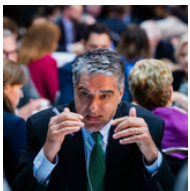
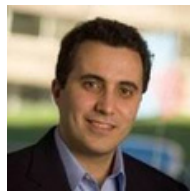


## Q1 - 2022 Newsletter

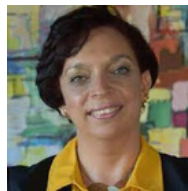
### Our Board



[Hisham Jabi](#)



[Hisham Kassab](#)



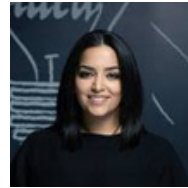
[Khuloud Odeh](#)



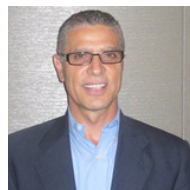
[Louisa Rahmani](#)



[Ray Milhem](#)



[Nadiah Sabaneh](#)



[Muhannad Kanaan](#)

"We have been very busy setting up the operations of PalTechUS, developing ideas, and implementing activities to institutionalize our mission. I am grateful to be surrounded by committed staff, a dedicated Board of Directors and wise advisors that have shared the vision to build more opportunities for Palestinian youth. I am confident that through our work together, 2022 will prove to be a productive and successful year for PalTechUS."

**- Muhannad Kanaan, Chair of the Board**

### Newsletter Highlights

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[MENTORING WITH MICROSOFT ...4](#)

[EHUB ...4](#)

## Meet Our Advisors!



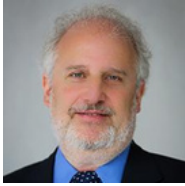
Ammar Aker



Bassem El-Wazir



Fakhira Halloun



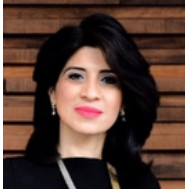
Larry Garber



Larry Cooley



Loay Elbasyouni



Manal Zraiq



Naser Aloul



Zahi Khouri

### Our Mission

To mobilize the Palestinian diaspora and the international community to create economic opportunities for young Palestinians and nurture a thriving Palestinian tech ecosystem.

Our [PalTechUS.org](https://www.paltechus.org) website is now updated to include:

- A blog
- External links to educational resources regarding the current economic and technological situation in Palestine
- A sign-up form for this newsletter!

# A Message from the President Hisham Jabi

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to serve as PalTechUS's president for the year 2021–2022, and I hope you will join me in supporting the noble work ahead of us as we all strive to make PalTechUS the strongest advocate for the IT sector in Palestine.

There is much to be done as we begin to emerge from an early stage NGO entering into a post COVID-19 era. This public health emergency has both profoundly affected the Palestinian economy and made clear the importance of the Palestinian diaspora in strengthening the IT sector to create jobs in STEM for the youth.

Our Palestinian youth have been deeply challenged, personally as well as professionally. Conditions for both education and employment have become very difficult in Palestine — as I write this note, the unemployment rate is reaching almost 50% in Gaza and 15% in the West Bank.\* More than ever, Palestine seeks a sense of solidarity including the basic rights of the STEM graduates to find jobs with dignity to stay in Palestine.

In these difficult circumstances, PalTechUS must continue its efforts to make the case for US IT firms to invest in Palestine, strengthen the education system, boost the linkages between academic institutions in Palestine and their peers in the US to enhance the quality of STEM education.

We are honored to engage with Microsoft to launch the first ever virtual mentorship program to empower STEM students at three universities in Palestine. We have also been engaged with the Palestinian Affairs Unit to launch an eHub portal to connect entrepreneurs in Palestine to their peers in the US.

We must commit ourselves to making the IT sector the kind of ecosystem that will bring in innovation, create sustainable jobs and empower IT SMEs.

PalTechUS is only as strong as its board, advisors, staff and associates. Please encourage participation into our newsletter among your colleagues.

I look forward to working with you this year, hearing your concerns, and answering your questions.

\*PCBS, 2021

## Mentoring with Microsoft

PalTechUS is working with Microsoft to provide university STEM students in Palestine with virtual mentoring. The program focuses on three main areas:

- Growth Areas
- Career Guidance
- Professional Network

The primary goal of Project Beacon - Palestine is helping student mentees understand where they need to improve, how they might think about navigating career decisions, and having access to professional network which will have a significant positive impact on the student mentee's ability to both graduate from the university and realize career success.

PalTechUS started this project as a prototype in three universities with the goal of expanding and scaling up across Palestine.

## eHub

PalTechUS is launching a new project to support Palestinian entrepreneurs by setting up a virtual platform to connect them with their peers in the U.S. This project is launched in association with the Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU) at the U.S. State Department.

The establishment of eHub aims to help young Palestinian entrepreneurs realize that they can successfully develop their businesses and have a positive impact on their community. It also seeks to address obstacles faced by many young Palestinian entrepreneurs and provide them with practical experience in business development and partnerships with individuals who can transfer knowledge and skills.

This project will empower the Palestinian entrepreneurial ecosystem in the long run.