



Oxford \dagger Egypt
EBHC Alliance

Oxford-Egypt Evidence-based Healthcare Alliance

Terms of REFERENCE v.1.0
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The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance

Your key to trusted evidence in healthcare for Egypt and the region

About the Alliance

The Oxford-Egypt Evidence-based Healthcare (EBHC) Alliance aims to advance Evidence-based Healthcare (EBHC) education, research, and practice in Egypt, through a joint transformative initiative between leading universities, research centers, and healthcare institutions/providers in Egypt and the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine (CEBM) in the UK.

The Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) is supporting this evolutionary initiative to help transform the healthcare landscape in Egypt through evidence-based practices with the ultimate goal of establishing a centre of excellence for Evidence-Based Healthcare in Egypt. Together we seek to foster EBHC teaching, research, and practice in Egypt and the broader Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, through strengthening national capacities and expertise in EBHC/EBM methodologies and tools, providing formal EBM curricula in medical and healthcare education, and translating research evidence into practice.

The slogan of the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance is; Your key '☩' to trusted evidence in healthcare for Egypt and the region, referring to the 'Key of Life' symbol, also known as the 'Ankh', which is an ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic symbol that is thought to have originated in the pre-dynastic period of ancient Egypt, around 4000 BC. In ancient Egypt, the ankh was used as a symbol of life and power and was believed to have the power to give life, both in the physical and spiritual sense. Being rooted in our Egyptian history and culture, including the 'Key of life ☩' symbol to the Alliance's logo and slogan signifies the transformative role the Alliance will play in reviving (bringing life to and strengthening) the field of EBHC in Egypt through this partnership with Oxford's CEBM.



The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance's scope of work is in line with the currently ongoing transformations in the Egyptian healthcare system towards universal health coverage in line with Egypt's Vision 2030 to achieve the health- and education-related sustainable development goals (SDGs) as part of the national agenda for sustainable development.

[The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance has a strict policy of no industry funding or sponsorship, either direct or indirect, in any form, for all Alliance-associated activities].

Purpose of the Alliance

Our Mission & Vision



Mission

Our **Mission** is to collaborate to advance evidence-based healthcare teaching and education, generate trusted research evidence, and promote the culture, skills, and tools of evidence-based practice in Egypt and the broader Middle East and Africa region.



Vision

The **Vision** of the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance is to become a national and regional provider of trusted high-quality evidence for better healthcare.

Core Values

CITE



Collaboration

collaborating with different academic, research and healthcare entities to advance EBHC in Egypt and the region, jointly with Oxford CEBM.



Integrity

showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values.



Transparency

acting openly and honestly and providing clear evidence-based information to build trust and accountability.



Excellence

achieving the highest possible standards in EBHC education, research, and practice.

This partnership has five principal aims:



- 1** Advance the education and teaching of evidence-based healthcare/medicine in Egypt.
- 2** Conduct joint research in key health priority areas in Egypt to generate high-quality trusted evidence to better inform health policy and practice decisions in Egypt.
- 3** Promote the culture, tools, and skills of evidence-based healthcare in healthcare providers and university hospitals across Egypt.
- 4** Foster national and international collaborations with like-minded academics, educators, and health scientists for developing and delivering high-quality teaching, training, and research programmes in evidence-based healthcare/medicine.
- 5** Establish a centre of excellence for Evidence-Based Healthcare in Egypt jointly with Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine.

Scope of work and key activities



+ Teaching

Advancing education and teaching of evidence-based healthcare/medicine (EBHC/EBM) through developing the next generation of evidence-based healthcare leaders and educators in Egypt and region.

Key activities include:

- Provide capacity building programmes, courses, and interactive workshops about key evidence-based healthcare topics to transfer knowledge and skills from Oxford CEBM to Egypt.
- Educate researchers, educators, clinicians, healthcare professionals and postgraduate students in the practice and teaching of EBHC.
- Offer scholarships for postgraduate programmes and degrees offered through the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine, at the University of Oxford.
- Advocate for establishing and strengthening formal EBM education and training on the undergraduate and graduate levels in medical schools and all health-related disciplines.
- Build world-class expertise in producing evidence syntheses in healthcare according to highest standards provided by Oxford CEBM.



Research

Generating high-quality trusted research evidence in key health priority areas to make better informed healthcare policy and practice decisions in Egypt and the broader Middle East and Africa region.

Key activities include:

- Conduct evidence-based research in key health priority areas in Egypt in line with Egypt's National Health Strategy 2024–2030, jointly with Oxford CEBM.
- Generate real-world research evidence from local contexts to better inform policy and practice relevant to our population needs, culture and context.
- Promote the systematic use of rigorous research methodologies, open research practices, research ethical standards to ensure the conduct and dissemination of trusted and transparent research evidence.

The Oxford–Egypt EBHC Alliance research themes





Practice

Fostering a culture of evidence-based practice in healthcare organizations through promoting the necessary tools and skills for evidence-based clinical practice.

Key activities include:

- Develop and incorporate evidence-based tools and methods for adoption by clinicians in clinical practice in local contexts.
- Communicate tools and resources for evidence-based practice with clinicians, decision-makers, patients and the public.
- Foster a culture of evidence-based practice in healthcare through communication and awareness.

Other activities include:

- Connecting with leading universities, research centres and healthcare organisations to join as members of the Alliance to align national and regional efforts.
- Disseminating high-quality trusted evidence to healthcare professionals, patients, and the public to support making informed decisions.
- Developing an engaging platform to connect and engage in key EBM/EBHC topics and discussions on the Evidence Resonates Blog Platform.
- Translating Oxford CEBM resources and EBM tools into the Arabic language, including the Levels of Evidence, Critical Appraisal Tools, and the Catalogue of Bias.
- Providing scholarship(s) for Egyptian scholars, researchers, academics, and healthcare professionals to attend Oxford CEBM programmes in Evidence-based Healthcare.
- Hosting the world-leading EBM_Live conference in Egypt, jointly with the Oxford CEBM, as the first and largest conference on EBHC in the Middle East and Africa Region.
- Creating orientation and educational materials to promote the culture and practice of evidence-based healthcare to the consumers (patients and the public), clinicians and policymakers.

[The CEBM is unable to commit resource for the outputs listed, and the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance will be responsible to secure the necessary resources to carry out these activities/deliverables, through one of the funding mechanisms listed below under the Governance section].

Governance mechanism

Founding team

The Oxford–Egypt EBHC Alliance is managed by the founding team, advisory board and facilitators.



Dr. Ranin Soliman

Founder and Chair

An Oxford EBHC DPhil graduate, a clinical epidemiologist and health research scientist with interest in health economics and outcomes research (HEOR). She is an Assistant Professor of Evidence-based Practice at the University of Hertfordshire in Egypt; and Head of the Health Economics and Value Unit at the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt. She also serves as an Evidence-and Data-to-Policy consultant at the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.



Dr. David Nunan

Supporting Founder

Director of the MSc in EBHC Teaching and Education and the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching Evidence-Based Health Care at the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine; a Senior Research Fellow and Departmental Lecturer in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, and Fellow at Kellogg College.

Roles and Functions of the Founding Team

The founding team will be responsible for the initiation of the alliance, outlining the scope of work and included activities, following up on the progress of the deliverables, contributing to the core activities of the alliance (e.g.: conducting workshops/courses in Egypt; research initiatives; organizing a scientific conference), and communication about the alliance's work.

Advisory Board



Professor Carl Heneghan

Senior Adviser

A Professor of EBM, and the Director of CEBM & Programs in EBHC at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, an NHS Urgent Care GP, and Co-Director of the Global Centre for Healthcare and Urbanisation.



Professor Sir Muir Gray

Honorary Adviser

an internationally renowned authority on healthcare systems who held senior positions at the NHS England. An honorary clinical researcher at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, and Founding Director of Oxford Value and Stewardship Programme (OVSP).

Roles and Functions of the Advisory Team

The Advisory team will meet once every 3 months to discuss the strategic plan of the alliance, be involved in high-level decisions, and follow up on the progress of the activities. Other priority meetings could be scheduled if urgent matters require consensus with the advisory team, based on everyone's availability. Members of the advisory board can also be involved in the alliance's activities, such as teaching workshops/courses, and collaborative research.

Facilitator



Dr. Nancy Bolous

Facilitator

a Senior Research Scientist at the Disease Burden and Simulation unit at the Department of Global Paediatric Medicine at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA. She is also an instructor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Roles and Functions of the Facilitator

The facilitators will contribute to all the activities of the alliance, moderate and teach in the courses/workshops delivered by the alliance, take part in research activities of the alliance, and attend all regular meetings of the alliance. The facilitators will communicate with member organizations regarding upcoming events, courses, or news.

Meeting Schedule

The founding team of the Alliance shall meet once monthly to discuss the progress of the Alliance's activities, updates, and new partnership opportunities as they arise. The advisory/honorary team shall meet with the founding team four times a year (every three months), or if urgent issues arise that need to be resolved or discussed.



Funding Mechanism

Funding of the core activities of the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance will follow any of the following funding mechanisms, depending on the nature of the activity, convenience and availability of funds, and approval of the managing team. The Alliance shall not receive direct funds from the industry* to be in line with its core values. Potential funding schemes include:



- Subscription- or institution-based registration fees for funding an educational event (e.g.: a workshop; online event/seminar, or other similar short-term educational activities).
- Applying for a grant to support the alliance's core educational or research activities.
- Collaborating with a funder/funding partner (non-industry) to support the alliance's activities.

[The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance has a strict policy of no industry funding or sponsorship, either direct or indirect, in any form, for all Alliance-associated activities].

*Industry sector refers to either the Pharmaceutical industry, the Medical devices and equipment industry, or any Tobacco-related industry.

Partners of the Alliance

The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance may collaborate with partner organisations who share the same mission, vision, and core values and act in good faith to support the alliance in achieving its principal aims to promote evidence-based healthcare education/teaching, research and practice in Egypt and the broader Middle East and Africa (MEA) region. Becoming a partner of the alliance is offered by invitation or agreement with the founding and advisory members of the alliance and can take any of the following forms: academic, funding, or strategic partner, as defined below.

Academic Partner:

The primary aim of an Academic Partner is to significantly and actively contribute to the core academic activities of the alliance to advance evidence-based healthcare education/teaching, research, and practice in Egypt at academic institutes, research centres, or healthcare organisations in Egypt. Academic partnership agreement shall be in place to outline the scope of the partnership.

Funding Partner:

The primary aim of a Funding Partner is to provide funding to support the core activities of the alliance, without having a role in the decision-making process. The funder/funding partner shall be appropriately acknowledged in all relevant activities, events, or programmes they have funded. Funding agreements/contracts shall be issued to ensure formal agreement, accountability, and legal effect between the parties involved.

Strategic Partner:

The primary aim of a Strategic Partner is to develop strategies to sustain the Alliance in the longer term, offer resources to help achieve its strategic objectives, and maintain its sustainability and expansion across Egypt and the broader Middle East and Africa region.

Legal effect

The Alliance is not a legal entity, it is established and governed by the managing team listed in the Governance section. These Terms of Reference do not grant any authority to any individual to legally bind any other individual or the Alliance.

How to Get involved with the Alliance?

Expression of Interest for individuals

We are keen to connect with interested like-minded academics, researchers, clinicians and policymakers in Egypt to develop a network of enthusiastic and passionate individuals to work together towards achieving the goals of the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance.

Individuals interested in getting involved and participating in the activities of the Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance will require confidence in our purpose and rationale, alignment with our vision, mission and core values, and agreement to our Terms of Reference. The Oxford-Egypt EBHC Alliance acknowledges contributions from interested individuals and offers opportunities to develop new skills and collaboration. We value diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. Every member must maintain co-operation, teamwork, integrity, openness, transparency, scientific rigour and independence. Interested individuals can express their interest in writing by providing the following:

- A letter of expression of interest outlining their interests related to the core activities of the Alliance and experience in evidence-based healthcare and clearly mentioning how they would like to get involved with the Alliance.
- An updated abbreviated CV (up to three pages only with a font no less than 10pt).
- If required by your institution, a letter of reference from your Department Head or Institute Director.

All expression of interest requests will be reviewed to ensure eligibility by at least 2 members of the founding team and Advisory Committee of the Alliance. Applications will be reviewed twice per year on September 1 and March 1 (or next business day as needed) with notification within 10 working days from the final review date. The founding, advisory, and facilitating members of the Alliance may invite qualified individuals to participate in the activities of the Alliance going following the same application and review process mentioned here.



Apply. Expression of interest applications for individuals can be submitted via **this form**.

Expression of Interest for member organisations

We welcome expression of interest intents from eligible organisations who are interested to join us in our journey to transform the healthcare landscape in Egypt through generating and disseminating trusted evidence to make better informed policy and practice decisions in healthcare.

Joining as a member organization of the Alliance builds upon a relationship that requires confidence in our purpose, alignment with our vision, mission, and core values, and our scope of work as outlined in our Terms of Reference document and agreement to participate in the functions of the Alliance outlined below.

Specific expectations and benefits of a member organization


- Contribute to the development and provide oversight of educational curricula in EBHC/EBM.
- Participate in research projects in areas of interest related to the Alliance's research themes and priority areas to generate high-quality evidence, jointly with Oxford CEBM.
- Participate in seminars, scientific events, working group and other relevant meetings.
- Contribute to the development of the scientific programme for international conferences and meetings.
- Contribute to the development of strategies to communicate about EBHC and promote effective knowledge exchange.
- Support the development of a community or network of clinicians, researchers and policymakers with an active interest in evidence-based healthcare.
- Maintain the sustainability and expansion of the Alliance across Egypt and the region.
- Attendance of regular group meetings with representatives from each organisation.
- Provide communication and marketing services to promote collaboration and events.
- Declare any conflict of interest and acknowledge the funder where appropriate.
- Actively seek matched/leveraged funding.
- Act in good faith in all matters affecting the management and outputs of the Alliance.
- Individuals affiliated with a member organization shall receive a 20% discount on training courses and workshops conducted by the Alliance.
- Agreement that continued membership of the Alliance is subject to sustained activity based on a yearly basis.

Expression of Interest for member organisations

All expression of interest requests will be reviewed to ensure eligibility by at least 3 members of the founding team and Advisory Committee of the Alliance. Applications will be reviewed once per year on March 1 (or next business day as needed) with notification within 10 working days from the final review date. The founding, advisory, and facilitating members of the Alliance may invite eligible organisations to join the Alliance following the same application and review process.



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