



SAMS

SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Chapter

www.samsOhio.org

Newsletter

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April 2008

President's corner

Thanks to you, SAMS



Ohio has made promising beginnings in the past year. Here I would like

to reiterate one of our foremost goals: to invest in and serve our local communities that assimilated us throughout Ohio, and to inspire our children to be exemplary Americans who take pride in their Syrian Arab heritage. While it is heartening that scores of Ohio's accomplished and highly engaged physicians and dentists are of Syrian descent, we remain committed to supporting SAMS National - in fact, 2 of its 4 presidents are Ohioan. Finally, I wish to highlight the key role *you* can play in deciding on the future directions of SAMS Ohio and steering it towards achieving the vision *you* set for this community.

Basel Moussa MD, FACC
President, SAMS OHIO chapter



You are invited to 2nd SAMS Ohio Gala Event at the Cleveland Marriott on Friday May 23rd, 2008.

We would like you to know...

- ▶ **Scholarships for residency training applicants**
- ▶ **Observerships in accredited Cleveland hospitals for newcomers**
- ▶ **Donations in Homs to the Syrian Cancer Society**
- ▶ **Supporting the Syrian Cultural Garden in Cleveland**
- ▶ **Mother's Day 2007**
- ▶ **Leading, again, at SAMS 8th Convention in Syria, 2007**



Highlights of SAMS Ohio 1st Gala Event 2007

Join **SAMS OHIO**

Nominate and vote for a new executive board



SAMS 9th CONVENTION
July 7-10, 2008 |

Le Méridien Resort,
Lattakia, SYRIA



Ohio Chapter Update

SAMS OHIO Board

- Basel Moussa, MD, president
- Fares Raslan, MD
- Razan Abbas, DDS
- Adib Alsous, DDS
- Samer Daoud, DDS

Leading, *again*, at SAMS 8th Convention in Syria

Our medical community in Ohio continues to take the lead as key speakers and moderators at SAMS convention in Syria during June 2007. Cleveland Clinic cardiothoracic surgery team led by Dr. Rami Akhras held its annual workshop in Al Bir Hospital in Homs. Also, Dr. Fares Raslan has been leading cardiothoracic anesthesia for 5 years in a row.



Observerships in accredited Cleveland hospitals

In 2007, Bassem, Dani, Feras, Hani, Khaled, Muhanad, and 7 other newly-coming young Syrian doctors and a student had the opportunity to do observerships in accredited Cleveland hospitals. Such opportunities help them adapt to the American medical system and improve their communication skills, hence enhancing their chances in their bid for a residency. Among sponsors were: Dr. Basel Moussa, Education Director of Cardiology who has led this tradition for over 10 years; Dr. Rami Hachwi of Neurology and Dr. Hassan AlZoubi. This kind of frequent but individual contributions is now streamlined

by SAMS's "Syrian American Academic Network for Observership". Physicians with academic standing are encouraged to enlist in order to extend a hand to new-comers. Please review requirements and forms on our website.

Supporting the Syrian Cultural Garden in Cleveland

SAMS Ohio is the official sponsor of the Syrian Cultural Garden

(SCG) in Cleveland Ohio—a much anticipated project in the city's Cul-



tural Garden Federation in Cleveland (CGFC) complex. SCG is expected to launch in October 2008 after collaborative work led by Dr. Wael Khoury and Adnan Mourany. *Dr. George Paras*, president of the CGFC, was the keynote speaker at SAMS Ohio 2007 Gala dinner, he raised awareness of the importance of this project (see page 3).

SAMS Ohio Auxiliary celebrated Mother's Day

The Auxiliary celebrated Mother's Day at the Holiday Inn in Independence. The warmth of this tradition was shared by



many families on May 12, 2007.



Donations in Homs for the Syrian Cancer Society

At a lucrative fund-raising event in Homs during SAMS 8th Convention June 2007, SAMS OHIO board donated \$5,000 to The Syrian Cancer Society. Those frequent, noble and generous activities need to streamline into projects with a futuristic plan. Please participate in ideas and guidance.



“Scholarship for Residency Applicants” is up and running

SAMS OHIO (board and members) contributed \$3,300.00 to SAMS’s National new project “Scholarship for applicants for residency”. Spearheaded by Dr. Tarek Kteleh, a rheumatology fellow in St Louis, a total of \$41,575 was raised: \$17,000 were distributed to 5 candidates, \$24,575 is left available to the committee (at a national level) to allocate to the next cycle of applicants

SAMS OHIO The Cleveland Gala 2007

It was a fest! American physicians and dentists of Syrian origin in Ohio came together in an unprecedented medical and social function in the heart of Cleveland. The *Renaissance Hotel* hosted 233 attendants of the first SAMS Ohio Gala event from Cleveland, Columbus, Youngstown, Akron, Sandusky, and other Ohioan communities. The program featured a **lecture** by *Dr. Naim Farhat* titled “Bivaluridin in ACS and Coronary Interventions”, followed by a dynamic Qs and As session.



Dr. Basel Moussa, President of SAMS Ohio, presented the chapter’s mission. He further asserted that investing in Ohio and local communities would create an atmosphere for better understanding and deepens our children’s sense of pride and belonging. He expressed the board’s priority in connecting with and empowering the first Syrian-American generation.



Thabet Alsheikh, MD
President of SAMS National came from Florida to address Ohio Attendants



“Outstanding Physician Award” was given to *Dr. Mousab Tabbaa*, the first physician ever to chair the board of trustees at Lakewood Hospital in its 100 years of history



“Professor Award” was granted to *Prof. Dr. Khalil Azem*, who taught several generations at Damascus U.



**Syrian American Medical Society
Ohio Chapter**

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Address: _____



Keynote Speaker, Dr. George Paras, shown with wife Rhonda, president of the Cultural Garden Federation in Cleveland, turned the lights on the *Syrian Garden* project.



"Academic Achievement Award" was taken by **Dr. Nizar Zein**, director of **hepatology at Cleveland Clinic Foundation.**



"Student Award" was earned by **Kenan Diab**, a gifted 16 year-old son of this community



Many joined **Dabkeh**, dancing to the tunes of **DJ Farah**



Auxiliary Board of SAMS Ohio: Rima Akhras, Lela Raslan, Lena Bshara, Razan Abbass, Shaza Daoud, Hyatt Moussa and Naaham Daoud



Ronnie Khalil, a Florida-based comedian, shared with the crowd his stories as a first generation Arab



After dinner, guests mingled around, greeting friends and re-connecting **Dr. Rami Akhras, Dr. Wael Khouri, Dr. Basel Moussa, Dr. Thabet Alsheikh** involved in discussion