

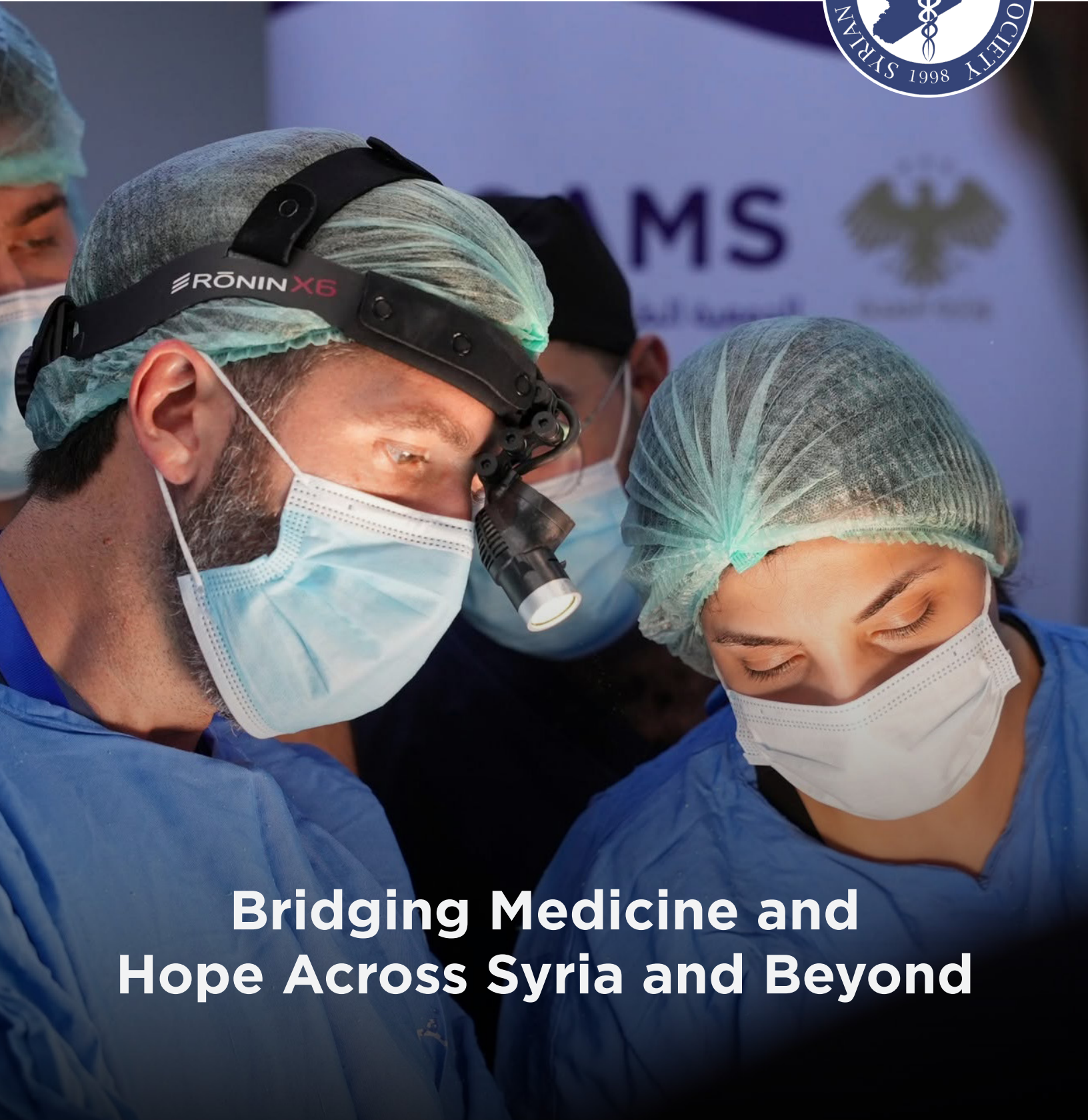


SAMS

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MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER



Bridging Medicine and Hope Across Syria and Beyond



Bridges of Recovery – SAMS 15: Bringing Specialized Care Closer to Patients

For patients across Syria, accessing specialized medical care can mean long journeys, limited options, and waiting months for treatment. Bridges of Recovery – SAMS 15 helped bring some of that care closer to home.

consultations, and medical training. In just four days, the mission delivered 3,532 medical services, helping patients access specialized care and strengthening the capacity of healthcare providers across Syria.



From September 19–22, SAMS medical teams traveled across six governorates in Syria, providing specialized treatment, surgeries,



At SAMS Heart Hospital in Idlib, 11 cardiac specialists from the United States joined Syrian physicians to care for patients with complex

heart conditions. Together, they performed advanced procedures, including pulmonary and aortic valve replacements, balloon mitral valve repair, catheter-based treatment for congenital heart defects, and the region's first alcohol septal ablation for obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.



For patients, these procedures meant more than numbers on a mission report. They meant the possibility of breathing more easily, returning to daily life, and spending more time with the people they love.

At Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital, the mission also cared for a 50-year-old breast cancer survivor who had already endured the challenges of cancer

treatment. Through breast reconstruction, the SAMS team helped her take another step forward, not only restoring what cancer had taken from her, but helping her regain confidence as she began a new chapter.

And the impact extended beyond the patients treated. Through 37 trainings and workshops, visiting specialists shared knowledge and experience with Syrian healthcare professionals, helping strengthen local medical teams and build capacity for the future.

Behind every consultation, procedure, and training was a person—a patient waiting for an answer, a family hoping for better news, or a physician seeking new tools to care for their community.

Bridges of Recovery – SAMS 15 was a reminder that recovery is not only about rebuilding hospitals. It is about restoring hope, expanding possibilities, and making sure patients across Syria know that they have not been forgotten.



Protecting the Sight of Syria's Youngest Patients

For premature infants, early detection can make all the difference. Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a condition that can lead to permanent vision loss when left undetected or untreated, but with timely screening and care, many of its complications can be prevented.

In Syria, SAMS is helping bring early ROP detection closer to the infants who need it most through a telemedicine-based screening program. Since June, more than 80 premature infants in Damascus and Idlib have been screened, with necessary treatments provided, including intravitreal injections and laser therapy.

The program has now expanded to Hama, where 28 premature infants were screened during its first phase at the Children's and Maternity Hospital. The initiative is expected to expand next to Aleppo and Homs, creating a broader network for early detection across the country.

Behind every screening is a child whose vision may depend on timely care—and a family hoping their baby will grow up seeing the world around them.



Through this program, SAMS is helping lay the foundation for a sustainable national network for ROP screening, with the goal of reaching thousands of premature infants across Syria each year.

Because for Syria's youngest patients, protecting sight begins with finding the problem early.



Syria at the Center of Global Conversations at UNGA 81

Syria was at the center of global conversations at the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81), and SAMS was there to ensure that the perspectives of Syrian health professionals and civil society were represented in these important discussions.



Throughout the week, SAMS participated in conversations spanning humanitarian health, recovery, accountability, missing persons, and the future of Syrian institutions. Drawing on decades of experience working alongside communities and healthcare professionals across Syria, SAMS brought the realities and priorities of the health sector directly into international discussions about the country's transition.



A key focus was the future of Syria's health system. SAMS called for more flexible health financing that can adapt to the needs of a country in transition, while advocating for recovery efforts that strengthen primary health care, build resilient institutions, and ensure communities can access essential services over

the long term. These discussions highlighted that rebuilding Syria's health system requires more than restoring infrastructure, it requires investing in the people, institutions, and systems that sustain care.

SAMS also took part in broader discussions around missing persons, accountable state institutions, and the role of Syrian civil society in shaping Syria's next chapter. As Syria moves through a period of transition, the voices of those who have worked alongside communities throughout years of crisis remain essential to building a more responsive and inclusive future.

For SAMS, being at UNGA is not simply about being present in the room. It is about making sure Syria's health, its people, and its civil society remain part of the global conversation about the country's future and that recovery efforts reflect the needs and aspirations of Syrians themselves.



SAMS Helped Give Mustafa a Second Chance to See

At just 10 years old, Mustafa was at risk of losing his sight completely.

Years earlier, he had lost vision in one eye because of a retinal detachment. When the same condition affected his remaining eye, his family urgently sought specialized care.

Mustafa arrived at Noor Al-Hayat Hospital during the final hours of a SAMS medical mission. With his departure approaching, the visiting ophthalmologist chose to stay behind and perform the complex surgery Mustafa urgently needed.

The surgery was successful.



For Mustafa and his family, the outcome was simple but profound: a chance to preserve his

remaining vision and continue seeing the world around him.



Stories like Mustafa's show why timely access to specialized medical care matters. At SAMS, medical missions bring specialized expertise and critical interventions to patients across Syria, sometimes at moments when every hour matters.

For Mustafa, one doctor's decision to stay a little longer helped protect something priceless: his sight.

Help us make more moments like this possible. Support specialized medical care for patients across Syria.



Help SAMS Bring Relief to Refugees and Migrants

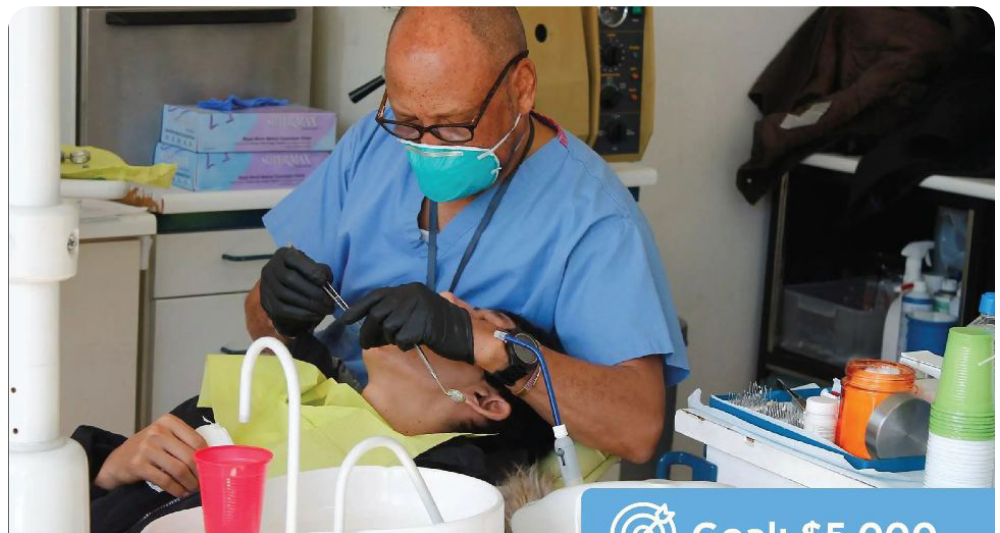
Displaced populations face devastatingly high levels of oral health needs, leaving children and parents suffering from rampant tooth decay, and an urgent need for extraction. Amid hardship and loss, these vulnerable individuals are often forced to endure the torment of debilitating dental pain with few treatment options.

To address this urgent need, SAMS is launching a Dental Mission to provide urgently needed dental care to refugees and migrants in Greece.

Between October 19 – 23, 2026, a 13-member volunteer team of dentists, oral surgeons, and dental students will travel to Athens, Greece, to deliver urgently needed dental services to those in need.

The dedicated volunteer team will provide dental screenings and services to refugees and migrants, including palliative treatments, extractions, diet counseling, oral hygiene instructions, and smoking-cessation counseling.

Today, we ask you to join our efforts. Your donation will ensure that SAMS volunteer dental team has the required dental and medical supplies, equipment, and everything else needed to make this mission a reality. Together, we can transform lives, one smile at a time.



Goal: \$5,000

RADIANT SMILES PROJECT

Support SAMS Dental Mission to Greece

From **October 19–23, 2026**, SAMS will send a **13-member volunteer dental team** to Athens, Greece, to provide refugees and migrants with essential dental care



SCAN TO DONATE

Donate at:
fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/DentGreeceOct26



SAMS

SAMS Staff Member Seriously Injured in Gaza Air Strike

On September 30, SAMS Project Field Officer Feras Abd Rabo Alanzi, 26, was seriously injured in an air strike on a public minibus in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City. Feras was on duty at the time, traveling between two SAMS medical centers as part of his work supporting healthcare services in Gaza.

The strike killed at least five people and wounded more than a dozen others, several of them critically. Feras sustained serious shrapnel injuries and remained under medical care following the attack.

Feras was among the health and humanitarian workers who continued to serve their communities despite the severe risks facing personnel across Gaza. His work helped support the delivery of essential healthcare to patients in some of the most challenging conditions.

SAMS expressed its deep concern for Feras, his family, and all those killed and injured in the attack. The organization also reiterated that medical and humanitarian personnel must be respected and protected at all times, as required under international humanitarian law.

Nearly a year after the ceasefire took effect in October 2025, health workers in Gaza continued to face grave dangers while providing care to communities in need. According to the World Health Organization, more than 1,700 health workers had been killed in Gaza since 2023, further weakening an already severely strained healthcare system.

Feras's injury underscored the risks faced by healthcare and humanitarian workers who continued to serve patients and communities amid ongoing insecurity.





Strengthening Nephrology Expertise Through Medical Education

SAMS held its fourth Nephrology Conference on Saturday at the Sheraton Aleppo Hotel, bringing together specialist physicians, medical residents, and Syrian doctors from inside and outside Syria for a day of learning, knowledge exchange, and professional development.

The conference was part of SAMS' ongoing medical education initiatives aimed at strengthening the expertise of specialist physicians and supporting the continued development of Syria's healthcare workforce. The program followed a "learning through teaching" approach, giving physicians in training an active role in their own education. Under the guidance and mentorship of experienced SAMS specialists and Syrian physicians, participants prepared and delivered presentations on nephrology-related topics to their peers, creating an environment centered on collaboration, discussion, and shared learning.

The experience extended beyond medical knowledge. By researching topics, preparing scientific presentations, presenting to colleagues, and engaging in clinical and scientific discussions, participating

physicians strengthened essential skills in research, critical thinking, scientific communication, presentation, and professional dialogue. These opportunities also helped physicians build confidence in sharing their knowledge and engaging with peers—skills that can support both their clinical practice and future academic careers.

The conference also provided an opportunity for physicians from different backgrounds and locations to connect and exchange experiences, helping foster a stronger professional network among Syria's medical community.

Through initiatives such as the Nephrology Conference, SAMS continues to invest in medical education and the development of healthcare professionals in Syria, supporting physicians not only through access to specialized knowledge, but also by creating opportunities to teach, learn from one another, and contribute to the continued strengthening of the country's healthcare system.

 **SAMS 14th National Conference**

The Physician of the Future:
Rethinking Medicine in a World of
Rapid Change

DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago - Oak Brook
Oak Brook, IL
October 9-11, 2026

Register



society.sams-usa.net

This year's conference brings together physicians, healthcare professionals, researchers, and trainees to explore how rapid advances in technology, artificial intelligence, clinical care, and healthcare delivery are reshaping medicine—and redefining the role of the physician.

Connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and be part of meaningful conversations about innovation, leadership, and preserving the human connection at the heart of patient care.

October 9-11, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago - Oak Brook, Illinois

Register today and join us in shaping the future of medicine.

WAYS TO GIVE



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Reflecting on this month's stories, from healing in Syria to hope in Gaza, it's clear that our united efforts are making a greater difference than ever.

But the work is far from over.

Whether you're a healthcare professional, advocate, or supporter, you have a role to play in advancing our mission of delivering dignified, high-quality care to communities in crisis.

Here's how you can stay engaged:



Donate to support emergency relief and medical care:
sams-usa.net/donate



Volunteer your time and expertise:
sams-usa.net/volunteer



Advocate by amplifying our message and engaging with policymakers

*Thank you for being part of the SAMS family.
Together, we are healing, rebuilding, and
inspiring hope.*

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