



Under the Patronage of
Ministry of Health

The 6th Syrian Annual Digestive
Disease Week

The 25th Congress of the
Syrian Society of
Gastroenterology

Organized by the Syrian Society of
Gastroenterology (SSGE)

April 20-22 / 2011
Dedeman Hotel
Damascus, Syria

In collaboration with
The Ministry of Higher Education
Damascus University

&

European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE)
World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO)
Mediterranean Task Force for Cancer Control (MTCC)
United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF)



MTCC
Mediterranean



UNITED EUROPEAN
GASTROENTEROLOGY
FEDERATION

 **DIAMOND
PHARMA**



The 6th Syrian Annual Digestive Week

- **Endoscopy Digestive Workshop (SYRENDO 2011) - Category B**

18-19 April, 2011 - 09: 00 - 17:00

Al Assad University Hospital, Damascus

Organized by: The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, The Syrian Society of Gastroenterology - Endoscopy Branch and the United European Gastroenterology Federation.

Directed by: Dr. Ibrahim Mustafa, Dr. Fayez Sandouk

- **Training Course for Endoscopy Nurses**

Directed by: Dr. Moaz Ftaih

- **Workshop on: “How to Publish a Scientific Paper?”**

19 April, 2011, from 08:30 to 16:00

Dedeman Hotel, Damascus

Organized in cooperation with Elsevier

Co-Chairmen: Dr. Abdel Meguid Kassem, Dr. Eamonn Quigley,
Dr. Bas Straub.

The 25th Congress of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology

20 - 22 April, 2011

Dedeman Hotel, Damascus

Organized by: The Syrian Society of Gastroenterology

Chairman of the Congress: Dr. Nazir Ibrahim

- **Special Session on: “Metabolic Syndrome & Steatohepatitic”**

20 April, 2011

Dedeman Hotel, Damascus

Organized in cooperation with the United European Gastroenterology Federation

Chairmen: Dr. Nabil Isseh, Dr. Rolf Hultcrants, Dr. Nizar Zien

• **Special Session on: “HCC”**

21 April, 2011

Dedeman Hotel, Damascus

Organized in cooperation with the Mediterranean Task Force for Cancer Control

Chairmen: Dr. Elias Ghandour, Dr.Mahmoud Nasser, Dr.Massimo Crespi.

• **Special Session on: “Surgical and Endoscopic Complications. When you should call the Surgeon and when you should call the Endoscopist?”**

21 April, 2011

Dedeman Hotel, Damascus

Organized in cooperation with the Syrian Surgeon Society

Chairmen: Dr. Abdul Monem Swied, Dr.Fedal Touma



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Important Dates

15 March, 2011:
Deadline for submitting abstracts

15 March, 2011:
Deadline for early registration

30 March, 2011:
Deadline for hotel reservation.



WELCOME TO DAMASCUS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing & scientific committees, I am pleased to welcome you to the 6th Syrian Digestive Disease Week (SDDW) which will take place in Damascus, Syria, April 18-22, 2011.

This year we are proudly celebrating the silver anniversary of the annual congress of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology (SSGE)

I would like to express our gratitude to the renowned Gastroenterology Professors who worked really hard to organize the first Gastroenterology Congress in Syria 25 years ago.

This year 2011 proved to be the best year in SSGE history with such big events:

In January 20th, we will have the second IBD day,

On 4-5 of February will be having the French-Syrian liver days in Damascus.

On 4th of March the first Syrian Turkish Days will be held in Aleppo.

and last but not the least, on March 9-11 the first Arab conference on liver transplantation will take place in Daraa

I would like to express my thanks to our international friends who have cooperated with us through the support of their international prestigious organizations: The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the World Gastroenterology Organization, and the Mediterranean Task Force for Cancer Control and the United European Gastroenterology Federation.

This SDDW will be bursting at the seams with scientific activities:

The 25th Congress of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology, April 20 - 22, 2011 at Dedeman Hotel, Damascus;

The Endoscopy Digestive Workshop (SYRENDO 2011) – (ESGE category B), April 18-19, 2011 at Al Assad University Hospital in Damascus;

A training Course for Endoscopy Nurses, April 18, 2011, At Al Assad University Hospital

A special workshop on: “How to Publish a Scientific Paper?”, organized in cooperation with Elsevier will be taking place on April 19` In addition to many monothematic sessions on “Metabolic Syndrome and Steatohepatitis “, “HCC”, “Surgical and Endoscopic Complications”; “When you should call the Surgeon and when you should call the Endoscopist?” And two round tables.

Distinguished experts from Europe, United States and many Arab countries have been invited to participate in this scientific event to present their experience in the field of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endoscopy.

The social program will explore the treasures and many cultural sites and museums offered by Damascus. It will include visits to the old town of Damascus, Omayyad Mosque, the old Souks, the national museums and the Damascus historic citadel. A visit to the oldest church in history in Maloula city is also scheduled.

We do believe that the greatest and most inspiring achievements are not so much stories of individual achievement, but are of stories of extraordinary power of unified, talented and prepared team that worked together, exchanged expertise and learned from international events

To all participants and to the team who worked over the last ten months I say Thank you

We look forward to welcoming you in historic Damascus.

Dr. Nazir Ibrahim

Chairman of the 6th Syrian Digestive Week

Chairman of the 25th Congress of SSGE

President of SSGE



COMMITTEES

The Board of the Syrian Digestive Week

The Board of the 25th Congress of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology

Chairman: Nazir Ibrahim, MD
Vice Chairman: Ahmad Al Mawla, MD
Treasurer: Majed Sharbak, MD

Scientific Committee:

Head of Scientific Committee:
Mohamad Khair Ojjah, MD

Raed Abou Harb, MD
Nizam Eldin Al-Haj, MD
Ayman Ali, MD
Ahmad Al-Mawla, MD
Mhd Khair Dubian, MD
Ghassan Haddad, MD
Ayman Houssari, MD
Abdel Latif Khoubi, MD
Khaled Sheiha, MD
Abdel Hamid Soubeh, MD
Abdul Monem Swied, MD
Fedel Touma, MD
Ahmad Wassouf, MD
Najib Zeidan, MD

Administrative Committee:

Head of the Administrative Committee:
Mussalam Kayal, MD

Amar Faraman, MD
Ziad Ghanoum, MD
Milad Haddad, MD
Ayman Hosari, MD
Kamal Iz Eldin, MD
Abdullatif Khubi, MD
Abdulla Naiouf, MD
Talal Omran, MD
Nawal Saloum, MD
Salim Sari Eldin, MD
Ahmad Wassouf, MD
Zahera Zaher Eldin, MD

Board of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology

President: Nazir Ibrahim, MD
Vice president: Jarir Abdel Wahab, MD
General Secretary: Mustafa Satouf, MD
Treasurer: Mussalam Kayal, MD
Coordinator: Majed Sharbak, MD

Board of the Endoscopic Branch

President:	Abdul Monem Swied, MD
Vice president:	Khaled Sheiha, MD
General Secretary:	Abdel Latif Khoubi, MD
Treasurer:	Bassam Daher, MD
Coordinator:	Ayman Hosari, MD

Coordinator of Syrian Working Group for the Study of Viral Hepatitis:

Dr. Fouad Al Assad

Coordinator of Syrian Working Group for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases:

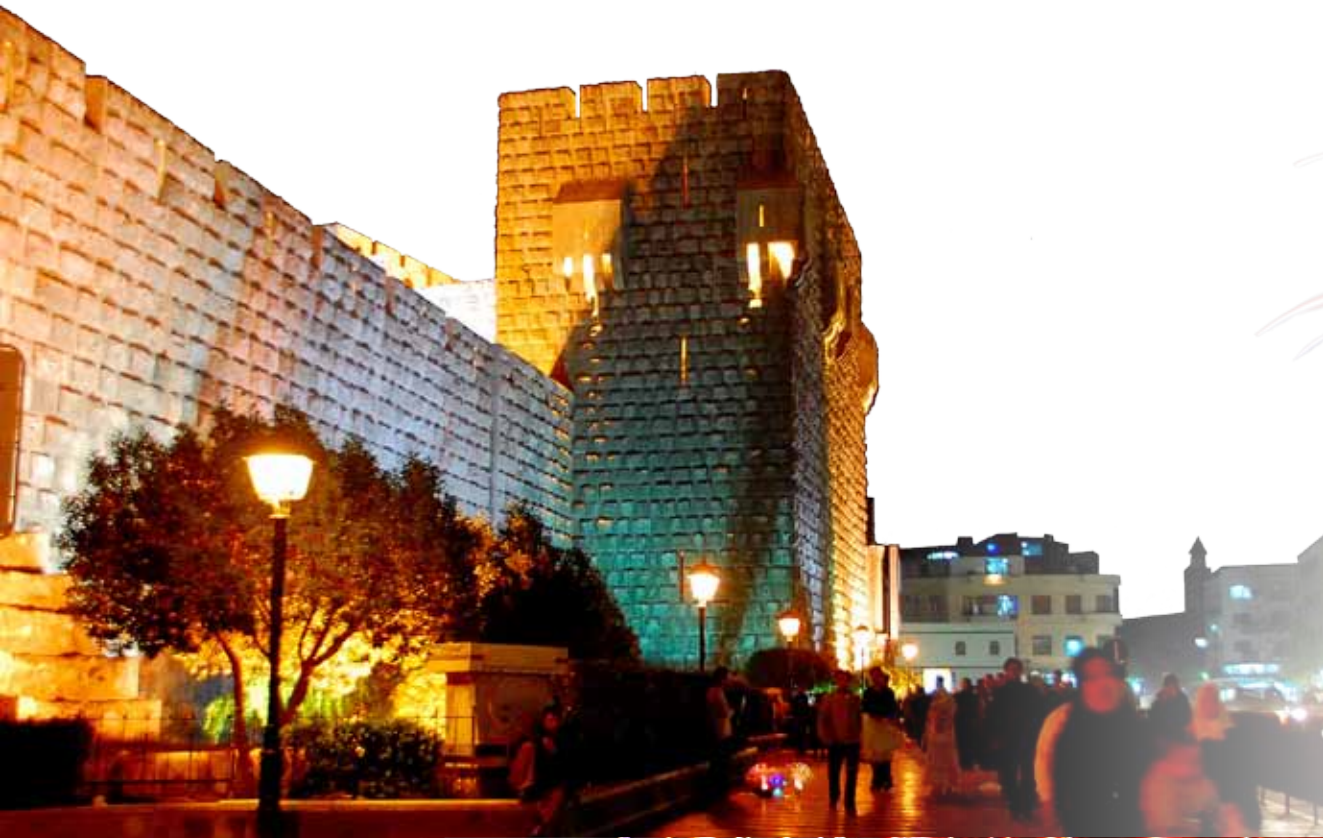
Dr. Nizam Eldin Al Haj

Coordinator of Syrian Working Group for Colon Cancer:

Dr. Mosa Massalmah

Coordinator of Syrian Working Group for Evidence Based Medicine:

Dr. Jarir Abdul Wahab



MAIN TOPICS

- Colorectal Cancer
 - Surgical Complications and Endoscopic Complications
 - Radiological Interventions in GI Diseases
 - Virological Liver Diseases
 - Chronic Inflammatory Bowel Disease
 - Metabolic Liver Disease
 - Liver Cancer
 - Functional Disorders
 - How to Publish a Medical Research?
-
- Round table on: HCC Cancer
Syrian Working Group for the study of Viral Hepatitis
-
- Round table on: Crohn's Disease Management - Special Situations
Syrian Working Group for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

HONRARY GUEST SPEAKERS

Prof. Jerome Waye	(USA)
Prof. Eamonn Quigley	(Ireland)
Prof. Rolf Hultcrants	(Sweden)
Prof. Firas Al Kawas	(USA)
Prof. Nizar Zien	(USA)

INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS

Prof. Hussein Abdel-Hamid	(Egypt)
Prof. Mohamed Al-Ateek	(Egypt)
Prof. Guido Costamagna	(Italy)
Prof. Antonio Craxi	(Italy)
Prof. Massimo Crespi	(Italy)
Prof. Assad Dajani	(UAE)
Prof. Manal ElSayed	(Egypt)
Prof. Mohamad Ali Eloubeidi	(Lebanon)
Prof. Anna Jungwirthova	(Hungry)
Prof. Lucas Greiner	(Germany)
Prof. Elias Ghandour	(USA)
Prof. Stefano Iacobelli	(Italy)
Prof. Gamal Ismat	(Egypt)
Prof. Abd Alrahman Kadaifcie	(Turkey)
Prof. Abdel Meguid Kassem	(Egypt)
Prof. Elie Makhoul	(Lebanon)
Prof. Detlev Menke	(Germany)
Prof. Ibrahim Mostafa	(Egypt)
Prof. Mazen Naga	(Egypt)
Prof. István Rácz	(Hungary)
Prof. Alfredo Saggioro	(Italy)
Prof. Ziad Sharaiha	(Jordan)
Prof. Bas Straub	(Netherlands)
Prof. Assad Sweid	(Lebanon)
Prof. Abdul-naser El-Zouki	(Lybia)



**THE 2ND ESGE WORKSHOP
& POSTGRADUATE COURSE
IN SYRIA
(SYRENDO 2011)**

in Association with

**The 34th Workshop of
the Endoscopy Branch of
Syrian Society of Gastroenterology
SSGE**

April 18-19, 2011

Al-Assad University Hospital,
Damascus – Syria

Organizing Committee:

- Category “B” ESGE workshop and post-graduate course
- The endoscopy Branch of the Syrian Society of Gastroenterology SSGE
- Al-Assad University Hospital, Damascus, Syria
- SSGE Co-Director: Fayez Sandouk Tel. 00963 933 26 56 36
E.mail. fayezsandouk@gmail.com
- ESGE Co-Director: Ibrahim Mostafa Tel. 0020 12 211 3466
E.mail. ibrahimmostafa@egyptgastrohep.com

ESGE Faculty:

Guido Costamagna

Ibrahim Mostafa
Istvan Racz

ESGENA Faculty:

Sylvia Lahey
Marjon de Pater
Wendy Waagenes
Herta Pomper

Members of ESGE

President : Horst Neuhaus
President elect: Paul Fokkens
Vice President: Istvan Racz
General Secretary: Thierry Ponchon
Treasurer: Lars Aabakken
Education Committee: Mario Dinis-Ribeiro
Councillor: Oliver Le Moine
Councillor: Soren Meisner
Councillor: Ibrahim Mostafa
Councillor: Bjorn Rembacken
Councillor: Florian Schriber
Councillor: Alessandro Zambelli
IM Representative: Marc Giovannini
Endoscopy Journal: Thomas Rosch

Members of SSGE

President : Nazir Ibrahim
Vice President: Jarir Abdulwahab
General Secretary: Mostafa Sattouf
Treasurer: Musallam Kayal
Councilor: Majed Sharbak

SSGE Faculty:

Abdulmonen Sweid
Fayez Sandouk
Nazir Ibrahim
Majed Sharbak

Syrian Nurse Faculty:

Dr. Mouaz Fteih
Aisha Bsheir
Hana Salibi
Sherin Diab

Board of ESGENA

Michael Ortmann

Jayne Tillett
Sylvia Lahey
Stanka Popvic

Mette Asbjorn Olesen
Jadranka Brljak
Herta Pomper

Board of Endoscopy Branch

Abdulmonem Sweid
Khalid Sheha
Abdulatif Khubbi
Ayman Hosari
Bassam Daher

Scientific Program

Day1. Monday April 18, 2011

09:00-09:20:

His Excellency :

Fayez Sandouk :

Ibrahim Mostafa:

Guido Costamagna:

Sylvia Lahey:

Welcome

Minister of Health

Co director SYRNDO 2011 Syria

Co Director SYRNDO 2011 ESGE

Previous ESGE President

Co-director ESGENA, General Secretary ESGENA

Session (1): Chairpersons: Mohamed Khubaitari (Syria), Noufal Jajeh (Syria), Abdulrahman Al-Jebreen, (Saudia), Azzam Kayyaseh (Emirates), Sylvia Lahey

09:20-09:40: **Lecture 1:** High definition endoscopy in practice (JD. Waye)

09:40-11:00: Live Demonstration

11:00-11:20: **Lecture 2:** Endoscopy Resection of early GI neoplasia (I. Racz)

11:20-11:50: **Coffee break**

Session (2): Chairpersons: Ali Saada (Syria), Abdullatif Khubbi (Syria), Eli Makhoul (Lebanon), Hisham Al-Khayyat (Egypt),

11:50-12:10: **Lecture 3:** Endoscopic Resection of Barrett's (F. Alkawas)

12:10-14:50: Live demonstration

14:50-15:30: **Lunch**

Session (3): Chairpersons: Riyadh Al-Araj (Syria), Omar Mahmoud (Syria), Mohamed El-Oubeidi (Lebanon), Abdulmonem El-Tayeib Abdo (Sudan), Somebody of ESGENA

15:30-15:50: **Lecture 4:** Progress in Endoscopic Management of Pancreatic Pseudocysts (F. Sandouk)

15:50-17:00: Live demonstration

11:00 - 12:30 ESGENA & Syrian Endoscopy Nurses Course:

Monday April 18, 2011

11:00-11:05: Welcome

Dr. Muaz Fteih (Coordinator Endoscopy Nurse Group)

Sylvia Lahey (General Secretary ESGENA).



11:05-11:30: Preparation of patients Before and After Endoscopy (Aisha Bsheir, Hana Salibi, Sherin Dyab)

11:30-11:55: Complications During and After Endoscopy (Marjon de Pater)

11:55-12:20: Cleaning & Disinfecting of Endoscopes & Accessories (Sylvia Lahey)

12:20-12:30: **Quiz**

Registration Fees: Syrians: 50 Euro - Non Syrians: 150 Euro

Registration includes: Conference Bags, ID badges, Lunch box, Coffee breaks.

Special Ristration Fees for nurses: 200 Syrian Pounds for Syrians.

50 Euro for Non Syrians.

Day2. Tuesday April 19, 2011

Session (4): Chairpersons: Noufal Jajeh (Syria), Raed Abu Harb (Syria), Ahmad Orfali (France , Syria), () Somebody of ESGENA

- 09:00-09:20: **Lecture 5:** EUS in Biliary & pancreatic interventions (A. Sweid).
09:20-10:40: Live demonstration
10:40-11:00: **Lecture 6:** New techniques in Intraductal Endoscopy: Spy Glass, Nasogastric scopes ... (G.Costamagna)
11:00-11:30: Coffee break

Session (5): Chairpersons: Mahmoud Tarabishi (Syria), Maher Haddad (Syria), (Egypt), Tlemat (Jordan), Somebody of ESGENA

- 11:30-13:00: Live demonstration
13:00-14:00: Lunch

Session (6): Chairpersons: Khaled Sheha (Syria), Ziad Ghannoum (Syria),(Egypt), Abdulelah Ghazi Kadhim (Iraq), Sylvia Lahey, ESGENA

- 14:00-14:20: **Lecture 7:** Endoscopic Management for Post Liver Transplant Complications (I. Mostafa)
14:20-15:50: Live demonstration
15:50-16:00: Quiz
16:00-16:30: Prizes distribution to winners
16:30-17:00: Closing Remarks



General Information

- Official language:** English
- Secretarial Office:** PO. Box 1222, Kossour Square, Damascus, Syria
Fayez Sandouk Office.
fayezsandouk@gmail.com
00963 933 26 56 36
- Weather:** Most beautiful spring, some heavy dress is wise at nights.
- Currency:** 1 EURO = 65 Syrian Pounds (SP).
- Transportation:** Regular shuttle will be available between hotels and the Workshop venue (Al-Assad University Hospital).
Taxi rates range 100-150 SP.

For More Information:

Fayez Sandouk MD FRCP
Co-Director SSGE
00963 933 26 56 36
fayezsandouk@gmail.com

Ibrahim Mostafa
Co-Director ESGE
0020 12 211 3466
ibrahimmostafa@egyptgastrohep.com

Organizing Offices:

For Syrians and Non Arabs

Multaka International for Conferences, Exhibitions & Events

A: Scientific program information, Travel arrangements and Tours

Ms. Randa Jaafari: Tel: +963 944 272755
e mail: multaka@scs-net.org

B: Registration, Hotel Booking, Exhibition:

Ms. Intisar Totenji: Tel: +963 944 420081
Fax: +963 11 6333133

For Egypt and Arab Countries

Dr. Mohamed Naguib Chairman, ALFA MEDICAL Co.
Mobile: 0020-11-90-3-90-60
e-mail: gm@alfamedical.org
www.alfamedical.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE: Dedeman Hotel, Damascus Avenue Choukry Kwatly
P.O.Box 5531, Damascus, Syria
Phone:+963 11 332 26 50
Fax:+963 11 373 86 61
Email:damascus@dedeman.com
www.dedeman.com

OPENING CEREMONY

Wednesday	April 20, 2011	11:00 am (opening ceremony)
Wednesday	April 20, 2011	11:30 am (opening the medical exhibition)

REGISTRATION HOURS

Registration at Dedeman Hotel will take place during the following hours:

Tuesday	April 19, 2011	17:00 - 20:00
Wednesday	April 20, 2011	08:00 - 17:00
Thursday	April 21, 2011	08:00 - 17:00

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Authors wishing to submit an abstract should complete the abstract form and send it to the Head of the Scientific Committee: Dr. Mhd Khair Ojje, to be received not later than March 05, 2011. and be e-mailed to dr.ojje@gmail.com, another copy should be e-mailed to Multaka@scs-net.org).

Notifications of acceptance will be sent to the authors mid-March.

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT: Speakers are requested to use computer projection and hand in their CD and flash memory to the slide room technician two hours prior to their lecture.

LANGUAGE: The official languages of the conference are English & Arabic.

VISAS: Visas to Syria are not required from citizens of most Arab countries. Visas for Non-Arab participants can be obtained easily from Syrian Consulates worldwide.

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE: Certificates of attendance will be issued to all participants at the registration desk and the end of the Congress.

NAME BADGES: Participants will be issued name badges upon registration. Please wear your badge at all times, including evening functions. Only those delegates with name badges will be admitted to the scientific sessions and exhibits.

REFRESHMENTS: Free coffee and tea will be available during intermissions.

TOURISTIC PROGRAM: A Tourist program in Damascus will be organized for attendees and accompanying persons.

MEDICAL EXHIBITION: The meeting's exhibition will take place during the congress, and will be open from Wednesday, April 20 at 11:30 to Friday, April 22 at 12:00 at Dedeman Hotel

Companies wishing to receive information on the exhibition have to contact:
Ms Intisar Totenji: Tel: 00963 944 420081 Fax: 00963 11 6333133

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts: March 15, 2011

1. Type the title in CAPITAL LETTERS on Microsoft word, font height 14, typeface Times New Roman.
 2. Type the names of authors, institution and address, (speaker underlined), on Microsoft word, font height 14, typeface Times New Roman.
 3. Abstracts should be typed on Microsoft word, font height 12, typeface Times New Roman.
 4. The ENTIRE ABSTRACT should include no more than 250 words.
- Abstracts should be sent to:
Dr. Mhd Khair Ojeh, E-mail: dr.ojeh@gmail.com (Tel: 00963944293949)
& A second copy should be sent to:
Multaka@scs-net.org
 - A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you upon receiving your abstract.
 - Abstracts will be selected for oral presentations or poster sessions, based upon the decision of the Scientific Committee.
 - Abstracts will be published in an «abstract book» and distributed to the attendees.



REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Registration (Before March 15 th , 2011)	On site registration
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The 25 th Congress of SSGE		
Member	4000 SP	4500SP
Non-Member	\$150 or €120	\$150 or €120
Student/Resident	Free	Free
Scientific Sessions only	1500 SP	1500 SP
Accompanying Person	2000 SP	2500 SP
Accompanying Person for Nonmember	\$100	\$100

Endoscopy Digestive Workshop (SYRENDO 2011) - Category B		
Members of SSGE	1500 SP	1500 SP
Non-members	\$200 or €150	\$200 or €150
Residents and in-training	1000 SP	1000 SP

Workshop on «How Do you Publish a Scientific Paper?»		
Members of SSGE	3000	3000
Non-members	5000 or \$150	5000 or \$150
Residents and in-training		

The Delegate Registration Entitlements are:

- Welcome Reception, Coffee and Tea during Breaks
- Admission to the Scientific Sessions and the Exhibition
- Meeting Documents including 'Book of Abstracts'
- Lunches and Gala Dinner on Thursday

The Scientific Sessions Registration Entitlements are:

- Welcome Reception, Coffee and Tea during Breaks
- Admission to the Scientific Sessions and the Exhibition
- Meeting Documents including 'Book of Abstracts'

The Accompanying Person Registration Fee Entitlements are:

- Welcome Reception and free tourist program.
- Lunches and Gala Dinners on Thursday

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print or type clearly in block letters, and fax or mail before March 15th, 2011

Family Name			
Given Name		Title: Prof. Prof. Mrs. Mr.	
Institution:		Position Title:	
City:		State:	
Post Code:		Country:	
Telephone:	(+) – ()		
Fax:		E-mail:	

I wish to register to the following:

The 25th Congress of SSGE	\$
Endoscopy Digestive Workshop (SYRENDO 2011)	\$
Workshop on “How Do you Publish a Scientific Paper?”	\$
Hotel reservation (first night fee)	\$
Total:	\$

Please complete these forms & send them to :

Official Organizing Company:

Multaka International for Conferences, Exhibitions & Events
A: Scientific program information, Travel arrangements and Tours
Ms Randa Jaafari
Tel: + 963 944 272755, e mail: multaka@scs-net.org
B: Registration, Hotel Booking, Exhibition
Ms Intisar Totenji
Tel: + 963 944 420081, Fax: + 963 11 6333133

For further information, please contact

The chairman of the Congress: Dr. Nazir Ibrahim,
Mobile: + (963) 0 944243368, Tel: + (963) 11 4446197
E-mail: naziribrahim10@gmail.com

For Registration outside Syria:

Dr.Mohamed Naguid Chairman, ALFA MEDICAL Co.
Mobile: +20 11 90 3 90 60 gm@alfamedical.org
www.alfamedical.org

HOTELS

For Hotel Reservation Please Contact the Hotel Reservation Department

Dedeman Hotel	
Single	Euro 125 or S.P. 7800
Double	Euro 125 or S.P. 7800
Breakfast : Euros 14 or S.P. 790 + 11% 13% Tax must be added	
www.dedeman.com	

Carlton Hotel	
Single	4200 S.P.
Double	5500 S.P.
Breakfast: 600 S.P. 16% Tax must be added	
www.carlton-syria.com	

Fardous Tower Hotel	
Single	4500 S.P.
Double	5500 S.P.
Breakfast: 500 S.P. 13% Tax must be added	
www.fardoustower.com	



SYRIA

FACTS & FIGURES

Damascus is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Ever since the 3rd millennium B.C., Damascus has been a flourishing city, with a unique strategic position. This position gave the city a distinctive role from the days of the Akhadian and Amorite kingdoms until modern times.

As an important center of trade between the eastern Mediterranean kingdoms and the merchants of Venice, Damascus became prosperous and famous in the centuries preceding the Ottoman era. Damascus is famous for its ancient and modern architecture; for its attractive mosques, churches, schools and baths.

OFFICIAL NAME: Syrian Arab Republic

AREA: 185,000 Km²

CAPITAL: Damascus

MAIN AIRPORTS: Damascus, Damascus, Latakia

POPULATION: # 20.000.000 Inhabitants (2008)

LANGUAGE: Arabic; English and French are widely spoken

CLIMATE: Syria has a moderate Mediterranean climate, with four distinct seasons

ENTRY FORMALITIES:

Foreigners entering Syria must be in possession of:

- A valid passport
- Passport of the visitor to Syria must not carry an Israeli visa
- An entry visa must be obtained before arrival from Syrian Consulates abroad.

OFFICE HOURS: 08:00 - 15:00 (Government)

DAYS OFF: Friday and Saturday

SHOPPING HOURS: 09:00 - 14:30 & 16:30 - 21:00 in Summer, 16:00 20:00 in Winter

MONETARY UNIT: Syrian Pound, 1 USD \$ = 46 SYP (approximate exchange rates)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- There are no endemic or communicable diseases in Syria,
- Urban crime is virtually nonexistent in Syria
- Yellow is the official color of Taxis in Syria. The taximeter usually starts at 4.00 Syrian Pounds.
- Public transport is available in buses and minibuses throughout the destinations.
- Travel between Syrian cities can be made with luxury coaches to all cities. Transport to Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey is also available in luxury coaches.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

www.syriaonline.com

www.syrigate.com

www.visit-syria.com

www.syriatourism.org