



## American Mission Hospital - An Overview

The American Mission Hospital is a private not-for-profit hospital located in Manama, Bahrain. It has been serving the community of Bahrain, for almost 120 years.

Established in 1903 as the Mason Memorial Hospital, it was the first modern hospital in Bahrain, and possibly, along the entire southern gulf region of Arabia.

Marion Wells Thoms Memorial hospital for Women Children was also built in 1927, and together the healthcare system renamed itself as the 'American Mission Hospital' in 1962. And two more buildings were added in 2000.

Today, the hospital offers round-the-clock specialist medical & dental services from its main branch in Manama, and also from three satellite clinics located at Saar, Amwaj Islands and Riffa. The Manama and Saar branches are open 24x7.

In A'Ali, a new \$70 million, King Hamad American Mission Hospital is being built, and is scheduled to be inaugurated in October 2022. AMH will then be serving Bahrain from FIVE locations.

### Accreditations

In May 2021, the hospital in Manama and its satellite branches in Saar and Amwaj Islands have been awarded the **Diamond** status, for the second time, consecutively. It is the highest level of accreditation given to hospitals by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) of Bahrain. IN 2017 too, AMH was given the diamond status.

Ten years earlier, in 2007, AMH had become the first hospital in the Kingdom of Bahrain to have achieved accreditation through ACHS International (ACHSI), Australia's leading health care accreditation agency, which is recognized by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua), for both, its standards and its accreditations programs. And that status was reaffirmed in 2010.



In May 2021, the hospital became the first private hospital in Bahrain to achieve the **CAP (College of American Pathologists) accreditation** for its Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and second in the country to achieve this, after the government facility King Hamad University Hospital.

The hospital was awarded the **certifications of ISO 9001 and ISO 45001**, in November 2021, for the Provision of In-patient and Out-patient Medical Services including Training, Dental, Diagnostic and Pharmacy Services from Bureau Veritas, UK.

### **Awards**

In May 2020, the hospital achieved first place in two categories of Business Worldwide Magazine (BWM) 2020 GCC Business Excellence Awards. Best Private Non-profit Healthcare Provider - GCC and 'Business Leadership and Outstanding Contribution to Healthcare - GCC', which was won by Group CEO Julia Maria Tovey.

In 2015, the hospital was listed among the best hospitals in the Arabian Gulf region by the International Socrates Committee based in Oxford, England.

In 2020 and 2021, Dr George Cheriyan, the corporate CEO of AMH, was listed among the winners in the CEO Today Middle East Awards 2020 and 2021, for the Arab region, by the CEO Today magazine.

### **Community Outreach**

The hospital's mission statement says that it provides healthcare "on the biblical principles of Love, Compassion and Grace".

With the approvals of the Ministry of Health, wherever required, and with the support of the Ministry of Social Development, the hospital collaborates with various social and philanthropic organizations to offer support to community on health related matters.



Many Bahraini as well as expatriate community groups and societies are given free health checks, educational talks, and online discussions, and demonstrations, to spread health awareness, preventative care and wellness.

### **Wellness**

AMH is among the first hospitals in Bahrain to focus on wellness and preventative health, instead of on illness alone. The Riffa clinic, which opened in 2018, has a Wellness Center, with a large portion of its facility allocated to health and fitness training. The trainers provide wellness advice, with health and fitness packages, that benefit our patients and members. The place has a well-equipped gym, a large indoor swimming pool, and other facilities.

In A'Ali too, a new wellness center, with the latest state of the art equipment and facilities is also being built at the *King Hamad American Mission Hospital* that is scheduled to open in 2022.

The recent tie-up with Soza Health, a health tech company from UK, from October 2020, shows AMH's willingness and readiness to promote preventative health strategies and lifestyle changes, in Bahrain.

This tie-up of AMH, with Soza health UK and Dhu3, Bahrain, will facilitate the conducting of health assessments backed by years of medical research, so that individuals can easily know where they stand on the wellness spectrum.

### **Island Classic Golf Tournament**

AMH Island Classic Golf Tournament has become an annual fixture in the sporting calendar of Bahrain, usually around October–November. It is held under the patronage of His Majesty the King, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, at his private golf course in Saffriya.

In 1997, the hospital's growth necessitated the construction of a new building and also an overhead bridge to connect the old building with the new one, across a busy street in



Manama. In order to raise funds for their construction, the American Mission Hospital and the American Association of Bahrain decided to organize this annual golf tournament.

Every year, the funds raised through this event are regularly used for the hospital expansion projects like new specialist clinics, for purchases of state of the art medical and surgical equipment, and for community outreach programs which include free health camps, village health checks, and events that spread awareness related to health and medical issues.

### **Current Leadership**

A board of directors, with some American and Bahraini members, oversees the hospital governance. Dr George Cheriyan is the Corporate CEO and member of the board of directors.

Julia Tovey is the Group CEO, and is also the first female to hold this leadership position in the hospital's almost 120-year history.

### **Role in Bahrain-US Relations**

One of the key foundations for a strong bilateral relationship between Bahrain and USA has been the American Mission Hospital.

The American missionaries, who first came to set this hospital with the service mission, quickly realized that the need of the region is not religion, but healthcare. And they started building appropriate infrastructure, and in improving the medical and surgical facilities so that the community of Bahrain can benefit from accessible healthcare by professionals.

Perhaps, that is why, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in April 2018, addressing the American expatriate community in Bahrain, had said:

*"Over a century ago, an intrepid young American named Samuel Zwemer travelled from New Jersey to Arabia with a noble mission in his heart. The medical dispensary he opened in Manama became a hospital that has saved countless lives.*



*"This hospital is a testament to American generosity of spirit – and a reminder of what we have in common. Here in Bahrain we have a hospital founded by a Christian mission, alongside mosques and churches, synagogues and temples. In the USA people of all faiths come to live the American Dream. We may be different nations, but we are united by this proud tradition of tolerance. Together we share the dream of a world where we can all live alongside each other in peace and prosperity".*

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For some recent and important news items on the hospital, [click here](#)