



# Scholarship Program

Medical Specialty, Subspecialty, &  
Nursing Training

# Background

The health system encounters many challenges constraining its development process especially in regards to the quality and availability of health services which has led to an increase in the referrals of patients to non-Palestinian facilities. The referral costs have burdened the national system, this is especially important as an estimated quarter of the of the Ministry of Health' s budget is spent on referrals to neighboring countries when treatment is not available in Palestine. Meanwhile, the number of doctors continues to increase; however, the imbalance in the supply of doctors in different subspecialties still remains limited.

To maximize the number of well-trained practitioners, and with the goal of minimizing the burden of referrals abroad, Juzoor for Health and Social Development (Juzoor) and the Foundation for Al Quds University Medical School (FQMS) , funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, through Taawon, came together to facilitate a Scholarship Program for Medical Subspecialty and Nursing Training for Palestinian health professionals.

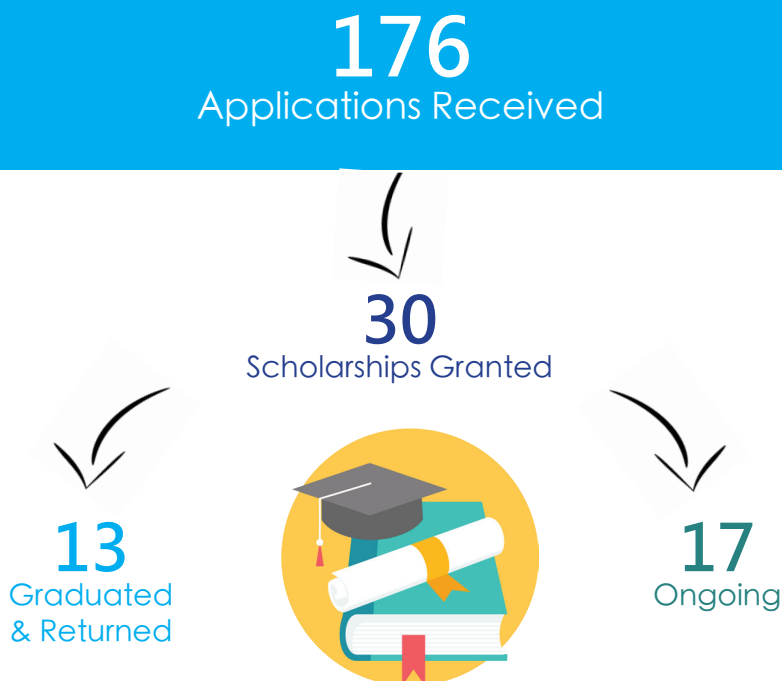
This program is in line with the Palestinian National Health Strategy which focuses on capacity building for the Palestinian National Health Workforce to ensure high quality care and a sustainable healthcare system that will in turn minimize the burden of referrals abroad.

## Aim

To develop a comprehensive quality of Palestinian health services that meet the needs of Palestinians with minimal health care dependency on others whereby there is complementation and efficient use of resources by Palestinian health care providers.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN REVIEW

The scholarship program started in 2012 and is ongoing. The numbers below are inclusive of all Medical Specialty, Sub-Specialty and Nursing trainings for doctors in the West Bank and Gaza to date:



The scholarship program is available to all Palestinian health professionals who meet the criteria. So far, the program has ties with five countries:

- The United Kingdom
- Lebanon
- Canada
- Jordan
- Palestine

For more information about our scholarship program, please visit [www.juzoor.org](http://www.juzoor.org)

## Meet our Graduates



Dr. Eyad Hamshari  
2014 - 2016

Dr. Eyad Hamshari started his fellowship in 2014 in Knee and Shoulder Surgery at King's College Hospital, which is a trauma center. So, he was exposed to many difficult and complex cases.

***"I started working in Ramallah again. Since I got back, I have worked on many complicated trauma cases in shoulders and knees. We do not have any shoulder or knee surgeons in the West Bank or Gaza. Luckily, we have managed to reduce the number of transfers."***



Dr. Naji Mousa  
2016 - 2018

Dr. Naji Mousa finished two years of subspecialty training in Gynecological Oncology at University College London Hospital and returned in 2018. He started working at Hebron Governmental Hospital as the Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department before leaving to work at Ahli Hospital.

***"I hope we will have a cancer center in the near future where management of cancer patients will be held by a specialized team with regular meetings of all the people involved in the treatment process."***



Dr. Najib Salameh  
2017 - 2019

Dr. Najib Salameh did his fellowship in Urogynecology and minimal access surgery at the University College London Hospital. During his two years in London, he passed the exams at the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and became a member of the College (MRCOG). Currently, he is a consultant at Beit Jala Hospital. “

***"I had the opportunity to be trained under the most experienced doctors in London and hope I can reflect this on the women's healthcare in Palestine, despite the lack of resources."***

## Meet our Graduates

Dr. Alaa Aabed went to Jordan University where she got her Academic Certificate of Higher Specialization in Ophthalmology from its Hospital, later spending four years as a resident there. She is a motivated Ophthalmology Specialist with a special interest in corneal transplantation. She is committed to providing patient-centered care with the capacity to perform the best clinical and surgical procedures.

***"Juzoor gave me this opportunity that was not possible before due to financial reasons. In return, I am dedicated to give my best to my people the way Juzoor did for me."***



Dr. Bashar Jaber started his fellowship in 2014 at the University Hospital Southampton in Laparoscopic General Surgery. During his stay in the UK, he became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. In 2017, he returned home and started his new role as a Laparoscopic General and Colorectal Surgery at Makassed Hospital.

***"My main goal is to provide state of the art medical service to patients in the fields of General and Colorectal Surgery. In addition, I aim to teach local residents and doctors and provide them with evidence-based up-to-date guidelines. For this purpose, I organized a Rectal Cancer Teaching Day for local surgeons to review the evidence and current management protocols."***



Dr. Ahmad Itmezeh did his specialty training at the Jordan Hospital in Histopathology from 2018 – 2019.

***"This experience definitely added to my knowledge. Now, I am transferring what I learned to my students at Al-Quds University."***



## Meet our Graduates



Dr. Rifaat Hanbali is a Medical Doctor and a member of Arab Board of Internal Medicine, and Palestinian Board of Rheumatology. I trained in Internal Medicine Department at Al-Makassed Hospital.

***"I am grateful to Juzoor for allowing me to do my fellowship in Rheumatology at Al-Makassed Hospital and Jordan University Hospital."***



Dr. Suha Atteli is a Diagnostic Radiologist - Member of the Palestinian Medical Board and the Palestinian Society of Radiologists. She started her residency in Diagnostic Radiology at PMC and completed her residency at KHCC in Jordan in 2014.

***"I am honored to have received the scholarship. It allowed me to get the best training that I am currently applying in my profession"***



Dr. Maha Akkawi is a Doctor and Surgical Pathologist. She completed her three-year fellowship in Haematopathology in Bristol-UK. She recently returned to Nablus to start working in her Haematopathology Specialty.

***"I aspire to support the Palestinian health sector by employing the high quality education I acquired through my fellowship. "Juzoor helped me achieve my dream of serving the under-resourced Palestinian health care system in my community."***

# Overview

Since 2012, Juzoor for Health and Social Development, with the generous funding by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and in collaboration with Taawon, has been facilitating the Medical Subspecialty and Nursing Training for Palestinian Doctors and Nurses scholarship program in various countries including the UK, Lebanon, Jordan and Canada. This is a joint program between Juzoor and the Foundation for Al Quds University Medical School (FQMS) which offers opportunities for training in vital shortage subspecialties not currently available locally.

This program supports the development of human resources in the health sector in Palestine and ensures the availability of well-trained, qualified medical specialists in Palestinian health institutions. The postgraduate medical training programme utilizes the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) Scheme and the International Surgical Training Programme (ISTP).

To be specific, MTI and ISTP are national schemes that allow doctors to upgrade their clinical expertise so they can go on to improve the health care available in their field when they return home. It also improves the quality, teaching and range of subjects offered in the Palestinian medical schools and local residency programmes.

# Acknowledgments

We greatly acknowledge the effort and support made by all who contributed to the success of the program. This program was founded on the belief that promoting good health and attaining localization of health services are essential for economic, social and personal development. Therefore, investing in our health professionals means we are investing in our country.

Special thanks to all who made this program possible particularly, Dr. Sameer Jarad from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Dr. Mamdouh Al-Aker from the Palestinian Health Policy Forum, and Dr. Lina Al-Nashif from FQMS.



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The Al-Quds Foundation for Medical Schools in Palestine



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Taawon