



PALESTINIAN AMERICAN  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
ABOUT PAMA	4
PAMA'S BOARD MEMBERS	5
EMERGENCY FUND	6
EDUCATION FUND	8
CILNICAL SERVICES FUND	10
PAMA COMMUNITIES	14
PAMA IN THE MEDIA	14
FINANCIALS	15

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear PAMA Supporters,

2021 has been full of ups and downs. Emerging treatments and vaccines gave us a light at the end of the tunnel, but new variants quickly reminded us that we are still very much in the tunnel. Collectively, we have all felt the ongoing challenges of the pandemic to varying degrees. As we adjust our lives to accommodate each new challenge the pandemic presents, we look for strength in our communities, our families, and our friends. Knowing that we have support gives us hope when we need it.

The Palestinian medical community and the people it serves are struggling to juggle the increasing challenges of the pandemic with the destruction and loss caused by military attacks, which are both crushing their fragile health care system. When they need hope and strength, the Palestinian medical community looks for PAMA. Thanks to you, PAMA has a reliable, effective presence in Palestine.

What PAMA has managed to accomplish is consistency. Since 2015 PAMA has fostered consistent growth, consistent presence, and consistent hope for the Palestinian medical community. At PAMA, we know that our accomplishments are your accomplishments. It is your dedication and consistency that gives PAMA the strength to support the health care community in Palestine.

You have consistently answered PAMA's call for support. Through your donations PAMA has been able to provide the immediate relief the Palestinian medical community needs to address the ongoing pandemic and injuries from a barrage of military assaults. Your donations have also enabled PAMA to keep our promise to bring comprehensive health care to Palestine.

In 2021, PAMA launched a Cochlear Implant program for children, made another delivery of hemodialysis equipment and supplies, supported our Psychosocial Program, provided breast cancer screenings for women at risk, exceeded our Scholarship Program goals, organized a medical mission, and delivered an endoscopy unit and a traction machine to Palestinian hospitals.

Thank you for your generosity and support. We are so grateful to be able to share this 2021 Annual Report with you. As you read about what we have achieved together in 2021, I hope it inspires you and brings you hope. Your donations have changed the lives of Palestinians and help to make PAMA's promise a reality. As we continue to share this common goal to bring comprehensive, accessible health care to Palestine, we remind the people of Palestine that they are not forgotten. As PAMA grows, the more visible we become in the world, and we increase the visibility of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.

Thank you for supporting the work that inspires us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yousef Khelfa'.

Dr. Yousef Khelfa, MD, FACP, PAMA Co-founder & President

## ABOUT PAMA

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PAMA is a 501(c)(3) charity that promotes health care and health care education in Palestine. For eight years, PAMA has supported the Palestinian health care system through a comprehensive array of programs that aid and promote the development of a more functional and accessible health care system in Palestine.

PAMA works closely with the medical community in Palestine, ensuring that their programs address the most urgent needs of patients, doctors, and hospitals. In addition to their clinical programs, PAMA also funds education programs to increase the number of local health care providers which promotes the growth of a strong, local, accessible, and sustainable medical community.

PAMA's board members are all health care professionals that are committed to PAMA's mission and volunteer their time to serve on the board. PAMA's commitment to transparency and service is the foundation upon which the organization is built.

Through medical missions, scholarships, educational programs and donations of equipment and supplies PAMA is addressing the humanitarian crisis faced by over 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza that do not have access to critical medical care.



# PAMA'S BOARD MEMBERS



**Dr. Yousef Khelfa**  
PAMA President & Cofounder



**Dr. Majdi Hamarshi**  
Chairman of the Board &  
Cofounder



**Dr. Mustafa Musleh**  
PAMA Vice President &  
Cofounder



**Dr. Rami Ahmad**  
Education Committee Chair



**Safa Saleh**  
RN, Board Member



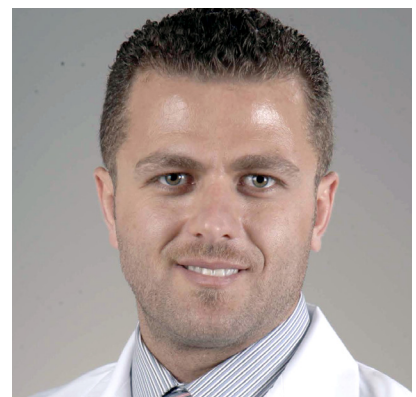
**Dr. Nezam Altorok**  
Treasurer & Cofounder



**Dr. Muaiad Kittaneh**  
Board Member & Cofounder



**Dr. Najib Albina**  
Board Member



**Dr. Fadi Safi**  
Board Member  
& Cofounder

# EMERGENCY FUND

PAMA's Emergency Fund addresses the urgent needs of the Palestinian health care system in real time. Due to the fragile state of the Palestinian health care system, it is essential that supplies and medicine be delivered to hospitals and clinics as quickly as possible when there is a sharp rise in patients due to sickness and/or injury. In 2021, PAMA raised \$455,000 to provide medical care for COVID-19 patients and those injured in the military attacks on East Jerusalem and Gaza.

## COVID-19

PAMA began 2021 focused on the ongoing pandemic by continuing to address the needs of the Palestinian medical community to effectively treat COVID-19 patients. Through PAMA's Emergency Fund, PAMA was able to provide medications, disposable medical supplies, patient monitors and high flow oxygen machines to hospitals in Palestine. PAMA also provided masks and hand sanitizer to students and people displaced due to military assaults to help mitigate the spread of the virus and protect the health of Palestinians. PAMA continues its efforts to support the Palestinian medical community through the pandemic and communicates regularly with the Ministry of Health and hospital administrators to address urgent and emerging needs related to the treatment of COVID-19 in Palestine.





## ■ MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO EAST JERUSALEM & GAZA

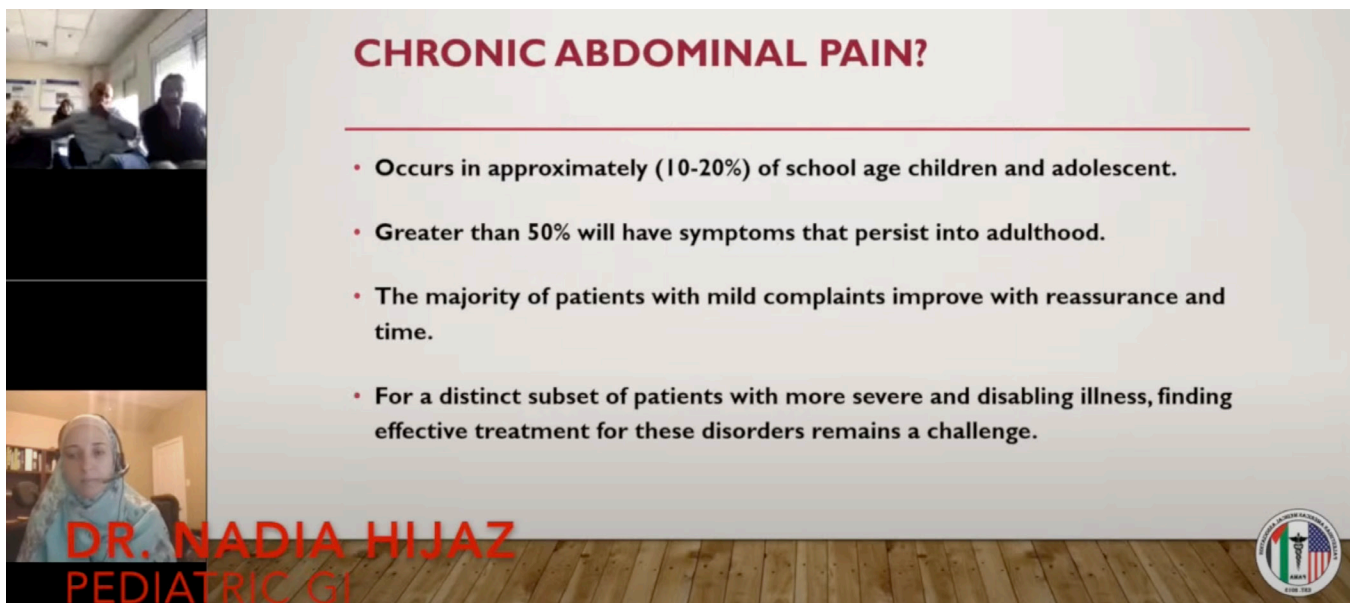
The devastating military assaults on the Al Aqsa Mosque and Gaza in May of 2021 injured thousands of Palestinians and overwhelmed local hospitals and clinics. Through PAMA's Emergency Fund, PAMA sent medical supplies to East Jerusalem and Gaza area hospitals for emergency treatment and surgeries to save the lives and limbs of thousands of wounded Palestinian civilians. In addition to support from our donors, PAMA received grants from the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), International Medical Education Trust 2000 (IMET2000), and the United Holy Land Fund (UHLF) for emergency medical supplies. The impact of the May 2021 military assaults on the Palestinian health care system is systemic. Nineteen health care facilities were damaged, including Gaza's only COVID-19 testing laboratory. Dr. Ayman Abu al-Auf, Al-Shifa Hospital's head of Internal Medicine and the director of Gaza's COVID-19 response, was killed and Dr. Moein Ahmad al-Aloul, a leading Gaza neurologist, was also killed in the assaults. While we mourn the loss of Dr. Abu al-Auf and Dr. Moein as friends and colleagues, we also acknowledge the profound loss their deaths and the physical damage to health care facilities across Gaza has on the Palestinian health care system.

# EDUCATION FUND

PAMA's Education Fund began with our foundational Scholarship Program and has expanded to include our Teleconferencing Program. Education is integral to the sustainability of the Palestinian medical system and as such is an important part of PAMA's mission to bring sustainable, accessible, comprehensive health care to Palestine. Through your donations, PAMA raised \$436,000 to support the future of Palestinian health care.

## ■ TELECONFERENCE PROGRAM

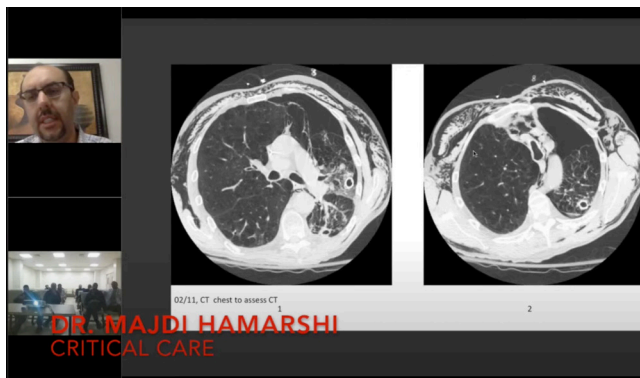

PAMA'S Teleconference Program provides core curriculum lectures to Palestinian residency programs from US board certified physicians that hold an assistant professor's degree or higher and have experience lecturing at conferences and grand rounds. All participating physicians volunteer their time to enhance the educational experience of medical residents in Palestine by bringing the expertise of the US medical community to Palestinian residents. In addition to the educational opportunities, these lectures help establish a professional relationship between US health care professionals and Palestinian health care institutions. The lectures are organized by the PAMA Education Committee and often include PAMA board members. In 2021 PAMA provided 24 teleconference lectures to Palestinian residents.



### CHRONIC ABDOMINAL PAIN?

- Occurs in approximately (10-20%) of school age children and adolescent.
- Greater than 50% will have symptoms that persist into adulthood.
- The majority of patients with mild complaints improve with reassurance and time.
- For a distinct subset of patients with more severe and disabling illness, finding effective treatment for these disorders remains a challenge.

**DR. NADIA HIJAZ**  
PEDIATRIC GI



02/11. CT chest to assess CT

**DR. MAJDI HAMARSHI**  
CRITICAL CARE



Chest radiograph upon initial presentation with near complete right sided opacification.

**DR. BAN AL-SAYED**  
PEDIATRIC ID

<https://www.omicronline.org/articles-images/lung-diseases-treatment-initial-presentation-3-122-g001.png>





## ■ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PAMA's Scholarship Program is one of our foundational programs that continues to grow each year. In 2021, PAMA funded 61 full scholarships and 201 partial scholarships for Palestinian medical students in Gaza and the West Bank. Every year, the number of applicants for our scholarship program has increased. To ensure that scholarships are awarded appropriately, PAMA works closely with Palestinian medical universities to confirm that all scholarship recipients meet the requirements of financial hardship and consistent academic progress. PAMA has adopted a rigorous process to verify financial hardship. Our staff in Palestine checks references and consults with the universities to ensure all recipients meet the financial requirements. All donations to PAMA's Scholarship Program are Zakat eligible. PAMA covers all the administrative costs of your donation and awarded funds are deposited directly into the university accounts of the recipients, further ensuring that all funds are used appropriately and in accordance with Zakat requirements. In 2021, PAMA also provided 40 laptops to exceptional scholarship recipients in Gaza. At PAMA, we consistently reevaluate our programs to ensure that they continue to be as effective as possible. If you have any questions regarding your Zakat donation to PAMA's Scholarship Program, please do not hesitate to contact us.



## CILNICAL SERVICES FUND

PAMA's Clinical Services Fund includes our medical missions, clinical programs and medical device and equipment donations. PAMA works closely with the Palestinian medical community and the Ministry of Health to determine the needs of patients, hospitals & clinics. These programs may either enhance existing services or can provide care that is otherwise unavailable locally with the goal of reducing patient suffering and expanding treatment availability. In 2021, PAMA raised over \$400,000 for clinical services.

### ■ MEDICAL MISSION

In July 2021, PAMA organized a medical mission to Gaza. A team of five volunteer surgeons spent a week in Gaza and performed 39 surgeries. 21 of the surgeries were for Palestinian civilians injured in the air strikes of May 2021 and 18 of the surgeries were to correct a congenital anomaly as part of PAMA's **Congenital Surgery Program for Children**. Medical Missions are a necessity to ensure Palestinian patients have access to specialized surgical procedures. Without these missions, Palestinians face long delays in care. These missions also offer an opportunity for the PAMA team to meet with health care administrators in person and assess the needs of the health care system in Palestine and evaluate the impact of PAMA's current and future programs. Medical missions also give surgeons in Gaza the chance to assist with highly complex surgeries to gain experience and knowledge. It is part of PAMA's goal that Palestine does not remain dependent on these missions for care but, until that goal is achieved, PAMA is committed to relieving the suffering of Palestinian patients through annual medical missions.

## ■ COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAM

In 2021, at PAMA's 6th annual Kansas City Community dinner, PAMA launched its Cochlear Implant Program for children suffering from hearing loss. This exciting new program raised \$180,000 in 2021, securing 18 cochlear implants for children in Palestine. The implants, coupled with follow-up therapy from local rehab providers, will allow these children to build and improve listening skills with the goal of transitioning into the mainstream education system. Palestinians should have access to the medical technologies and advancements the world has to offer. At PAMA we are committed to bring these advancements and technologies to Palestine.



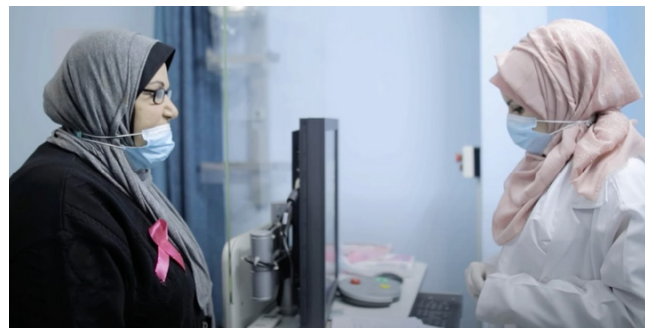
## ■ PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM FOR GAZA CHILDREN (PAMA YOUTH)

2021 marks the third year of PAMA's Psychosocial Rehab Program. The program treats 650 children who suffer from mental trauma and poverty as a result of the ongoing occupation and violence in Gaza. In cooperation with the Al-Ahli Arabi Hospital, PAMA's Psychosocial Rehab Program provides mental health intervention for children and their caregivers from qualified professionals who help them cope with and understand the effects of mental trauma. This program also receives support from **PAMA Youth**, a subsidiary division of PAMA, founded and run by high school students in the US to bring awareness and aid to the children of Gaza. PAMA recognizes that mental health care is part of comprehensive health care.



## ■ BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

PAMA provided 100 breast cancer screening for at risk women in 2021. Early detection is the best way to combat breast cancer, but many women in Palestine do not have access to preventative care. Providing these screenings also raises an awareness of the importance of regular examination and educates women regarding the facts about breast cancer.





## ■ HEMODIALYSIS PROJECT

In 2021, PAMA's Hemodialysis Project continued to improve treatment availability for dialysis patients in Palestine. In phase II of this project, 5 machines were delivered to the West Bank and 7 machines were delivered to Gaza. These machines mean that dialysis patients can receive all their treatments during normal clinic hours, in comfort, and not have to skip treatments or schedule treatment at night when transportation is expensive. Hemodialysis is an essential treatment for patients suffering from kidney disease. To assess the greater need to update equipment in dialysis clinics in both Gaza and the West Bank, PAMA has worked closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the machines were distributed to clinics appropriately. PAMA will continue to assess the needs of dialysis clinics in Palestine, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, so all dialysis patients will have access to the treatment they need.

## ■ DEVICES

PAMA is always looking for opportunities to provide Palestinian patients access to the same medical technologies and treatments that are available to patients in the US. The PAMA board, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, identifies these deficiencies and assesses which devices will create an impact on the overall outcomes for medical facilities. Whether it's replacing an old device, adding to the availability of existing equipment or introducing updated technology, PAMA's goal is to increase access and availability of the devices essential in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. In 2021, PAMA delivered a **rotablator device** that offers minimally invasive coronary artery treatment and an **endoscopy unit** for gastrointestinal examinations to hospitals in the West Bank. PAMA also secured the funds for a **traction machine** for physical therapy treatments and an **interventional radiology unit** that will help to replace many traditional surgeries with less invasive, less expensive, and less painful outpatient procedures.

## PAMA COMMUNITIES

PAMA Communities are groups of **nurses, residents, scholars, physicians, and youth** in the US that support PAMA's mission. They connect with their respective communities in Palestine and offer support through a variety of ways. Using social media, local fundraisers, and webinars, PAMA communities are building relationships in Palestine, increasing awareness of the health care crisis Palestinian health care providers and patients face and using their resources to support health care in Palestine. PAMA's first community, PAMA Youth, supports PAMA's Psychosocial Rehab Program and has chapters in California and Kansas City.



PAMA Youth - Kansas City chapter

## PAMA IN THE MEDIA

In 2021, PAMA representatives were interviewed on Palestinian radio several times promoting PAMA programs and educating the public regarding health topics like common vitamin deficiencies, COVID-19 information, and breast cancer treatments. PAMA was also represented at a virtual discussion hosted by the White House about building COVID-19 vaccine confidence in the Arab American community. Being part of the conversation, in the US and in Palestine, is part of PAMA's mission to represent the Palestinian and American medical communities as we work together to raise awareness and support the health care community in Palestine.



# FINANCIALS

Support for PAMA has grown steadily over the past 8 years. Below is an overview of PAMA's financial growth in 2021.

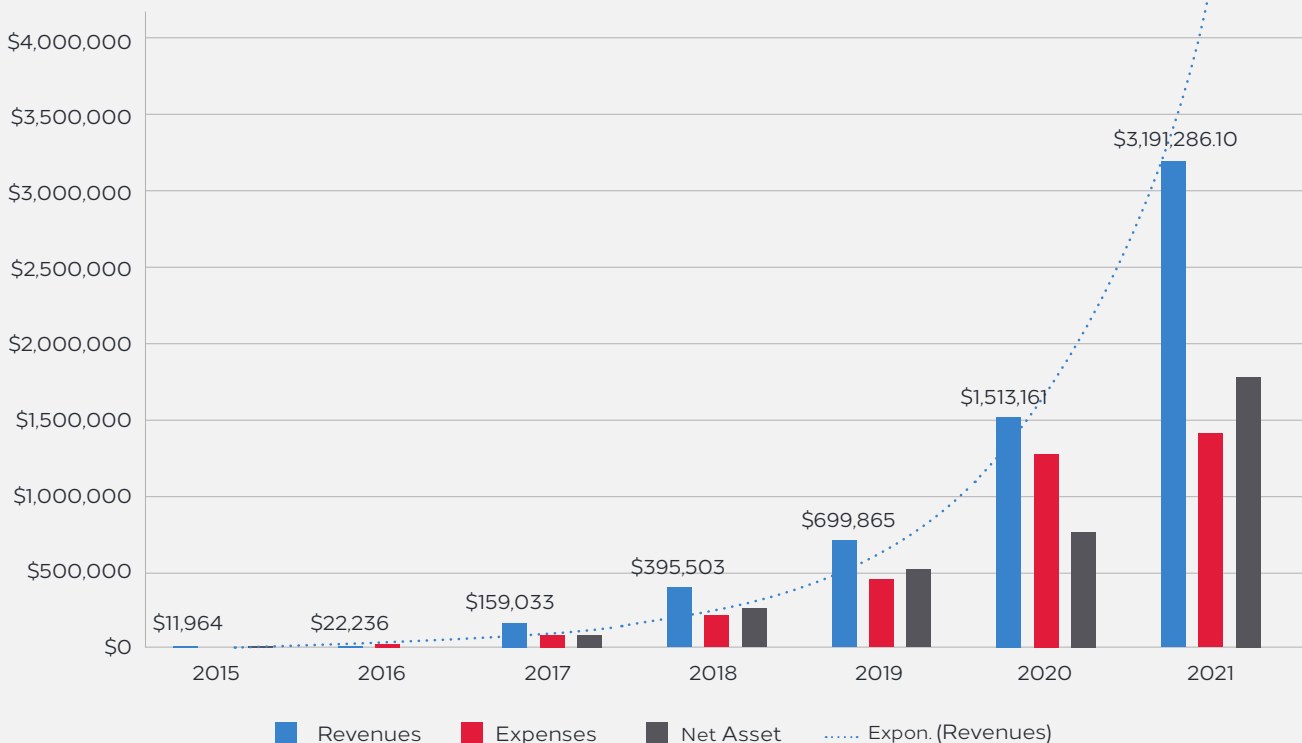
## EXPENSES

EXPENSES	2021 OPERATIONS
Program	\$1,336,842 (95.6%)
Fundraising and Management	\$74,000 (4.4%)

We continue to grow:

PAMA'S GROWTH	2021
Revenues	\$3,191,286
Expenses	\$1,410,843
Net Operation	\$1,780,443

## PAMA'S GROWTH





## PALESTINIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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PAMApalestinian



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palestinianama



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medical-association