

From Alignment to Delivery: CAIRO High-Level Meeting on the Declaration of Cooperation on Trustworthy AI in Healthcare

09.45 – 12.30

Date: Friday, 23 January 2026

Location: Hilton Cairo Heliopolis Hotel

Setting: Convened in Cairo during BGICC, IGILUOC and ONCO

Room: WA 1, Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Background:

AI is accelerating from pilots into procurement and routine clinical workflow integration across the MENA region. The primary constraint is increasing implementation readiness, including governance and accountability, validation, bias mitigation, cybersecurity, human oversight, and post-deployment monitoring.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is now a parallel constraint and an enabling lever. As global medtech, AI developers, cloud providers, and health service operators increase regional capital commitments, governments and health systems must ensure that investment translates into deployable and trusted outcomes, not fragmented deployments, vendor lock-in, or uneven capacity across countries and sites. This requires a shared “investability” and “trustworthiness” baseline: predictable governance, transparent assurance, interoperable standards, accountable operating models, and measurable post-deployment performance.

This meeting builds on the Declaration of Cooperation adopted in Cairo in 2025 and launched by the International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC). It is designed to move from shared intent to coordinated delivery by aligning stakeholders around common principles, priorities, and a structured path forward, while explicitly positioning trustworthy AI implementation as a catalyst for high-quality, health-impact FDI (R&D, centres of excellence, data infrastructure, training, and clinically validated deployment).

Objective:

Align participating organisations on a 2026 Declaration of Cooperation on Trustworthy AI in Healthcare, anchored in the FUTURE-AI Framework (Fairness, Universality, Traceability, Usability, Robustness, Explainability) as a shared, science-based reference for AI that is both trustworthy and deployable across the full lifecycle, and investable at scale through clear assurance, predictable governance, and cross-border operability.

Purpose:

- Agree a shared scope and operating model for a Middle East FUTURE-AI Academy for Trustworthy AI in Healthcare, including high-level governance principles and initial milestones, to establish a common regional platform for coordination and capacity-building, and to signal a credible regional pipeline for FDI into skills, clinical validation, implementation science, and safe deployment.
- Align participating organisations around common reference standards and priority themes for trustworthy AI, using the FUTURE-AI Framework as a shared

language, to support consistent expectations for adoption, deployment, and oversight across healthcare systems, reducing regulatory and operational friction for cross-border investors while protecting patients and systems.

Outcome:

- Alignment on FUTURE-AI as a common regional reference for trustworthy healthcare AI and a shared “investability baseline” for responsible market entry and scaling
- Agreement on priority themes and coordination mechanisms, including how public leaders, regulators, and investors align on validation, monitoring, cybersecurity, and accountability
- Consensus on the role and next steps for a Middle East FUTURE-AI Academy, including how it will support FDI-linked capacity building (training, certification, evaluation sites, reference implementations)
- Clear ownership and follow-up actions for 2026, including an implementation pathway that translates investment into measurable clinical, equity, and system outcomes

Friday, 23 January 2026
09.45 – 12.30 (Cairo time)

09.45 – 10:00: Welcome and Meeting Objectives

- **Hesham El Ghazaly**, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, Senior BGICC leadership (*confirmed*)

10:00 – 10:15: From Principles to Practice: FUTURE-AI as the Regional Reference

- **Denis Horgan**, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) (*confirmed*)
- **Karim Lekadir**, ICREA Research Professor, University of Barcelona & Director, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Lab (*confirmed*)

10:15 – 10:45: Global Leadership on Cancer, AI, and Equity

- **Elisabete Weiderpass**, President, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) (*confirmed*)
- **Dina Mired**, Patron, International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) (*confirmed*)
- **Zainab Shinkafi-Bagudu**, President-Elect, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) (*confirmed*)
- **Lynn Schuchter**, Chief of Hematology-Oncology & Director, Tara Miller Melanoma Center, & Professor, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania (Penn Medicine) (*confirmed*)

- **Cesaltina Lorenzoni**, MD, MSC, MPH, PhD, Medical Pathologist, Head of the National Cancer Control Programme at the Ministry of Health in Mozambique ([confirmed](#))

Moderator: Denis Horgan, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)

10:45 – 11:15: Setting the Scene: Why Cooperation Now

(from regulation to implementation for AI)

- **Adda Bounedjar**, Head, Medical Oncology Department, CHU Blida, Algeria; General Secretary, Algerian Society of Medical Oncology ([confirmed](#))
- **Julie Gralow**, Chief Medical Officer, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) ([confirmed](#))
- **Jihui Hao**, Vice President of China Anti-Cancer Association (CACA), President of Tianjin Medical University, Cancer Institute & Hospital ([confirmed](#))
- **Ismail Siala**, Consultant Medical Oncologist; Faculty of Medicine, University of Tripoli ([confirmed](#))
- **George Kapetanakis**, President, Hellenic Cancer Federation (ELLOK) ([confirmed](#))
- **Carol Ann Benn**, Chair, Africa Breast Cancer Council ([confirmed](#))

11:15 – 11:40: Clinical Use Cases: Where Trust Is Won or Lost

Output: Priority clinical requirements to be reflected in the Declaration and Academy curriculum

- **Nagi Saghir**, Professor of Medicine (Hematology/Oncology), American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), Beirut, Lebanon (Lung cancer pathway) ([confirmed](#))
- **Omalkhair Abulkhair**, Saudi Arabian Medical Oncologist, Senior Consultant, and Professor at Alfaisal University ([confirmed](#))
- **Abubakar Bello**, past Head of Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology at the National Hospital Abuja in Nigeria ([confirmed](#))
- **Nesrine Chraïet**, Professor of Medical Oncology, Institut Salah Azaïz de Cancérologie (ISAC) ([confirmed](#))
- **Wafik El Deiry**, Associate Dean for Oncologic Sciences; Director, Legorreta Cancer Center, Brown University ([confirmed](#))
- **Alper Sevinc**, Head of Department at Medical Point Gaziantep Hospital, Turkey, Gaziantep ([confirmed](#))
- **Ruslan Malikovich Paltuev**, CEO of RAOM - Russian Association of Oncology ([confirmed](#))

11:40 – 12:00: Public-Private Sector Support: Enabling Public Leadership and Safe Deployment

- **Sherif Nour**, Oncology Business Unit Director in Egypt, AstraZeneca ([confirmed](#))
- GE HEALTHCARE

12:00 – 12:20: Middle East Academy for Trustworthy AI in Healthcare

Mandate, Governance, and First 90-Day Milestones

- **Denis Horgan**, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) *(confirmed)*
- **Hesham El Ghazaly**, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Ain Shams University, Egypt *(confirmed)*
- **Adda Bounedjar**, Head, Medical Oncology Department, CHU Blida, Algeria; General Secretary, Algerian Society of Medical Oncology *(confirmed)*

12:20 – 12:30: Closing and Next Steps
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- **Hesham El Ghazaly**, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Ain Shams University, Egypt *(confirmed)*
- **Denis Horgan**, Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) *(confirmed)*