

# MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART FOUNDATION

Winter 2026 Newsletter

Featuring:

**CNN** INTERVIEWS  
PROFESSOR SIR  
MAGDI YACOUB

**EGYPT'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND  
POPULATION VISITS  
GLOBAL HEART CENTRE**

**PLUS:** updates on the near  
completion and soft launch  
of the new Magdi Yacoub Global  
Heart Centre, and much more





# MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

# WINTER 2026 EDITORIAL

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**Reda Athanasios**

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Foundation

Dear Friends,

Every great institution begins as an act of faith. When the **Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Foundation** was created, it was with a simple conviction: that the same excellence which transformed lives in Aswan could one day stand as a guiding light for the world. We began as a diamond in the rough, brilliant in purpose and still taking form. Today, that diamond is being shaped into something enduring, a castle on a hill whose light can be seen far beyond Egypt.

That transformation has not come through ambition alone. It has been refined through partnership, perseverance, and shared conviction. With every alliance, the Foundation has become more defined in character and stronger in purpose. Our collaboration with **Edwards Lifesciences**, supported by **MAP International**, continues to provide the Aswan Heart Centre with life-saving valves and essential medical supplies. Our ties with **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi** advance research and innovation in heart failure and transplant medicine, while our academic collaborations with **Queen Margaret University** and the **British University in Egypt** have created Egypt's first master's degree in cardiac nursing, preparing a new generation of healers.

Corporate and institutional partners have helped us build capacity where it was most needed. **Siemens Healthineers** made it possible to replace and modernize the catheter suites at Aswan. **Medtronic** has worked beside our physicians to deliver advanced Cryoballoon training in the treatment of arrhythmia. **Vodafone Egypt Foundation** amplified our reach

through the "Heart to Heart" campaign, raising tens of millions of pounds in support of cardiac care. Each collaboration has strengthened the walls of our shared endeavor, turning generosity into measurable impact.

Our partnerships extend beyond institutions. Across the United States, **members of the Egyptian American community** have joined together in support of our mission, hosting events that connect compassion abroad with action at home. Within Egypt, the **Ministry of Health** and the government's leadership have affirmed their continued commitment to the new Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre Cairo, recognizing it as both a national achievement and a global model of excellence.

At the heart of all this progress remains a simple truth: *healing is a collective act*. When a nurse in training holds the hand of a frightened patient, when a donor sends vital equipment across the ocean, or when a young doctor learns a life-saving skill, the light of that castle grows brighter. It is the light of shared faith in what human beings can accomplish together.

As we prepare to open the **Global Heart Centre**, our focus remains on readiness and on the people who will bring it to life. Every system, partnership, and team member must be prepared to deliver care at the highest standard. The value of this work will be measured through action, in the patients treated, the professionals trained, and the knowledge shared. With the continued support of our partners and friends, the Foundation is ready to begin this next chapter with confidence and purpose.



# “LAUNCHING A CUTTING-EDGE HOSPITAL IN EGYPT”: PROFESSOR SIR MAGDI YACOUB INTERVIEWED ON CNN’S MARKETPLACE MIDDLE EAST

Renowned heart surgeon **Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub** recently appeared in a feature on CNN, spotlighting his ambitious plan to launch the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo and reflecting on the evolving landscape of healthcare in Egypt. You can view the segment here:

[The world renowned heart surgeon is launching a cutting edge hospital in Egypt – set to redefine cardiac care](#)

In the segment, Dr. Magdi discusses how **the new center is intended not only as a state-of-the-art hospital, but also as a regional hub for innovation, training, and research in cardiovascular medicine.** He frames it as a vehicle to reduce the need for Egyptians to travel abroad for specialized cardiac care and to help position Egypt at the forefront of medical excellence in the region.

The program also places Egypt’s healthcare aspirations in context, observing that the country is investing heavily in medical infrastructure, advanced technologies, and partnerships with global institutions. Dr. Magdi’s vision is tied closely to that momentum: **the new center is meant to be a beacon of change in the Egyptian system,** combining the best global practices with local relevance.

While the segment focuses heavily on the Cairo project, it also nods to broader currents in healthcare innovation, including the integration of robotics, cross-institutional collaboration, and the importance of developing homegrown capacity. For those interested in how ambition, expertise, and infrastructure converge, the video offers a compelling snapshot of what’s ahead.

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# THE NEW MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART CENTRE IN CAIRO NEARS COMPLETION AND PREPARES TO OPEN ITS DOORS



We are very happy to share a significant milestone in the construction of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo. Our facilities team in Egypt reports that the project is now in its final stages, with technical testing and system preparations advancing steadily.

As the hospital readies for opening, the final phase of quality checks and refinements is underway to ensure that every part of the facility meets the highest international standards. These efforts are focused on confirming that all medical, technical, and support systems perform seamlessly in readiness for patient care.

This steady progress brings us ever closer to realizing Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub's vision of a world-class facility that will expand access to free, life-saving cardiac care for children and adults across Egypt and the region. The new Centre will not only provide advanced clinical services but also serve as a vital hub for research, education, and innovation, training the next generation of cardiac specialists while fostering scientific exchange with leading institutions around the world. It stands as a symbol of what can be achieved through commitment, compassion, and

the belief that every life deserves access to healing.

A formal inauguration of the Centre is planned for the first quarter of 2026, an event that will celebrate the realization of decades of work and collaboration and the beginning of a new chapter in global cardiovascular care. The occasion will also mark the culmination of years of planning, engineering, and dedication from teams in Egypt and abroad who have worked tirelessly to bring this transformative vision to life. Preparations are already underway to ensure a seamless transition into full operation, with staff training, systems testing, and clinical readiness programs designed to uphold the highest standards of excellence from the very first day of service.

The Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre stands as a revolutionary medical campus—an integrated environment where patient care, research, and education converge to advance the frontiers of cardiovascular medicine. Designed to inspire innovation while remaining rooted in service to humanity, it embodies the Foundation's enduring mission to bring world-class cardiac care within reach of every life in need.

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# EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES FOUNDATION REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING CARDIAC CARE IN EGYPT



Earlier this year, representatives from Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, led by Executive Director Amanda Fowler, visited the Aswan Heart Centre and the new Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo. The visit offered an intimate look at the world-class cardiac care and humanitarian mission that continue to define Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub's legacy.

In her reflections following the visit, Fowler described the experience as "inspirational and incredible," noting her deep respect for the "authentic passion and compassion to help patients with zero regard for their ability to pay." She emphasized that the Foundation's engagement with the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation and its partners had shaped new thinking within Edwards' global giving program, *Every*

*Heartbeat Matters*, particularly around education and access for underserved structural heart patients.

Fowler also expressed admiration for how the new Global Heart Centre in Cairo builds on the excellence established in Aswan, bringing expanded capacity for training and patient care to a broader population. "There are moments in your life when something creates an important shift in your thinking," she wrote. "Visiting Aswan and Cairo was one of those moments for me."

The visit marked a meaningful step toward a shared vision of strengthening global cardiac care and advancing opportunities for clinicians to transform the lives of patients most in need.

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# EGYPT'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MIN. OF HEALTH & POPULATION VISITS THE MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART CENTRE



Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, paid an official visit to the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, accompanied by **Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub**, world-renowned heart surgeon, and **Dr. Magdy Ishak**, Founder and Chairman of the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation. Senior ministry officials and members of the Global Heart Centre management board also took part in the visit.

Dr. Abdel Ghaffar met with the Centre's leadership, expressing pride in what he described as a landmark institution in the heart of Greater Cairo, comparable in scope and excellence to the Aswan Heart Centre. He affirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Foundation as part of Egypt's public-private partnership strategy, aimed at expanding access to high-quality healthcare nationwide.

The Minister praised the Centre as a national achievement that embodies Egypt's values of generosity and scientific excellence, **calling Sir Magdi Yacoub "a symbol of selfless dedication in the**



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# EGYPT MINISTER VISITS THE MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART CENTRE



**service of humanity.”** He emphasized that the Centre’s integrated medical services, led by highly trained Egyptian professionals, make it a model for the future of healthcare in Egypt and a significant contribution to cardiac medicine and research worldwide.

The visit included a comprehensive tour of the facility’s

outpatient clinics, operating rooms, catheterization labs, intensive care units, research and innovation wing, and administrative areas. The Minister commended the precision, organization, and state-of-the-art technology observed throughout, instructing the Ministry to provide all possible support to strengthen cooperation with the Centre.



# “YOUR HEART IS ALWAYS IN OUR MINDS” AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. FAISAL SAEED, HEAD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY AT THE ASWAN HEART CENTRE AND THE NEW GLOBAL HEART CENTRE



In a field that often balances the technical with the deeply human, Dr. Faisal Saeed stands at the center with conviction and clarity. As Head of the Department of Anesthesia at both the Aswan Heart Centre and the new Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, Dr. Faisal plays a critical role in shaping not only clinical protocols, but also the ethos of care that defines both institutions.

Since joining the Aswan Heart Centre in 2013, Dr. Faisal has led the expansion of anesthesia services from a small team of seven physicians to a highly specialized, evidence-driven department that now supports two operating rooms, two catheter labs, and a full cardiac radiology schedule. With board certifications from Egypt and Europe, and deep experience in transesophageal echocardiography, Dr. Faisal has helped build a program that sets regional, and in some cases global, benchmarks in cardiac anesthesia.

But what sets his work apart is not only what happens inside the operating theatre.

“I always teach our young physicians to tell their patients: *‘Your heart is always in our minds.’*”

“At first, it may sound like something said out of routine. But when you say it sincerely—when the patient hears it—something changes. They know they’re safe. They know they’re seen.”

This philosophy of presence and care radiates throughout Dr. Faisal’s department. From preoperative assessments to post-surgical follow-up and pain management, the anesthesiology team is involved at every stage of the patient journey. They are, in Dr. Faisal’s words, “not only responsible for putting patients to sleep, but for seeing them through, from their first clinic visit until the day they are discharged with a smile.”

## **A Scaled Model of Compassion**

Asked whether the new Global Heart Centre will change or expand the way anesthesia services are provided, Dr. Faisal is clear:

*Story continues next page*

# “YOUR HEART IS ALWAYS IN OUR MINDS”

“We are not doing something new—we are scaling something proven. We are copying what we’ve built in Aswan, but on a larger stage.”

And it is, indeed, a much larger stage. The Global Heart Centre will house five operating rooms, four catheter labs, a hybrid catheterization/operating room and nearly 100 intensive care beds for both adult and pediatric cardiac patients. It is expected to become one of the largest cardiac facilities in the Middle East.



To prepare, Dr. Faisal has been hiring new junior physicians monthly since early 2024. Rather than recruiting senior staff, he is focused on growing talent from within, ensuring that every physician understands and embodies the culture and protocols that have made Aswan successful.

“It’s not just technical skill that makes a good anesthetist. It’s trust, humility, teamwork, and a deep sense of responsibility. These are things you have to live, not just learn.”

## Protocols with a Pulse

Behind this patient-centered approach lies a rigorous commitment to clinical excellence. Every vascular access is guided by ultrasound. Every medication is administered within updated, internationally aligned protocols. Every senior team member is trained in intraoperative echocardiography, a capability still rare even in European and American centers.

“When something new enters the field, we study it. We train for it. We update our protocols. No matter your seniority, everyone follows the same standard. Even me.”

The result is a culture where quality of care is both personal and procedural, where compassion is not a substitute for precision, but a reflection of it.

## A Message to Supporters

When asked what he would share with the international supporters helping make the new hospital possible, Dr. Faisal paused.

“We are not just practicing medicine. We are changing lives. If you could see the sick children who arrive at our doors, and the way they leave—with hope, with strength—you would understand. None of this would be possible without your support.”

“So to everyone supporting this mission: thank you. You are not only giving resources. You are giving second chances to broken hearts.”



# STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN HEART FAILURE & TRANSPLANT CARE



*The CCAD HVTI team with Dr. Magdi Yacoub at the Magdi Yacoub Heart Centre, Aswan*

The Aswan Heart Centre recently welcomed a distinguished delegation from **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute**. The visit provided an opportunity for the visiting physicians and surgeons to tour the Centre's facilities, learn about its pioneering cardiac programs, and engage in clinical discussions on advanced heart failure and transplant care.

Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi has established itself as a regional leader in complex transplant and cardiothoracic procedures, having performed more than 700 transplants since its inception, including the UAE's first combined heart and double lung transplant. The Aswan Heart Centre, under the vision of Professor

Sir Magdi Yacoub, has become a beacon of hope for patients in Egypt and across Africa, providing more than 10,000 open-heart surgeries to date, including 80 ventricular assist device (VAD) implantations, all offered free of charge to those in need.

The visit reflected a shared dedication to clinical excellence and education in cardiac care throughout the Middle East. By opening its doors to leading institutions from around the region, the Aswan Heart Centre continues to demonstrate its role as a model for delivering compassionate, world-class treatment while fostering the exchange of knowledge that advances cardiovascular medicine.

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