



NCUSLR

National Council on U.S. Libya Relations

National Council on US Libya Relations Annual report 2021-22:

Washington, D.C, July 1, 2022

The National Council on US Libya Relations is a not for-profit organization based in Washington DC. Its principle aim is to build bridges; educational, medical, cultural economic and commercial exchange between peoples and institutions of the United States of America and Libya.

It is with great pleasure that I share with you some of more important initiatives which we have accomplished this past year. Such success would not have been possible without the tremendous voluntary hours of work by our board members and many other volunteers in the organization. Namely, I am grateful to the contributions of Hassan Sassi and Edward P. Joseph our vice presidents, Wolfgang Pusztai, chair of our advisory board and of board member Yazeed Ettaib. Without their commitment, hard work and advise, this work would not have been possible.

US- Libya Knowledge Transfer Bridge

The National Council on US Libya Relations is proud to have initiated the first virtual medical education program to support medical schools in Libya. These schools have suffered immensely in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution and civil war and conflicts over the last 10 years. Collaboration between Libyan Medical Schools and Upstate New York SUNY Upstate Medical School was facilitated by the council with a special grant offered by the Steven's Initiative of the Aspen Institute (the charitable vehicle founded in honor of the late Ambassador Christopher Stevens, slain in Benghazi in 2012.)

Under a [Stevens](#) grant received and implemented jointly with New York SUNY Upstate, NCUSLR initiated a virtual Educational Program covering the topic of COVID management. Students and faculty from Benghazi and Tripoli Medical schools joined colleagues from SUNY Upstate in 2 courses held from November 2021 to March 2022.



University of Benghazi celebrating the graduates of the program

Students learned about effects of COVID on multi organs and developed necessary skills to self-teach and participate in research and medical reviews. We hope to expand this collaboration to other faculties and schools in Libya and the USA, and to address other needed areas of education such as faculty development.

The program was well received by both American and Libyan participants. Americans learned about the unique challenges facing medical education in Libya, while Libyans benefited from interaction with

American faculty and students and rushing up their educational skills and tools. This initiative should serve to be a model for continuous collaboration between universities and colleges in Libya and USA.

Health Education and Service Missions to Libya

In January 2021, in response to the dire lack of facilities and personnel to manage and treat peripheral arterial disease, NCUSLR initiated its first medical mission to Libya to treat and educate a Libyan team and bring it to a level close to international standards of care.

Through a generous donation from individuals and corporations, the Council was able to secure in-kind medical supplies and equipment worth some LD 250,000. This support paved the way to establishing the first Libyan public peripheral vascular intervention



Dr. Shennib operating in Zliten's on-site training

program, based at the Zliten University Medical Center. On-site training of vascular surgeons and supporting staff, with the availability and modification of the local imaging equipment has now benefited over a hundred patients. The program is now running independently and providing services to patients from all regions of Libya. A first national vascular postgraduate course on treatment of peripheral vascular disease was conducted in Zliten, attended by specialist from the Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan regions of the country.

The Council also invited and sponsored physicians of other specialties to travel and assist other hospitals and clinics in different medical fields. The Council calls all physicians, nurses, professionals, and educators in health sciences to contact us and to participate in sharing our health knowledge transfer bridge programs with dedicated, eager and grateful Libyan counterparts.



A poster of a visitor doctor to Almarj sponsored by NCUSLR

Accreditation of Libyan Medical Schools by World Federation of Medical Education

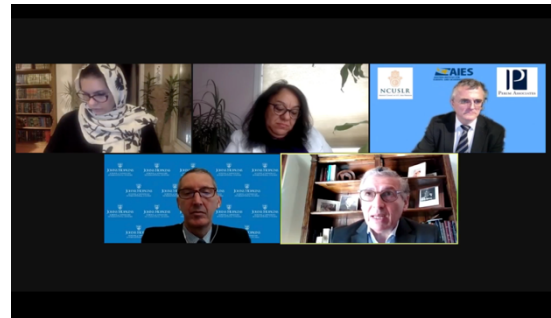
Because of the deterioration of education in general over the last 42 years of Ghadafi autocratic rule and the last ten years of upheaval and civil war, Libyan universities and its medical schools have fallen behind and are threatened with losing their accreditation by the World Federation of Medical Education. NCUSLR continues to work with schools in Libya to help correct deficiencies and complete requirements for accreditation before the approaching deadline of 2024.



Dr. Shennib meeting with University of Benghazi president Dr. Al-dressi

Keeping current with events in Libya

NCUSLR continues to regularly broadcast webinars exploring current events in Libya, including with leading experts and prominent international officials. We invite international, Libyan, and American scholars and experts on Libya to share their views and analysis of Libya's path to stability and institution building. This and last year's we followed the path of the failed elections, disagreements between active players on the ground, outside interferences, constitutional debates, divisions at the executive and legislative entities, oil and gas and most important the security concerns which continue to undermine any potential solutions to Libya's troubles.



A screenshot of an NCUSLR Webinar

Council leadership also speak out publicly with timely analysis and concrete policy recommendations published in respected journals and outlets like *Foreign Policy* and *The National Interest*.

Libyan Heritage House:

NCUSLR is proud to have sponsored the creation of the "[Libyan Heritage House](#)", a website which details Libya's rich history, peoples, cultures, and geography. It is written and assembled to become a practical but rich introduction for visitors, students or career professionals who want a quick and efficient exposure into Libya. Viewers are quickly captivated by the wealth of this country, its vast resources, its beauty, and fascinating history and archeological sites, as well as the rich diversity of its peoples. I invite all to enjoy a virtual tour of its amazing pages and images by [clicking here](#).



A screenshot of Libyan Heritage House homepage

2021-22 has been a productive year. NCUSLR is proud of the accomplishments achieved despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic and its global restrictions.

This coming year, we will continue to benefit from the experience we gained from our COVID imposed virtual networking. We hope to return to our more traditional "person to person" initiatives, including reopening our office in Washington DC, across from the White House.. Equally exciting will be the return of our annual conference on Capitol Hill on November 10th, 2021. More details will be provided soon. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Submitted Respectfully,

Hani Shennib
Founding President
National Council on US Libya Relations