

**NIMH/ Office of Autism Research Coordination (OARC)
SPECIAL EVENT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
FILM SCREENING of "AS ONE: THE AUTISM PROJECT"**
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 6:00 PM | LIPSETT AMPHITHEATER | BUILDING 10, NIH



National Institute of Mental Health



AGENDA

6:00 – 6:15 PM

Introductory Remarks

Susan Daniels, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Autism Research Coordination, National Institute of Mental Health
Executive Secretary, Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee

Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, National Institute of Mental Health

6:15 – 7:35 PM

***As One: The Autism Project* Screening**

7:35 – 8:15 PM

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Susan Daniels, Ph.D.

Hana Makki

Co-Director and Producer, *As One: The Autism Project*

Sharifa Yateem

Consultant Specialist, New England Center for Children in Abu Dhabi

ABOUT AS ONE: THE AUTISM PROJECT

The documentary *As One: The Autism Project* follows ten children living in the United Arab Emirates as they come together to perform in a play. The film was commissioned by Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to promote autism awareness and decrease stigma.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Hana Makki

*Senior Producer of Documentary
Image Nation Abu Dhabi
Abu Dhabi, UAE*



Hana Makki is the Senior Producer of Documentary at Image Nation Abu Dhabi, the leading content provider in the Middle East. She oversees a wide range of factual entertainment projects. *As One: The Autism Project* marked Hana's first collaboration with the company. Previously Ms. Makki had a career in hospitality in the UK, and switched gears to pursue her passion of film nine years ago. Ms. Makki returned to the Middle East, where she spent her childhood, and has worked on all aspects of film production, delivering shorts, feature films, and documentaries in the United Arab Emirates.

Sharifa Yateem

*Consultant Specialist
The New England Center for Children
Abu Dhabi, UAE*



Ms. Yateem is a Consultant Specialist at the New England Center for Children in Abu Dhabi. She is the first Emirati Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Ms. Yateem is also the President and Founder of the United Arab Emirates Association for Behavior Analysts—an affiliated international chapter of Association of Behavior Analysis International. Ms. Yateem has become the voice of autism awareness and expertise around the UAE and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council). She has been featured on CNBC Al-Arabiya, Abu Dhabi TV, and Rotana Al Khaleej, and she also writes about important issues related to Autism in UAE in Al Ittihad Newspaper. Ms. Yateem participated in the making of the autism documentary *As One: The Autism Project* to raise awareness about autism and how it affects families in the UAE. She has extensive experience in applying ABA to overcome behavioral issues. Ms. Yateem earned her Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

The Office of Autism Research Coordination (OARC) coordinates and manages the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) and related cross-agency autism spectrum disorder (ASD) activities, programs, and policies. The IACC is a federal advisory committee mandated by Congress to coordinate ASD related activities across the U.S. federal agencies. OARC also supports outreach activities such as the annual NIMH Autism Awareness Month Event series, which provide information and resources about ASD to the public.

