

**Dr. Mahdi AbuSalameh**  
**Consultant Rheumatologist**  
**MD, MRCP, CCT UK, PGCE, FHEA, FRCP(London)**

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**Nationality** Palestinian & British  
**Languages** fluent English & Arabic



**BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Abusalameh is an experienced consultant Rheumatologist and Physician with over 20 years of experience, the majority of which has been spent in the UK.

He has held consultant-level positions since 2016. Notably, he co-ran a rheumatology-dermatology clinic in the UK. In addition to this, he led a number of specialized clinics, including those focused on biologic therapies, and musculoskeletal ultrasound.

In 2017, Dr. Abusalameh established and led the Exeter Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) Fast Track Service, which was one of the pioneering services to incorporate the use of ultrasound in the rapid diagnosis and treatment of GCA. Subsequently, he was honoured with the Local Clinical Excellence Award in 2019 for his outstanding contribution.

Since 2019, he has been a clinical examiner for the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), assessing candidates for the prestigious MRCP exams in the UK and internationally.

As a recognized rheumatology expert, Dr. Abusalameh has frequently spoken at national and international conferences. His expertise has been sought after by peers and pharma companies, and he has become a trusted tutor and speaker in the field. In addition to his teaching roles, he was a principal investigator in several high-profile studies conducted in the UK, further cementing his contribution to the field.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

<b>Aug 2025 – Till now</b>	<b>Consultant Rheumatologist</b> Arab Hospitals Group – Palestine
<b>April 2025 – Aug 2025</b>	<b>Consultant Rheumatologist</b> Private practice – Palestine & UK
<b>Feb 2023 – April 2025</b>	<b>Consultant Rheumatologist</b> Mediclinic Middle East – Abu Dhabi, UAE
<b>Dec 2016 – Jan 2023</b>	<b>Consultant Rheumatologist &amp; Physician</b> Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter, UK
<b>Aug 2011 – Aug 2016</b>	<b>Rheumatology &amp; General Internal Medicine Registrar</b> Peninsula postgraduate medical education – Health Education England, UK
<b>Aug 2008 - Aug 2011</b>	<b>Core Medical Training</b> Cardiff & Southampton, UK
<b>Aug 2007 – Aug 2008</b>	<b>Foundation Training</b> Derby & Taunton, UK
<b>Oct 2005 – June 2006</b>	<b>Resident doctor</b> Al-Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem, Palestine
<b>Feb 2004 – Sep 2005</b>	<b>Teaching &amp; Research assistant</b> Al-Quds University School of Medicine, Palestine
<b>Oct 2003 – Sep 2004</b>	<b>Intern Doctor</b> Al-Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem, Palestine Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem Palestine

## QUALIFICATIONS

<b>Dec 2022</b>	<b>Palestinian Board in Rheumatology</b> Palestine Medical Council
<b>Nov 2020</b>	<b>FRCP</b> Royal College of Physicians, London

- Aug 2016**                      **CCT in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine**  
Joint of Royal Colleges of Physicians, UK
- July 2016**                      **MRCP (UK) - Rheumatology**  
Royal Colleges of Physicians, UK
- Oct 2015**                      **Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Education**  
Plymouth University, UK.
- Oct 2010**                      **MRCP (UK) - Internal Medicine**  
Royal Colleges of Physicians, UK
- Sep 2003**                      **MD**  
Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, Palestine

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- Oct 2024**                      **EULAR intermediate MSK ultrasound**  
EULAR
- Sep 2023**                      **Certificate in Clinical Bone Densitometry**  
Australia and New Zealand Bone Society, UK.
- Dec 2015**                      **Certificate of Competency to Practice focussed  
Rheumatology Ultrasound**  
Glasgow Caledonian University, UK.
- Sep 2018**                      **EFSUMB MSK Ultrasound diploma – Level 1**  
Edinburgh, UK.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Namas R, Al Qassimi S, Alameri J, Al Emadi S, Ziade N, Almarzooqi A, Al Balushi F, Omair MA, Qardaghi T, Humadi YA, Alawlaqi M, Al Rayes H, Naji S, Haji F, Altamimi F, Alazmi M, Shatnawi H, Hafiz W, Ahmed D, Almansoori M, Al Saleh J, Rifaai H, **Abusalameh M**, et al. Interstitial lung disease and pulmonary arterial hypertension screening practices in systemic sclerosis: survey insights of rheumatologists in the Middle East and North Africa region. *Mediterr J Rheumatol*. 2025. In press.
2. Quick V, Sah S, Dubey S, Mercer L, Nair JR, Coath FL, Kurshid M, **Abusalameh M**, et al. Coming to a hard stop? Effect of tapered tocilizumab after weekly tocilizumab cessation for giant cell arteritis: a multicentre evaluation. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2025 Aug 26:keaf450.
3. Daraghma A, Baidoun L, Nazzal S, Hattab M, Jalamneh B, **Abusalameh M**, Hanbali R, Abdoh Q. Clinical characteristics of Behçet's disease in Palestine: a retrospective cohort study. *BMC Rheumatol*. 2025 Jul 24;9(1):93.
4. Blockmans D, et al.; **SELECT-GCA Study Group (including Abusalameh M)**. A phase 3 trial of upadacitinib for giant-cell arteritis. *N Engl J Med*. 2025 May 29;392(20):2013-24. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2413449.
5. Chaddock NJM, et al; **UK GCA Consortium (including Abusalameh M)**. Age, anticoagulants, hypertension and cardiovascular genetic traits predict cranial ischaemic complications in patients with giant cell arteritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2025 Feb;84(2):329-340. doi: 10.1136/ard-2024-225515. Epub 2025 Jan 2. PMID: 39919905.
6. Zayat AS, **Abusalameh M**, et al. Middle East Immunology Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council Association of Immunology and Rheumatology (GCC AIR), 2023 Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Scientific abstracts and case reports. *Saudi Med J*. 2024 Aug;45(9):968-999.
7. Borrego-Yaniz G, et al; Spanish GCA Group; **UK GCA Consortium (including Abusalameh M)**; Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium. Risk loci involved in giant cell arteritis susceptibility: a genome-wide association study. *Lancet Rheumatol*. 2024 Jun;6(6):e374-e383. doi: 10.1016/S2665-9913(24)00064-X. Epub 2024 May 8. PMID: 38734017; PMCID: PMC11108802.
8. Quick V, **Abusalameh M**, et al. Relapse after cessation of weekly tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis: a multicentre service evaluation in England. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2023 Nov 11:kead604.

9. **Abusalameh M**, et al. Exeter GCA fast track pathway: 12-month results. *Rheumatology*. 2019;58(Suppl 3):kez107.002.
10. **Abusalameh M**, Mahankali-Rao P, Earl S. Discitis caused by rat bite fever in a rheumatoid arthritis patient on tocilizumab—first ever case. *Rheumatology*. 2018;57(6):1118-1120.
11. Bartle S, **Abusalameh M**, Kyle S, Manhas R. Audit of uptake in primary care of seasonal and pneumococcal vaccination by rheumatology patients on biologic therapy in North Devon. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2013;72(Suppl 3):A568. doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2013-eular.169.
12. Abu Hilal M, Di Fabio F, **Abu Salameh M**, Pearce NW. Oncological efficiency analysis of laparoscopic liver resection for primary and metastatic cancer: a single-center UK experience. *Arch Surg*. 2012 Jan;147(1):42-8. doi:10.1001/archsurg.2011.856.

#### CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Dipper A, **Abusalameh M**, Goh L. *It started with a llama on Dartmoor*. BSR Autumn Conference, Bath. October 2016.
2. **Abusalameh M**, Earl S. *Back pain and polyarthritis in a horse keeper*. BSR Autumn Conference, Birmingham. October 2015.
3. **Abusalameh M**, Mascarenhas R. *One patient, a spectrum of overlapping autoimmune diseases*. BSR Autumn Conference, Birmingham. October 2015.
4. **Abusalameh M**, Mackenzie-Green B, Earl S. *Back pain and polyarthritis in a horse keeper*. 3rd National Rheumatology-Microbiology Conference, London. 2015.
5. **Abusalameh M**. *MSK-US: a new assessment for musculoskeletal ultrasound training in rheumatology*. National Medical Education Conference, Exeter. June 2015.
6. **Abusalameh M**, Earl S. *Acute gout attacks associated with lower limb myopathy*. BSR Annual Conference, Manchester. April 2015.

## BOOK CONTRIBUTION

- **“Succeeding in Your Medical School Finals” 2012**  
ISBN 1445381680, 9781445381688.  
Co-authored the rheumatology chapter

## MEMBERSHIPS

- General Medical Council (GMC) - Full with Licence to practice
- Fellow of Royal College of Physicians London FRCP
- British Society for Rheumatology (BSR)
- Fellow of Higher Education Academy FHEA
- PMR GCA UK – was professional member and regular speaker.

## RESEARCH

- Good Clinical Practice certificate
- Principal investigator (PI) of clinical trials (mostly phase III and phase IV) and observational studies mainly focusing on large vessel vasculitis and GCA.
- Recent research activities as local PI:  
SELECT-GCA, A phase 3 study of Upadacitinib in GCA  
UK GCA Consortium  
TARGET GCAT Registry

## TEACHING

- MRCP PACES clinical examiner – Royal College of Physicians
- Clinical Tutor – University of Exeter Medical School
- Clinical and Educational supervisor of postgraduate trainees
- Panel member of Internal medicine and Rheumatology annual ARCP assessment – Peninsula Deanery 2016 -2023

## LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- Clinical Lead of Exeter GCA fast track service 2017-2023
- Internal Medicine training programme lead in Exeter, UK 2017-2022
- Head of Rheumatology Centre, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, UK. 2022

## MAJOR CONFERENCES

- Rheumatology & Immunology Summit 2025 – Dubai – **Speaker and scientific committee**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bahrain Rheumatology Conference 2025 – **Speaker**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Empower Health Connect Conference 2024 -Abu Dhabi - **Speaker**
- 14<sup>th</sup> AdARRC conference Dubai 2024 – **Speaker**
- 5th annual Emirates Osteoporosis Society conference 2024 - **Speaker**
- Middle East Immunology Summit 2023 Dubai – **Speaker**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Royal Medical Services 2023 Jordan – **Guest Speaker**
- Palestinian Rheumatology Conference 2022 – **Guest speaker**
- ArLAR 2021 Jordan – **Speaker**
- International Ultrasound Workshop in GCA&LVV in Southend/UK – **Tutor**
- The Annual Exeter GCA ultrasound course, UK – **Regular Tutor**
- Peninsula MSK Ultrasound Hub Annual course, UK - **Tutor**

## AWARDS

- BSR travelling fellowship 2016. Southend University Hospital, UK
- Clinical Excellence Award 2019, UK

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AdARRC – Advanced Academic Rheumatology Review Course  
ArLAR The Arab League of Associations for Rheumatology  
CCT – Certificate of completion of training  
EFSUMB – European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology