



INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER



Fatmé Ali Allam, M.D.

Chief of Rheumatology, Syracuse VA Medical Center

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical University

For more than three decades, Fatmé Ali Allam, M.D. has served the Central New York community as a physician, educator, and clinical leader. Her work is guided by compassion, humility, and a deep commitment to treating every person with dignity.

Originally from Lebanon, Dr. Allam earned her medical degree from Saint Joseph University in Beirut and completed part of her internal medicine residency at the American University of Beirut. After coming to Syracuse, she continued her medical training at SUNY Upstate Medical University, completing her residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology. Now, Syracuse has been her home for more than 30 years.

Dr. Allam serves as Chief of Rheumatology at the Syracuse VA Medical Center, a position she has held since 2001, and as a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Throughout her career, she has cared for patients with complex autoimmune and musculoskeletal conditions while teaching and mentoring medical students, residents, and fellows.

Her dedication to veterans extends beyond the walls of the medical center. In 2012, Dr. Allam established the Syracuse VA's telehealth rheumatology clinic, expanding access to specialized care for veterans living in communities as far as 100 to 150 miles away. Her service has been recognized through several honors from the VA, including the Champion of Whole Health Award.

Dr. Allam's commitment to service also reaches into the wider community. She has volunteered with Rahma Health Clinic, supported local fundraising efforts, helped restore the Upstate New York chapter of the American University of Beirut Alumni Association, and organized cultural programs celebrating the diversity of Central New York.

Dr. Allam first learned about InterFaith Works while attending the 2012 InterFaith Leadership Awards Dinner. She was deeply moved by the organization's work with immigrants and refugees, its efforts to build understanding among people of different faiths, and its commitment to restoring hope and dignity to those rebuilding their lives.

Her understanding of leadership is grounded in working alongside others, listening without judgment, and leading through service and example.

Sharing her thoughts on leadership, Dr. Allam stated, "When you're in a position of leadership, you want to be the one to restore the voice that was robbed and the dreams that were stolen."

Whether caring for veterans, educating future physicians, or serving her community, Dr. Allam leads with kindness, patience, and respect. Her life's work reflects the values at the heart of InterFaith Works and the InterFaith Leadership Awards.

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