexel Autism Institute
11:45 AM	Lecture	A Mitochondrial Supplement Improves Function and Mitochondrial Activity in Autism: A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Cross-Over Trial <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Richard Boles</b> - Medical Geneticist with expertise in mitochondrial, other metabolic disorders, and channelopathies
01:15 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:30 PM	Lecture	Allergies and intolerances: new frontiers in diagnosis and therapies <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Carmelo Rizzo</b> - Professor of Chemistry – Independent Medical Practitioner – President of the International Academy of Clinical Nutrition, Rome (A.I.Nu.C.)
03:30 PM	Workshop	Practical Course on Cytotoxic Test for Food Intolerances Diagnosis. <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Carmelo Rizzo</b> - Professor of Chemistry – Independent Medical Practitioner – President of the International Academy of Clinical Nutrition, Rome (A.I.Nu.C.)



DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026

AL GHAF 6-7

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	TED Style	تأثير الخصائص الاجتماعية والديموغرافية على تكيف أسر الأشخاص ذوي اضطراب طيف التوحد The Impact of Social and Demographic Characteristics on the Adaptation of Families of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>SCHSUAE-</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الانسانية <b>Dr. Asmaa Mohammad Al Darmaki</b> - الدكتورة أسماء محمد الدرمني <b>Ms. Mai Abdalla Al Raesi</b> - الأستاذة مي عبد الله الرئيسي <b>Dr. Elsayed Mohamed Abdelrahman Mohamed</b> - الدكتور السيد محمد عبد الرحمن محمد
10:30 AM	Workshop	MAAN Autism Initiative <b>ARABIC</b>	
11:30 AM	Workshop	مبادرة "مبروك ما دبرت" "Congratulations on What You Managed" <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Dr. Mahmoud Alshathily</b> Advisor for the People of Determination Sector - Zayed Authority for People of Determination
12:00 PM	Workshop	الممارسات الخاطئة في مرحلة التدخل المبكر مع طلاب التوحد Incorrect Practices in the Early Intervention Stage with Students with Autism <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mr. JUMAH SHUAIB MUSTAFA</b> - Special Education Specialist and Behavioral Interventionist, Certified Trainer accredited by the American Board for Training and Education Zayed Authority for People of Determination
01:15 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Roundtable Candidates	The Autism Advantage: Why It Works <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderated by: Heidi Kershaw</b> - founder and ceo of The Global Autism Coalition <b>Luke Van Boeschoten</b> - Global Head of Client Data, JPMorgan Chase <b>Karen Warwick</b> - Chief of Staff at BP working in Intelligence, Security and Crisis <b>Emad Hamad Altamimi</b> - Program Development Director and Quality Office at Zayed Authority
03:00 PM	Panel	Supporting Employees with Children of Determination: Corporate Healthcare and Family Support Models <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>ADNOC</b>
04:00 PM	Lecture	Family Well-being in the Year of the Family (Best Practices from ADNOC) <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>Mariam Al Hosani</b> - Manager, Wellbeing Dept ADNOC.



**DAY 3 | APRIL 27, 2026**

**AL GHAF 4**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Lecture	Comprehensive Neurodevelopmental Assessments <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Haneesha Pinnamaraju</b> - Developmental Pediatrician & Medical Director SHINE Child Development Center
10:20 AM	Lecture	Approach to Developmental Regression in Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Deepti Gulhane</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist Harley Street Medical Center
10:40 AM	Lecture	Sleep Dysregulation in Autism: Neurobiological Mechanisms and Clinical Implications <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Raziya Adam Kadwa</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist NMC Royal Hospital
11:20 PM	Lecture	Anxiety Disorders in Autistic Children <b>ENGLISH</b>	
12:20 PM	Panel	Who Owns Autism Care? Neurology, Psychiatry, or Developmental Paediatrics? <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr Haneesha Pinnamaraju</b> - Developmental Pediatrician & Medical Director- SHINE CDC. <b>Dr. Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist SEHA Tawam Hospital
12:50 PM	Lecture	Anxiety disorders in autistic children: recognition and tailored interventions <b>ENGLISH</b>	
01:15 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Lecture	The Complex Pathophysiology of Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Classical Theories to Modern Insights <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Mehtap kaçar</b> - Yeditepe University Faculty of Medicine, Vice Dean. Faculty of Medicine, Head of Department of Physiology Health Sciences Institute, Head of Departments of Pathophysiology & Physiology
02:45 PM	Workshop	ADOS Workshop <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Indumathy Lakshminarayana</b> - Consultant Developmental Paediatrics Sakina <b>Ms. Maryam AlKetbi</b> - Speech Therapist Sakina
03:45 PM	Lecture	Personalized Detoxification in Children with ASD: Individualized Functional Strategies <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Irina Schurov</b> - Nutritional Neuroscientist and Therapist LiveRight
04:05 PM	Workshop	Revolutionizing Communication: AI in Speech Therapy for Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Jose Rubinger</b> - CEO Key2 Enable <b>Ms. Mariam Alhammadi</b> - Speech Therapist MOWJ Early Intervention Centre <b>Mrs. Ernest Saahakyan</b> - Special Education Specialist <b>Mrs. Linda Wandia Muriith</b> - Special Educator
05:05 PM	Workshop	The Inclusive Literacy Hub: From Pilot Implementation to proven Impact in Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr. Jose Rubinger</b> - CEO Key2 Enable <b>Mr. Ernest Saahakyan</b> - Special Education Specialist <b>Mrs. Tatev Muradyan</b> - Special Educator



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# Program

# DAY 4

**28** April  
2026



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ABU DHABI UAE



**DAY 4 | APRIL 28, 2026**

**MURBAN AUDITORIUM GF**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00AM	Panel	<p>الدمج لأصحاب الهمم تحديات وحلول</p> <p>Inclusion for People of Determination: Challenges and Solutions.</p> <p><b>ARABIC</b></p>	<p><b>Mrs. Khulood Mohammed</b> - Director of Care and Rehabilitation Centers Department Zayed Authority for People of Determination</p> <p><b>Ms. Zamzam Al-Hosani</b> - Project Manager for Data Quality - Zayed Authority for People of Determination</p> <p><b>Ms. Moza Al-Salami</b> - Director of Al Ain Center for Autism</p> <p><b>Ms. Sarah Al-Hamadi</b> - Principal Specialized Teacher and Inclusion Coordinator in Al Dhafra Region.</p>
11:00 AM	Round Table Discussion	<p>A THINK TANK Discussion: Funding of Services: Some Great Ideas Throughout This Conference ...but How Can They Be Funded?</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Catherine O'Farrell</b> - Founder CEO Includun</p> <p><b>Dr. Deep Makkar</b> - VP Fund Relataion NMC</p> <p><b>Mrs. Nipa Bhuptani</b> - CEO A&amp;B educational consultancy</p> <p><b>Ms Anna Kaminski</b> - CEO Neurokinds</p> <p><b>Mrs Lorraine Haughey</b> -Principal at ALDAR Education - Al Rayana Charter School</p> <p><b>Mrs Manal AlHamawi</b> - Senior Education Advisor - Taaleem Charter Schools</p> <p><b>Kevin Baskerville</b> - General Manager, Topland People of Determination</p>
12:15 AM	Panel	<p>Families, Siblings &amp; Inclusion — Voices Shaping the Future of Autism &amp; IDD Support</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator: Professor Eman Gaad</b> - Goodwill Ambassador Dean of Faculty of Education at The British University in Dubai</p> <p><b>Kimber Goodwin</b> - Strategic Advocate for Inclusion Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion</p> <p><b>Dr. Ahmed Bawa Kuyini Abubakar</b> - Programme Coordinator of the PhD in Education British University in Dubai (BUiD)</p> <p><b>Diala Al Samarani</b> - Health Sciences Reference &amp; Information Literacy Librarian Lebanese American University</p>
12:45 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
01:15 PM	Fireside Chat	<p>The Special Olympics Global Center: Research Impact for Inclusive Education</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Professor Eman Gaad</b> - Goodwill Ambassador Dean of Faculty of Education at The British University in Dubai</p> <p><b>Dr. Farah El Zein</b> - Special Education, and Neuroscience Division Emirates College for Advanced Education</p>
02:10 PM	Panel	<p>UAE: The Competitive Edge in Hospitality and Healthcare. Human Connection, Diverse Pathways, Autistic Talent.</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Renate Baur-Richter</b> - Director FiA Institute for Inclusion and Accessibility</p> <p><b>Mrs Zainab Abdul Ameer</b> - Vice President – Emiratisation</p> <p><b>Loiy Hanna</b> - Cluster Director of HR Hilton</p>
02:50 PM	Lecture	<p>Beyond HR: systemic accessibility for neurodivergent careers at every organizational level</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Ricardo Garcia Bahamonde</b> - Accessibility Professional Universidad Complutense de Madrid</p>
03:30 PM	Panel	<p>Secure Community Forum: Neurodiversity Crisis Management</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>1st. Lt. Sultan Al Dahbashi</b> - Head Of Permanent Alliances Development Branch Operations Department International Affairs Bureau</p> <p><b>Dr. Sameera Alobeidli</b> - Program Development ChairGHEC 2027 Advisory Board Member - GHEX</p> <p><b>Eitan Charnoff</b> - Founder and CEO of Potomac Strategy public affairs and geopolitical consultancy.</p>
04:00 PM	TED Style	<p>A JOURNEY OF Acceptance</p> <p><b>ENGLISH</b></p>	<p><b>Mrs. Hanaa Alabri- Tamkeen</b> - Corporate Compliance, Risk Management, and Governance Manager Neurodivergent Advocate and Conscious Connectivity. Best seller author of "Raising Me" and Parent with lived experience</p>
05:00 PM		<b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b>	



**DAY 4 | APRIL 28, 2026**

**AL GHAF 1**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
08:00 AM To 10:00 AM		<b>AI BOOTCAMP ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
10:00 AM	Panel	أفضل النصائح والأفكار لدعم الاستعداد المدرسي Top Tips & Ideas to Support School Readiness <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>Amira Hasson</b> - The Journey for Social and Family Consultancy <b>Heven Kordi</b> - Head of Inclusion at AlWatan Taaleem Charter schools <b>Manal AlHamawi</b> - Art Therapy Consultant, Certified Expressive Art Therapist, WHO CCI Egypt Representative for GICC. <b>Hanaa Alabri</b> - Neurodivergent Advocate and Conscious Connectivity/Tamkeen <b>Dr. Sharifa Yateem</b> – DoH-DHA Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Board certified Behavior analyst, founder Sharifa Yateem center for Rehabilitation Abu Dhabi and head start speech center Dubai
11:00 AM	Workshop	Creating An Environment for Communication: Augmentative Communication in the Classroom <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Helen Dunn</b> - Clinical Lead/Senior Speech and Language Therapist Namaa Education Services <b>Laura Foley</b> -Therapeutic Pathways Dubai Namaa Education
12:00 PM	Workshop	Female Perspective of Neurodiversity: The Women we Missed <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs Maire Crouchman</b> - Psychotherapist & Executive Coach Founder, See Me Middle East
01:00 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	Partnering for Success: Parents' Role in Preparing Children with Autism for School. <b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Mrs Heven Kordi</b> - Head of Inclusion AlWatan Taaleem Charter schools
03:00 PM	Workshop	The role of the LSA within a mainstream classroom <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Catherine O'Farrell</b> - Inclusion Award Winning Inclusion Consultant, Founder CEO, International Inspector, Iron (Wo)Man, Public Speaker, Passionate about SDG8
04:00 PM	Workshop	From Resource Base to Belonging: Redefining Inclusion Through Person-Centred Practice <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Lorraine Haughey</b> - Principal Al Rayana Charter School <b>Monique Den Daas</b> - Assistant principal Aldar Education

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**AL GHAF 3**

02:00 PM	Workshop	Understanding Autism: Changing Perspectives <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs Gayatri Ruparelia</b> - Inclusion Advisor, Taaleem Charter Schools
03:00 PM	Workshop	"Naughty or Neurodiverse? An Aspie's Road to Magic" <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mr Angus Baskerville</b> - Autistic Speaker & Entertainer - Magician <b>Mrs Kate Baskerville</b> - Angus Mother
04:00 PM	Workshop	Supporting School Readiness for Children with Autism: Practical Strategies for Home & School Success <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs Heven Kordi</b> - Al Watan Charter School

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**AL GURM EXHIBITION**

01:00 PM	Round Table	<b>Muwa'em Accessibility Label: We Adapt for Them, Wherever They Are</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Mr. Eissa AlJadidi</b> - Abu Dhabi Police <b>Mrs. Jawhara Al Junaibi</b> – Vice Chair, Youth Council <b>Mrs. Meera Alshamsi</b> – Genetic Analyst   Chair, Youth Council <b>Mr. Abdallah Zein Al Amri</b> - Genetic Analyst   Chair, Youth Council <b>Mr. Mohammed Al Shezawi</b> –Youth Council
02:00 PM	Round Table	<b>Empowerment to Inclusion</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Emirates Autism Society</b>
03:00 PM	Workshop	<b>Interactive Social Stories for Children with ASD A Proposal</b>	<b>Mrs. Noora Anwahi</b> - Classroom teacher for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder



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**AL GHAF 2**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Panel	Preventative approaches in Autism Spectrum disorders <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Saqib Latif</b> - Consultant Child & Family Psychiatrist Sheikh Khalifa Medical City – SEHA
10:30 AM	Lecture	Novel genetic variants associated with synaptic function identified in children with autism spectrum disorder in the United Arab Emirates. <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Pr. Hamdan Hamdan</b> - Assistant Professor at Khalifa University and a Visiting Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, specializing in neurodegenerative diseases
11:30 AM	Lecture	Methylation Dysfunction in Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Vinit Wankhede</b> - Secretary General - Academy of Pediatric Neurology (AOPN)
12:00 PM	Lecture	Building Integrated Autism Care Pathways: The Role of the Developmental Paediatrician <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Indumathy Lakshminarayana</b> - Consultant Developmental Paediatrics SEHA Tawam Hospital
01:00 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Lecture	Biomedical Interventions in Autism: Focus on Folate Pathway & Precision Therapy <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Deepak Gupta</b> - Neurologist at Paras Health, Panchkula, and a Medical Oncologist at Mahaveer Cancer Hospital in Jaipur
02:25 PM	Lecture	Epilepsy and EEG Abnormalities in Autism: Clinical Significance <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Majid Aziz</b> - Pediatrician at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City - SEHA
02:50 PM	Lecture	Early Identification vs Over-Diagnosis <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Pratibha Singhi</b> - Pediatric Neurologist President International Child Neurology Association ICNA
03:10 PM	Panel	Global Autism Care: Equity, Access, and Cultural Context <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Prashant Utage</b> - Consultant Developmental Paediatrics - UMANG CDC <b>Dr. Vinit Wankhede</b> - Secretary General - Academy of Pediatric Neurology (AOPN)
03:40 PM	Workshop	Communicating an Autism Diagnosis: Breaking the News and Supporting Families <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Sweta Prasad</b> - Special Educator Mother of Autistic Child <b>Dr. Dhanesh Gopalan</b> - Senior Clinical psychologist NMC Royal Hospital <b>Dr. Raziya Adam Kadwa</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist NMC Royal Hospital
04:30 PM	Panel	The Autism Clinic of 2035: Models of Care for the Next Decade <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Deepti Gulhane</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist Harley Street Medical Center <b>Dr. Biju Hameed</b> - Consultant Paediatric Neurologist SEHA Tawam Hospital



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AL GHAF 6-7

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Fireside chat	Inclusive Hiring at Scale: A Conversation with Specialisterne <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Renate Baur-Richter</b> -Director FiA Institute for Inclusion and Accessibility <b>Mr. Francec Sistach</b> - CEO - Specialisterne
10:30 AM	Presentation	Workspace design for neurodivergent success: an architect's contribution to inclusive employment <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Tzesika Iliovits</b> - Inclusive Design Consultant Inline - Accessibility and Universal Design Consultancy
11:00 AM	Keynote	Raising Emotional Intelligence & Understanding Behaviour <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Shahana Knight</b> - Director of TPC and Therapeutic Classrooms.Author & speaker. Creator of the Therapeutic School and Therapeutic Classroom Approach.
12:00 PM	TED Style	A Case Study on the Differential Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder After Adolescence دراسة حالة حول التشخيص الفارقي لاضطراب طيف التوحد بعد سن المراهقة <b>ARABIC</b>	الدكتورة. سامية محمد صالح <b>Dr. Samya Mohammed Saleh</b> <b>SCHSUAE</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الانسانية
12:30 PM	TED Style	Comorbid Disorders Associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder during Adolescence: Challenges and Interventions الاضطرابات المصاحبة لاضطراب طيف التوحد في مرحلة المراهقة: التحديات والتدخلات <b>ARABIC</b>	الدكتورة. سهام عادل خليل الحميمات <b>Dr. Siham Adel Khaleel Al Homaimat</b> <b>SCHSUAE</b> مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الانسانية
01:00 PM	Workshop	7-Step Autism Action Plan <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Taiba Bajar</b> - Award winning Autism Parent Coach, TEDx speaker, Bestselling Author and Founder of the organisation Autism Brain Empowerment in the UK
01:30 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Workshop	Inclusive Workplace Environment <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>Mariam Al Mazrouei</b> - Vice President, Group People Culture & Employee Experience ADNOC
03:30 PM	Workshop	Success Stories: Empowering Employees of Determination <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Fatma Ridene</b> - Deputy CEO and Medical Director Lotus Holistic medical Center <b>Mohamed Al Zaabi</b> <b>Abla Al Ketbi</b>
03:30 PM	Lecture	WHO disability equity that more related to autism experience in Health service <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Kaloyan KAMENOV</b> - Technical Lead - Disability Programme World Health Organization



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**AL GHAF 4**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Panel	The Neurodiversity Imperative: Educational Innovation for Autism and “The Mirror of Emotions” <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Antigoni Mara</b> - Senior Advisor & Trainer - Special Education & Inclusion Merg Foundation
10:30 AM	Lecture	Rewiring the Network: A Multi-Target Approach to Autism Focusing on Immune Metabolism and Oxidative Stress <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Ralf Herwig</b> - Scientist   CEO at HG Pharma Senior Associate Consultant Clemenceau Medical Center Hospital
11:00 AM	Lecture	Transitioning Autistic Adolescents to Adult Services <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Dr. Binu George</b> - Consultant Neurodevelopmental Disability Pediatrician and Special Needs
11:30 AM	Workshop	Our Inclusive Journey: Building a Community Where Every Child Belongs <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Mrs. Jodie Eardley</b> - Principal Al Wafaa Charter KG (Taaleem) <b>Mrs. Samar Makki</b> - Al Wafaa Charter School
01:30 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	



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**EXECUTIVE ROOM 2 - L2**  
**AUTISM AI & INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM**

Time	Session Style	Session Title	Speakers
10:00 AM	Keynote	Seeing the Spectrum: A Global View of AI and Computer Vision for Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind FF (FRANCE / Switzerland) <b>Prof. Nicolas LOMENIE</b> — University Paris Cité, France
11:00 AM	Panel	How AI-Powered Approaches Can Support Learning in the Autism Community <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof Hanane Boussi</b> - Digital Health Expert (UTM Tunis UWE iste UK) <b>Dr. Chouaieb NEMRI</b> - Generative AI BlackBelt Specialist at Google AI <b>Dr. Taha RIDENE</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland) <b>Omar AL-RUBAIE</b> - Doctoral Scientist in University Of CAMBRIDGE (UK)
11:45 AM	Keynote	Having AI as an ally for parents of kids with Autism <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof. Hanane Boussi</b> - Digital Health Expert (UTM Tunis / UWE Bristol UK) <b>Mr. Chouaieb NEMRI</b> - Generative AI BlackBelt Specialist at Google AI F
12:15 PM	Panel	Leveraging Technology to Transform Autism Care and Digital Health <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof. Hanane Boussi</b> - Digital Health Expert (UTM Tunis / UWE Bristol UK) <b>Prof. Boulbaba Ben Amor</b> - (G42 - UAE) - Director of AI for Good at Inception <b>Dr. Sreethi Nairn Dean</b> - College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Abu Dhabi University
01:00 PM		<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
02:00 PM	Keynote	AI and Health: Innovating in a World Where the Future Arrived Yesterday <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland) <b>Dr. Nader M. Ghazal</b> - (CAAIC - UAE)
02:30 PM	Keynote	Responsible AI for Autism: Ethical Challenges in Digital Health <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland) <b>DOH Representative</b> <b>Prof. Hanane BOUSSI (UK)</b> - Digital Health Expert (UTM Tunis / UWE Bristol UK) <b>Omar CAMARA (France)</b> - R&D Digital Expert - Skills4Mind 4th member – Department of Health (TBC) <b>Prof. Monojit Choudhury</b> - Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intellig
03:15 PM	Panel	Accountability and Rights in the Era of Artificial Intelligence <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Prof. Mohammad FTEIHA</b> - Director of AI Ain Campus Director of the Center for Faculty Development and Learning Innovation <b>Dr. Nader M. Ghazal</b> - UAE/US - Africo-Asian Council for AI & Cybersecurity-CAAIC <b>Prof. Boulbaba Ben Amor</b> - Director of AI for Good at Inception <b>Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland)
04:00 PM	Keynote	Some Thoughts on AI for 2026/2027: Issues, Predictions, Pragmatic Trends, and Areas Requiring Immediate Attention <b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Moderator Dr. Taha Ridene</b> - XR & AI R&D Expert, CIO Professor Skills4Mind (FRANCE / Switzerland) <b>Prof. Usamah FAYYAD</b> - Northeastern University - USA



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