Aasim I. Padela (MD, MSc)

Project Leader

Dr. Padela is a Professor of Emergency Medicine, Bioethics and the Medical Humanities at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and the director of a non-profit "think and do" organization, The Initiative on Islam and Medicine, Glendale Heights, IL. He holds an MD from Weill Cornell Medical College and an MSc in Healthcare Research from the University of Michigan. He completed emergency medicine training at the University of Rochester and a clinical ethics fellowship at the University of Chicago, as well as visiting fellowships at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in the UK and the International Institute for Islamic Thought in Herndon, Virginia. He has authored over 170 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and one monograph, Maqasid al-Sharīah and Biomedicine: Bridging Moral, Ethical and Policy Discourses (IIIT Press 2024). He is also editor/co-editor of five books: *Medicine and Sharīah: A Dialogue in Islamic Bioethics* (University of Notre Dame Press 2021), *Islam and Biomedicine* (Springer 2022), *Organ Donation in Islam: The Interplay of Jurisprudence, Ethics, and Society* (Lexington Books 2022), *Islam, Muslims, and COVID-19: The Intersection of Ethics, Health, and Social Life in the Diaspora* (Brill 2024), and *Bridging Bioscience and Islam: Engaging Big Questions about the Human Being* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2026).

Macksood Aftab (DO, MSc)

Dr. Macksood Aftab is Chairman of Radiology at Ascension Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc, Michigan. He teaches and is a clinical assistant professor at Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, and A.T. Still University, Kirksville, Missouri. He completed his Neuroradiology fellowship at Harvard Medical School and holds a master's in the History of Science from the Harvard Extension School. His thesis title was "Historicizing Ghazali's Critique of Ibn Sina and its Influence on Islamic Science." His research interests span across philosophy, theology, and neuroscience.

Bilal Ali Ansari

Shaykh Bilal Ali Ansari graduated with a bachelor's degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences with a focus on adult learning theory from National Louis University, Lisle, Illinois. He studied Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Jāmia al-Ḥasanain in Faisalabad, Pakistan, where he mastered classical and modern texts in Arabic, Islamic Theology, Islamic Law, Qurʾanic Studies, and Ḥadīth. Shaykh Bilal holds certifications in ḥadīth from various reputable Islamic scholars and continued his studies in discursive theology (kalām), Islamic Jurisprudence (usūl al-fiqh), and Islamic Philosophy at Darul Qasim College, where he serves as the Head of the Department of Ḥadīth Studies. His research interests include early Ḥadīth methodology and nomenclature, Ḥanafī legal theory, education and curriculum development, mental health, and Islamic bioethics. He currently teaches courses in Arabic, Islamic Law, and Ḥadīth Studies.

Ahsan M. Arozullah (MD, MPH)

Dr. Ahsan M. Arozullah is a physician and pharmaceutical executive with over 20 years of clinical research experience in the pharmaceutical industry and academic settings. He graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago and currently leads a global team of medical directors who provide medical leadership to clinical development teams dedicated to creating the next generation of targeted oncology therapies. He is also a member of the Board of Directors at Darul Qasim College, in Glendale Heights, Illinois. This Islamic institute aims to make Islamic knowledge a contributor to the mainstream American academic narrative.

Aisha Basith

Aisha Basith is a seasoned educator who has been teaching since 2004. She holds a bachelor's degree in Education and Biology, with a Middle School Endorsement from the University of Illinois. Mrs. Basith has taught grades 5–12, with a primary focus on the sciences, including Honors and AP Biology. She has extensive teaching experience in public and Islamic schools, as well as homeschooling, and has also held an administrative role for three years. Furthermore, Mrs. Basith has studied in Aalimiyya programs, gaining knowledge of Islamic Sciences under traditional scholars, and currently conducts classes on Tajweed, Arabic, and Tafsīr. Additionally, she serves as a consultant for Higher Quality Education Consulting (HQEC) for curriculum and professional development.

Abdurezak Hashi (PhD)

Dr Hashi is a Professor at the Department of Biotechnology and the coordinator for the Multi-Disciplinary Academic Postgraduate Programme at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Prof. Abdurezak Hashi obtained his bachelor's, master's, and PhD in Theology and Comparative Religion, from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He joined the Kulliyyah of Science at IIUM as an Assistant Professor in 2008. In 2014, he was appointed editor of the Kulliyyah of Science academic journal, Revelation and Science.

Hamza Karamali (MSc)

Shaykh Hamza Karamali holds a bachelor's and master's in Computer Engineering from the University of Toronto, and additional bachelor's and master's in Islamic Law and Legal Theory from Jamia Nizamia in Hyderabad, India. Shaykh Karamali also holds a master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. He has studied and

memorized traditional manuals in all of the Islamic sciences with distinguished Muslim scholars and, on their recommendation, founded Basira Education where he produces courses and videos, and writes books and articles on the application of traditional Islamic theology to contemporary faith challenges from modern science and philosophy.

Shaza Khan (PhD)

Dr. Shaza Khan is the Executive Director of the Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA), a non-profit organization that supports full-time Islamic schools in the United States by providing professional development, networking opportunities, information, and resources, as well as engaging in critical research on Islamic education. Dr. Khan received her PhD in Teaching, Curriculum and Change from the Warner School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester, in New York, where she studied the adolescent development and identity formation of Muslim American youth, focusing on second generation Americans.

Shoaib A. Malik (MSc, PhD, PhD)

Dr. Shoaib Ahmed Malik is a Lecturer in Science and Religion at the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. After graduating with a BEng of Chemical Engineering from the University of Bath, in the UK, Dr. Malik became one of the first Muslim students to embark on an MSc in Philosophy, Science, and Religion at the University of Edinburgh. With two PhDs in Chemical Engineering and Theology from the University of Nottingham and St Mary's University, respectively, Dr. Malik is further enriching his Islamic studies under the guidance of Shaykh Ali Laraki, among other scholars. In addition to being a Senior Fellow of Advance HE and Fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR), he is the Chief Editor for Palgrave Macmillan's monograph series and encyclopedia on Islam and Science.

Mohd Yusof Mohamad (PhD)

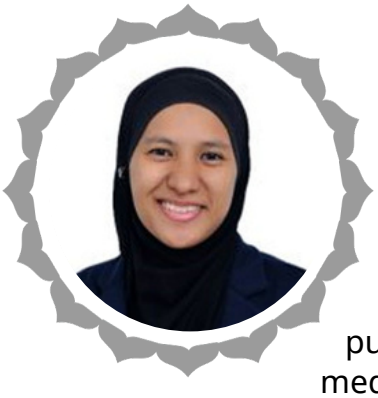
Dr. Mohd Yusof Mohamad is an Assistant Professor at the Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He received his undergraduate and postgraduate education in the fields of Biomedical Sciences, Human Anatomy, and Tissue Engineering from IIUM. Dr. Mohamad also obtained a postgraduate Diploma in Islamic Studies from the same institution. He often moderates debate programs across the country and currently teaches anatomy and physiology at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Habeeb Quadri (MA)

Habeeb Quadri is an educator, author, and youth activist. He holds a bachelor's degree in Teaching of History and a master's degree in School Administration. He is an Elementary School Principal and a part-time staff member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education's professional development programs. He is the board chair of MYNA (Muslim Youth of North America) and a board member of CISNA (Council of Islamic School of North America). Quadri has lectured on Islam, society, and social problems confronting Muslim youth and the community at large. He has co-authored *The War Within Our Hearts* (2008), *Thank God it is Jumuah, Parenting ... Who Said It Was Easy?* (2010), *Wisdom of the Wise: Advice of Luqman* (2011), *The Islamic School Resource Guide: Developing Schools and Educational Excellence* (2022), and was the religious and cultural consultant for the children's book *Under the Ramadan Moon* by Sylvia Whitman. In 2019, he became the first Muslim Principal to be named National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Omar Qureshi (MEd, PhD)

Dr. Omar Qureshi is the Director of Integrated Curriculum at Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, in Irving, Texas. He previously taught Western and Islamic Philosophy and was the head of the Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies & Leadership (CISLD) at Cambridge Muslim College, in the UK, and served as Provost and Assistant Professor of Liberal and Islamic Studies at Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California. Dr. Qureshi earned his Bachelor of Arts in Microbiology and subsequently his MEd in Curriculum and Instruction – Science Education, both from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Later, he earned his PhD in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies with a specialization in the Philosophy of Education from Loyola University Chicago in 2016. His dissertation, titled "Badr al-Dīn Ibn Jamāʿah and the Highest Good of Islamic Education," explores the topic of educational institutional identity in the United States. Dr. Qureshi's prior teaching experiences include serving as principal and dean of academics at a parochial school located in the western suburbs of Chicago.



Raudah M. Yunus (MBChB, MPH, DrPH)

Dr. Raudah Yunus is a researcher, writer and public health specialist. Dr. Yunus spent her medical school years in Alexandria, Egypt, where she also learnt Arabic language and literature. Subsequently, she completed a Master of Public Health (MPH) and a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) at the University of Malaysia in 2015 and 2018, respectively. Dr. Yunus has taught at the Faculty of Medicine (UiTM, Malaysia) since 2015, and her research interests include elder abuse, long-term care, health disparities, refugee and migrant health, and Islamic bioethics.

Special Recognition

Thérèse Wassily Saba – Copy Editor

Thérèse Wassily Saba is a copy editor and translator who has worked with publishers including Routledge, Pluto Press, and Oxford University Press. She edits texts across the humanities, particularly music, art, history, literature, and language-learning books, working with English, Spanish, Arabic, and transliterated Arabic.

Syeda Khunsa Batool - Graphic Designer

Syeda Khunsa Batool is the Marketing and Comunications Coordinator at the Islamic Schools League of America. She has a Bachelors in Media Studies and a post graduate diploma in Children's Media from Centennial College, and previously interned at Scholastic Canada. She has experience creating visual content for marketing materials for various Muslim nonprofits. For the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, she designed the editorial layout for the Student Reflection Booklet: Exploring Bioscience & Islam and this Teacher's Companion for the Exploring Bioscience and Islam Curriculum.