

Emirati Women's Day

Women of Substance

While several Emirati women are carving their proud niche in society, HEALTH has chosen to pay tribute to all women through the inspiring stories of a selected few. These women are the shining stars in UAE's galaxy of women achievers who have seized their destiny and are inspiring others with their illustrious milestones!



Creating a “sanctuary of understanding”



Dr. Nahla Kazim

Specialist in women's reproductive health, professor at UAE university and founder of Kazim's Fertility Barza

For many, the journey to parenthood entwines hope with heartache. At the helm of transformative fertility care in the UAE stands Dr. Nahla Abdul Razzaq Kazim, a woman whose blend of cutting-edge science and deep empathy has rewritten what hope looks like for countless families.

Dr. Nahla's path began with a fascination for life and its beginnings. After earning her MD, she pursued an MSc and PhD in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences from the University of Edinburgh in 2010, one of the first Emirati women to achieve that milestone. Her medical journey included roles at Fakhri IVF and Tawam Fertility Center.

Among her several roles, Dr. Nahla is also Director of Fertility Preservation, BournHall Fertility Centre, Al Ain; Consultant in Reproductive Medicine and Infertility, Mediclinic Al Jowhara Hospital; and Adjunct Associate Professor at both UAE University and

Gulf Medical University. She is also Founder and CEO, Kazim's Fertility Barza.

Through these roles, she's helped set new standards in infertility treatment, fertility preservation (for individuals and cancer patients alike), genetic screening, and oncofertility, an area few in the region had focused on before.

What truly distinguishes Dr. Nahla is her unwavering belief that fertility care must match scientific ingenuity with human compassion. She was among the first in the UAE to introduce VR/AR, artificial intelligence, and digital tools into the fertility journey improving everything from ovarian rejuvenation planning to patient comfort during egg retrieval.

Even amid the pandemic's challenges, she rolled out these innovations to keep patients safe and to ensure treatments remained warm, personalized, and precise.

“My approach in clinical practice has always been to create what I call a “sanctuary of understanding”. Before we discuss any medical procedures, I sit with my patients (really sit with them) and listen. I want to understand their story, their cultural background, their fears, and their dreams,” says Dr. Nahla.

“This isn't just compassionate care; it's essential medicine. The emotional state of our patients directly impacts treatment outcomes, and addressing their psychological well-being is as crucial as addressing their physical condition.”

Through Kazim's Fertility Barza (a social enterprise) that Dr. Nahla launched in November 2024, she has formalized this holistic, multi-disciplinary approach. “We've created a modern interpretation of this tradition, where individuals and couples can find not just medical expertise, but emotional support, cultural sensitivity, and a community that truly understands their journey.”

Kazim's Fertility Barza offers a holistic platform for fertility wellness: early detection, emotional support, and wellness services, all grounded in preventive science and aligned with the UAE's goal of nurturing healthy future generations.

Dr. Nahla's leadership hasn't gone unnoticed. She's received the prestigious Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum Award, been named a Top Healthcare Icon 2024, and earned nominations for Abu Dhabi's Medical Distinction Award.

An active member of global bodies from the American Society of Reproductive Medicine to the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology she's both contributor and trailblazer.

Why Her Story Matters Now?

In the lead-up to Emirati Women's Day 2025, Dr. Nahla's story feels urgent because she's not only treating fertility, she's transforming it. She's taking advanced science and making it accessible, dignified, and empathetic. And in doing so, she is changing lives - one hopeful heartbeat at a time.