



About us



**EDOF**

Essam & Dalal  
Obaid Foundation



## About the EDOF Foundation

As our world grows more complex, the solutions needed to solve our problems also grow more complex. Fortunately, around the globe there are amazing organizations filled with passionate, intelligent people working round the clock to discover, formulate, and implement these solutions. These organizations need our support.

To this end, the Essam and Dalal Obaid Foundation (EDOF) was founded in 2014. EDOF is a global non-profit organisation with a two-fold mission: medical work and social work. In terms of medical work, the organization supports medical research and care. In terms of social work, it supports the efforts of state and non-state entities in fostering peace and dialogue among people. EDOF wants to make a difference in improving the lives of people everywhere, and joins the daily effort of its fellow advocates to raise awareness, educate and build bridges.

**With a five-branched tree as its inspiring symbol, EDOF is the culmination of the living ideals of the five members of the Obaid family.**

Essam and Dalal raised their sons in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland and ingrained in them the ethic of giving that is a core element of both those cultures. With the passing of Essam due to lung cancer, the sons have taken it upon themselves to found EDOF so that it may realize his principles of peace and honor his life through healing for many years to come.

**“I am so pleased to be able to honor the humanitarian wishes of my late husband through the support of organizations doing the most good for present and future generations.”**

*- Dalal Obaid, Chairwoman*

## Our Mission

### Social work and medical research

**To achieve its medical mission,** EDOF will fund targeted clinic-based research, advocate for more effective inter-institutional communication regarding effective cures and palliatives, support improved educational methods, promote the development of new technologies, and fund humanitarian medical treatment for disadvantaged populations.

**To achieve its social mission,** EDOF will organize meetings between political/economic leaders and members of civil society, promote research into peaceful co-existence on a global scale, support cross-cultural education and strategic research, foster infrastructure development in poor regions, and fund micro-credit organizations. These efforts also consistently echoed through multiple communication channels in order to reach as many people as today's technology allows, effectively increasing public awareness and sensitizing digital audiences to critical global issues.

### A limber organization

**EDOF is designed to be a limber organization that can fund and advocate for projects that fulfill its mission and thus help those who are already established in their field to better carry out their plans of action.**

EDOF executes exhaustive research into its areas of interest and the organizations doing the best work in those areas. Then, after a thorough analysis of the ethics and effectiveness of the organizations, EDOF gives generously to further those activities it finds valuable. EDOF's gifts are an expression of its trust and support for cutting-edge problem solvers in our increasingly challenging world.

The selection of organizations is conducted by the entire team. Each board member brings their special background and skills to the selection process.

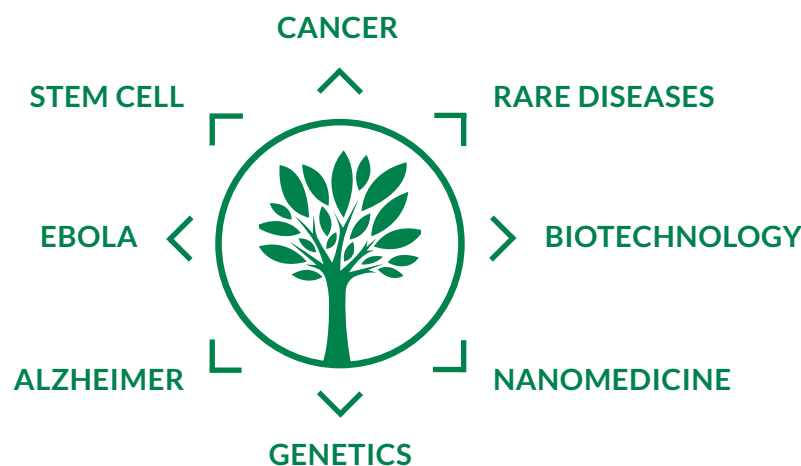
With many years of experience in political, business and financial initiatives, the EDOF board is able to identify and promote top-quality actions by reputable institutions to achieve measurable objectives. It is the hope of EDOF that some day we will be able to live in a world free of cancer and conflict, and two of its three board members – Nawaf Obaid and Karim Obaid – plan to devote a lot of their energy to realize that important dream - for their parents, for their children, and for humanity.

## What we do

### Helping pursue peace and remedy injustices

EDOF has invested in a number of projects with a high potential for medical breakthrough. Its funding strategy concentrates on the following research areas: Cancer, Rare Diseases, Biotechnology, Nanomedicine, Genetics, Alzheimer's, Ebola, and Stem Cell.

It has also engaged in various activities that attempt to conduct and present strategic research aimed at helping individuals, institutions and governments pursue peace and remedy injustices.



### The Foundation's Focus

#### FUNDING RESEARCH AT THE HEART OF MEDICAL PROGRESS

EDOF has invested in a number of high potential projects for medical breakthrough. EDOF's support for the Mayo Clinic's Center for Reconstructive Transplant Surgery is one example of its dedication to important new medical techniques. More projects are planned for the future.

#### FUNDING RESEARCH AT THE HEART OF SOCIAL PROGRESS

EDOF has partnered with the CNN Freedom Project and the International Committee for the Red Cross to support an end to human slavery and improve war trauma care respectively. Again, more projects are planned for the future.

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES & COMMITMENTS

EDOF will partner with NGOs and media organizations, support cutting edge medical research and care facilities, and engage with numerous Think Tanks with the goal of fostering prosperity and justice for all people.

## The Board

### **Dala Obaid - Chairwoman**

Dalal Obaid has been involved in charitable work her entire life. She has concentrated her efforts on helping to promote progress and justice for women, the poor, and politically oppressed populations around the world.

She holds a Bachelors Degree in Literature from the Beirut College for Women and a Masters Degree in Translation and Interpretation from the University of Geneva.

### **Nawaf Obaid - CEO**

Dr. Nawaf Obaid is a Visiting Fellow & Associate Instructor at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He is also a Senior Fellow at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies and a Lecturer at the London Academy of Diplomacy at Stirling University.

Nawaf has a Bachelors Degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He began his doctoral coursework at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Political Science Department and completed an MPhil & DPhil in the Department of War Studies at King's College, London University.

### **Tarek Obaid - Founder**

Tarek Obaid is an entrepreneur and founder of various businesses holding interests in oil & gas, real estate, education, and technologies.

Tarek holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Foreign Service (BSFS) with a concentration in International Relations and Economics from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

### **Karim - Executive Vice President**

Karim Obaid is the Co-Founder, CEO, and Administrator of Edelweiss Capital based in Geneva, Switzerland.

He holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Babson College in Boston and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from ESADE Business School in Barcelona.



What we do



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## Funding research at the heart of medical progress



### **Essam and Dalal Obaid Center for reconstructive transplant surgery**

The Mayo Clinic is one of the premier hospitals in the world, having been named by US News and World Report for over 20 years to its Best Hospitals list. In the field of reconstructive transplantation surgery, the staff at the Mayo Clinic have expertise and experience that can be matched by few organizations anywhere in the world.

With transplant services in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota, the clinic performs more transplants than any other medical center in the world. Mayo Clinic has pre-eminent adult and pediatric transplant programs, offering cardiac, liver, kidney, pancreas and bone marrow transplant services. Since performing the first clinical transplant in 1963, Mayo's efforts to continually improve and expand organ transplantation have placed Mayo at the leading edge of clinical and basic transplant research worldwide. Research activities in the Transplant Center at Mayo Clinic have contributed significantly to the current successful outcomes of organ transplantation.

This is why, in 2010, EDOF gave a substantial donation to the Mayo Clinic to support reconstructive transplantation at the clinic. The gift helped establish the Essam and Dalal Obaid Center for Reconstructive Transplant Surgery, which includes an honored scholar position, named after Essam's father, Sayyid Ahmad Obaid, an endowed program fund, and an operating fund.

The Essam and Dalal Obaid Center for Reconstructive Transplant Surgery has two branches: Face transplantation and Hand transplantation.

The clinic aids patients in preparing for the transplant and then assists them in leading a healthy life afterwards. Through research in pretransplant screening, immunosuppressive medications, regenerative medicine, multidisciplinary teams, and experts in microsurgery, EDOF has helped the Mayo Clinic be able to offer patients one of the finest reconstructive transplant surgery facilities in the world.

**“Peace is possible in our world because the vast majority of people dream of it. EDOF’s goal is to provide them with the research and opportunities they need to make it real”**

*- Nawaf Obaid, CEO*



### **The International Committee of The Red Cross**

The International Red Cross is the largest humanitarian network in the world. Its mission is to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity especially during armed conflicts and other emergencies. It is present in every country and supported by millions of volunteers. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with which EDOF is partnering, is one branch of the International Red Cross.



**“The Red Cross works hard to assist people separated from loved ones both in emergencies, ensurin they are treated with dignity, respect and compassion”**

In honor of its excellence and to promote its further expansion, EDOF has provided funding to the ICRC to support the research, policy, and regional networking activities of the Office of the ICRC President.

EDOF will expand upon this partnership with the ICRC by contributing funds to its War Trauma Hospital in Tripoli (Lebanon). EDOF’s efforts will help the ICRC continue to serve those who are suffering and be ready for an expansion of services should they be needed.

### **EDOF will be contributing to the efforts of two important projects led by the ICRC:**

- Provide medical care to the victims of the Syrian war and establish a center of knowledge and expertise in the field of traumatology in Lebanon
- Help families who were separated during wars and natural disasters locate their loved ones and get back together (Restoring Family Links)



## Funding action at the heart of social progress

### The CNN Freedom Project

Despite past and continuing efforts, human trafficking remains a tragic reality with wide-ranging social, economic and legal implications that affect all segments of societies around the world. While the primary responsibility for eliminating human trafficking lies with governments, an effective response requires participation of everyone.



EDOF is joining the CNN Freedom Project in order to provide another voice to amplify the global issue of modern day slavery, raise awareness of what credible organizations are doing to end human trafficking, and publicly support the Freedom Project by increasing global awareness among the business community. EDOF has implemented a wide social media advocacy campaign in an effort to add its voice the CNN Freedom Project's message of hope and justice.

### To date, the CNN Freedom Project has:

- Reported over four hundred unique stories on human trafficking across more than sixty countries
- Provided documented evidence leading to the rescue of 1000+ people
- Sparked tens of millions of dollars in donations to anti-trafficking organizations
- Changed laws and multi-national corporate policies in the food and hospitality industries
- Inspired the formation of numerous non-profits and campaigns around the world
- Won dozens of journalism and human rights awards, including a finalist nomination for the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament's most prestigious human rights honor

## National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Although their cultures and backgrounds differ greatly, the U.S. and Arab countries have a long history of cooperation. Whether it be diplomats, business people, travelers, scholars, scientists or lay people, U.S. and Arab citizens have been collaborating professionally and personally for many, many years. However, despite their respective interests being deeply intertwined, to this day those who reach out in an attempt to bridge divides, foster mutual respect and encourage the exchange of knowledge are sometimes met with resistance that stems from a lack of understanding.



**“EDOF has decided to get involved in NCUSAR’s mission by funding initiatives that play an integral part in their ongoing efforts to bring both parts of the world closer together.”**

*- Dr. Nawaf Obaid, CEO*

Founded in 1983, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) is an organization that attempts to correct this situation by promoting learning about and enhancement of positive U.S.-Arab relations.

EDOF is supporting NCUSAR’s educational goals because educated individuals, especially those who have gone through one of the NCUSAR internship programs, are the best guarantors of an insightful and productive cooperation between the cultures. EDOF’s advocacy efforts are based on the belief that, at a time of rising tensions, it is more than ever paramount that moderate, inclusive and enlightened individuals be given a forum of expression and the opportunity to share their knowledge.

## Freezmate

Tough environments and extreme weather climate have become an increasingly major issue that affects our outdoor plans and lifestyle. Therefore Freezmate is launching beautifully wrapped mattresses that defy the heat and the cold by providing a chilling sensation or comfortable warmth with nonexistent side effects and affordable prices. Under extreme weather conditions and temperature reaching 40' Celsius, the cooling ingredients keep the products reservedly chilled up to 3 hours and more. On the other hand, the very same products can be microwaved within few minutes and turn into a warming tool that defies the cold with a maximum and convenient warmth.



Throughout this partnership, EDOF and Freezmate will make it possible to send heated and cooling mattresses to the refugees from the Syrian civil war so they can weather the hardships of winter.

Freezmate was founded by businessman, Tarek Al Emam. While its goal is to be able to provide the mattresses to refugees around the world, the organization is currently focused on the urgency of what is happening in Syria. As Mr. Al Emam says, “**Refugees face such a daunting number of difficulties, from finding food and adequate housing to receiving medical care and avoiding further conflict. We feel that sending heated/cooling mattresses is not only one way to offer direct help, but we also hope to use the news about the shipment of the mattresses to highlight the fact that more help is needed.**”



## Future Activities and Commitments

**EDOF will partner with NGOs and media organizations** in the Arab world to call attention to the plight of refugees and the disadvantaged in nations such as Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and more.

**EDOF will support cutting edge medical research** and care facilities that are dedicated to bringing an end to cancer in the coming decades as well as a radical improvement in cancer treatments and outcomes.

**EDOF will engage with numerous Think Tanks in the U.S.** in order to bring attention and intelligence to issues of global security, peace, and mediation with the goal of furthering efforts toward ending regional conflicts and fostering prosperity and justice for all people.

**“We feel we can do the most good by providing funding to leading organizations that already have the infrastructure and contacts necessary to provide effective, lasting solutions.”**

*- Karim Obaid, Executive Vice President*



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