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NKBCI NEWSLETTER



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AUBMC CANCER SUPPORT FUND BENEFIT DINNER TO SUPPORT UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULT CANCER PATIENTS IN LEBANON

The Cancer Support Fund (CSF) organized a benefit dinner on June 12, 2019 at La Residence des Pins to “celebrate HOPE” and raise funds to support financially disadvantaged adult cancer patients in Lebanon.

The event was attended by a number of prominent dignitaries, including the representative of the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun, his advisor for Health Affairs, Dr. Walid El-Khoury, the representative of Prime Minister, Saad Hariri MP Dr. Assem Araj, Minister of Public Health, Jamil Jabak former President Michel and Mrs. Wafaa Sleiman, in addition to Her Royal Highness Princess, Ghida Talal and several politicians, dignitaries, and public figures.

After a short informative video about CSF, Mrs. Hala Dahdah Abou Jaber, CSF president and founder, and Dr. Ali Taher, CSF co-founder and Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, gave a speech about the Fund and its mission.

“What we need today is actionable solutions in the fight against cancer,” said Mrs. Hala Dahdah Abou Jaber. “By supporting the treatment for underprivileged adult cancer patients, we are guaranteeing that no cancer patient will die because of lack of funds or will go bankrupt only because he had the misfortune of getting sick. We are here to address cancer, true, but also to celebrate life not death, courage not fear, hope not despair.”

Dr. Ali Taher echoed the same sentiments in his speech. “Serving as the Director of the Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC and helping patients fight on and keep their lives meaningful despite the daily pain and challenges, I am never tired,” he said. “On the contrary, I am always driven by hope. Over the past few years, we have had several achievements at the center, including state-of-the art expansions, innovative technologies, world-renowned accreditation and affiliations, multidisciplinary care, and positive quality of care indicators for over 4,000 patients per year.” (Continue on page 2)



AUBMC CANCER SUPPORT FUND BENEFIT DINNER

"When I first joined AUB, I had a strong conviction that I can make a difference," said Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Mohamed Sayegh. "Bold transformations require bold decisions. In 2010, we launched the AUBMC 2020 Vision, an ambitious and comprehensive initiative that aims to affirm AUBMC's position as the leading medical center and healthcare institution in the region. Today, after almost ten years, I can proudly say that the difference can be clearly seen."

AUB President, Fadlo Khuri, reflected on the incidence of cancer in the region and the urgent need for an initiative such as CSF. "Statistics about cancer incidence are increasing around the world and are relatively higher in the Middle East than other countries," he said. "Here is where AUBMC and the Cancer Support Fund come in. Last year, this first-of-its-kind fund in Lebanon was launched as an initiative that aims to make cancer care, research, and prevention accessible to the largest possible number of financially disadvantaged adult cancer patients."

The speakers thanked the attendees for being part of CSF's first benefit dinner and for their generous contributions. A short documentary about AUBMC 2020 Vision was presented before the evening's entertainment began with a live musical performance by Cuban singer, Dayana Batista Divo of the Elefteriades Group. Following that was a live auction conducted by Hugh Edmeades, more live entertainment by Rock Herman AKPOVO of the Elefteriades Group, a tombola draw, and music of DJ Rhea Bouez. The auction featured a number of stunning items including a Yamaha baby grand piano shipped to Beirut for the occasion by Sing for Hope.



NAEF K. BASILE CANCER INSTITUTE LAUNCHES ITS FIRST MIDDLE EAST LUNG CANCER CONFERENCE

With an aim to discuss the recent advances in understanding the pathophysiology of lung cancer in Lebanon, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute organized its First Middle East Lung Cancer Conference on June 21, 2019 in Daniel ACC building, AUBMC. This two-day conference aimed to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration between various specialties involved in the care of lung cancer patients.

Groundbreaking findings on recent advances in lung cancer therapy for both non-small cell and small cell lung cancer in addition to the recent therapies mechanism of action and toxicities in new treatment modalities such immunotherapy were presented.

Dr. Arafat Tfayli, the director of the conference, accentuated in his welcoming note the importance of fighting lung cancer as a multifaceted approach. Noting that "lung cancer is the number one cancer killer worldwide and is expected to remain such a frequent deadly disease due to the ongoing epidemic use of tobacco smoking in our regionit is estimated that around 1250 yearly new cases are diagnosed with lung cancer in Lebanon alone."

Dr. Ghazi Zaatari representing EVP/ Dean Mohamed Sayegh, highlighted the importance of this conference noting that "the new acquired knowledge on the biology of the tumor cells has reaffirmed the requirement for a multidisciplinary approach in the management of patient."

Dr. Mohamad Haidar representing Minister of Public Health Dr. Jamil Jabak, endorsed Dr. Fadlo Khuri who spoke about the importance of the tobacco-control law 174 which was the culmination of concerted efforts of multiple actors; Dr. Khuri added "the ministry of Public Health is our key partner in pushing forward effective change, such as the implementation of the law throughout Lebanon", as we have succeeded to lead by example in this regard...AUB remains committed to raising both knowledge and awareness about preventable diseases and is dedicated to providing the best care, research, and education on cancer."

Dr. Ali Taher, the Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, discussed the importance of sharing ideas and experiences in scientific research and clinical practice to further clarify and set the roadmap to prevention and treatment of lung diseases.



PRINCESS DINA MIRED TOURS NKBCI

Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, General Director of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation, and the President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) toured the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) recently, as part of her official visit to participate in the NGOs networking event held by the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL).

Accompanied by a team from UICC, Her Royal Highness was welcomed to AUBMC by representatives of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and CCCL.

After a brief presentations by NKBCI and CCCL teams about the cancer awareness strategies and their role in improving cancer care in Lebanon, the delegation discussed possible UICC plans in Lebanon after which the delegation visited the Center's specialized units.



DR. ALI TAHER RECOGNIZED BY EXPERTSCAPE AS TOP WORLD EXPERT

Professor Ali Taher, Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, has been named by ExpertScape, a world leading index of academic achievement and expertise in healthcare, as world top-rated expert in Anemia, beta-Thalassemia, and Iron Overload. Professor Taher ranks first among 135,000 authors worldwide in the field of anemia, first among 12,000 experts in Beta-thalassemia, and first 15,000 experts in Iron Overload.

ExpertScape rankings are based on published work indexed in PubMed in the past 10 years. The index assesses multiple factors (e.g. type of paper, journal impact factor, recency, first author, etc.) amongst which are the research articles published during the assessment period.



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AUB PROSTATE CANCER EXPERTS MEET TO FORMULATE THE FIRST ME CONSENSUS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER



On March 29, 2019, the workshop to formulate resource-stratified consensus recommendations for prostate cancer management in the Middle East was held in Beirut, Lebanon. This workshop formulated consensus based on the recommendation of the first Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference (APCCC) satellite meeting for the Middle East that was held in Beirut, Lebanon in November 2017.

This is the first regional consensus on prostate cancer management from the Middle East, and these recommendations will be useful to urologists and oncologists practicing in all areas with limited access to specialist multi-disciplinary teams, diagnostic modalities, and treatment resources.

The guidelines were published in the World Journal of Urology.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00345-019-02872-x>

PATIENT JAMAL TAMER FILMS WITH ROCHE FOUNDATION MEDICINE ON HOW GENOMIC TESTING SAVED HIS LIFE

Roche Foundation Medicine shed the light on a personalized cancer treatment experience led by Dr. Hazem Assi for a brain cancer patient at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC.

Mr. Jamal Tamer, a young patient, diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer benefited from genomic profiling that showed a DNA defect; this allowed a personalized chemotherapy plan that resulted in Jamal's cancer remission and saving of his life.



2018-2019 ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

In a very delightful gathering, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute hosted its annual graduation ceremony on May 25, 2019 in Kempinski Hotel and Resort. The event was held to celebrate the 2018-2019 exceptional graduating class of hematology oncology fellows who ranked first in ASCO's in-training exam, promoting AUBMC's fellowship program to a top worldwide level (Dr. Nour Moukalled and Dr. Haidar El Darsa) and the radiation oncology resident (Dr. Lara Hilal).

It was an evening of appreciation and awards. The three graduates addressed their mentors and advisors for all their efforts throughout their training years; they also shared their personal and professional development stories at AUBMC.

In hopes of ensuring a brighter future throughout their subspecialty trainings, the physicians in return recognized the graduates for their outstanding academic and clinical performance.

Dr. Nour Moukalled

Nour Moukalled was accepted by Emory University Hospital for an advanced fellowship in leukemia – (Hanna Jean Khoury fellow)

Dr. Haidar El Darsa

Dr. Haidar El Darsa was accepted by the University of Alberta (Canada) for a sub-fellowship in lung cancer.

Dr. Lara Hilal

Dr. Lara Hilal was accepted by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for an advanced training (first radiation oncology resident going to MSKCC)



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM AT AUBMC HONORS BASILE OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES FOR 2019

The annual AUBMC staff recognition ceremony for this year took place in Issam Fares Lecture Hall on May 15, 2019 in recognition of the outstanding employee's performance throughout 2018-2019. The ceremony brought together the staff of the Medical Center through nominations, committees, and subcommittees based on unanimous voting.

Several of Basile's esteemed staff won awards:

- **Ms. Huda Mallah**, the Radiation Oncology Nurse won the Radiation Oncology Best Employee Award
- **Mr. Tarek Slim** won the Radiation Oncology Best Employee Award
- **Mr. Wissam Kiwan** won the Radiation Oncology Staff Attitude Champion
- **Ms. Houry Houry Kazarian**, the Physician's Award for Best NK Basile Oncology RN

Congratulations!

WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY

World No-Tobacco Day is celebrated internationally every year on May 31. This year the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute participated in raising awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure. The main focus of this year's campaign was to increase awareness on the negative impact that tobacco has on people's health.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

RADIATION ONCOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR MS. CHIRINE CHEHAB FOR WINNING THE DELTA OMEGA HONORARY AWARD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH!

In appreciation of her academic contribution and leadership in public health as well as the exhibition of the spirit and values of public health, the Gamma Delta Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at AUB chose Mrs. Chirine Chehab, the Administrator of the Department of Radiation Oncology at AUBMC, to be honored with the Delta Omega Honorary Society Award for Alumni during the 2019 graduation ceremony of FHS on May 21, 2019 at AUB.



AMALOUNA ORGANIZES COLORECTAL AWARENESS DAY AT DEIR EL KAMAR

In collaboration with Deir El Qamar Municipality and the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, AMALOUNA organized an awareness lecture and educational activities on colon cancer in Deir El Qamar main square.

The aim of these public lectures is to raise awareness on the importance of early detection and screening for colon cancer. Drs. Nadim Assaf, Georges El Jirdi, Elie Renno and Sally Temraz, presented lectures about this life-threatening disease. They explained what colorectal cancer risk factors and screening options are.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 2019

The Department of Radiation Oncology celebrated this year's Father's Day with the devoted heroes and hard-working men on July 3, 2019. Dr. Fady Geara, the Chairman of the Department, thanked all the working fathers for all their influence, care, and commitment wishing them happiness, health, and peace. Happy Father's Day!





MS. SAMAR OKAILY

Q: When did you join the Naef K. Basil Cancer Institute?

A: In 2004

Q: What is your job title?

A: Nurse Manager – Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit

Q: What are your main responsibilities?

A: I am responsible for the daily operations of the unit in terms of administrative and clinical functions, in addition to decisions on budgeting and staffing plans related to the unit.

Q: Prior to joining this department, where were you working?

A: As a registered nurse in 9 North, previously oncology unit, for 5 years. I also worked as a clinical educator in the CPDC department for seven years.

Q: Where did you pursue your college studies?

A: At AUB for both BSN and MPH

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: Daily challenges in patient care to keep up with the dynamic changes in treatment modalities and maintaining evidence-based practice.

Q: What would you like to improve in your current job?

A: I feel satisfied with what I have achieved so far; however, I would like, in the future, to be active in projects related to the Order of Nurses and serve as a member in committees, representing my institution.

Q: Tell us about your ambition; in what terms would you like to develop your career?

A: Continuing education is an important aspect of professional development. I have already pursued my Master's degree in Public Health, which was very helpful to me in understanding the administrative aspects of my job. In addition, I am always active in attending national and international conferences and courses related to oncology, BMT and management, and in submitting abstracts. I guess this is supportive to my career development.

Q: Where is your best trip destination and why?

A: Paris, because it is the city of romance and has famous icons like the Seine river and Eiffel tower, that cannot be resisted.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Swimming, basketball, and Zumba.

Q: What would be your best food choice?

A: Mloukhieh

Q: Tell us more about your character.

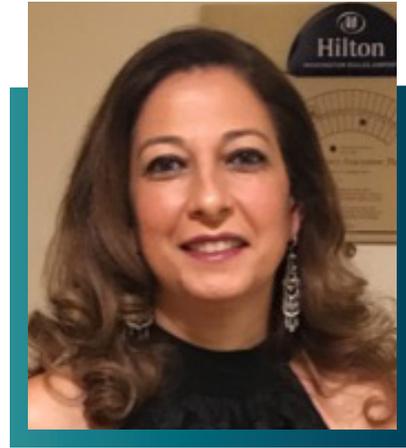
A: I have high tolerance under stress; I am a good communicator, compassionate, perfectionist, and I am always smiling.

Q: What is your advice to your peers?

A: Have patience and share your bright ideas with those around

Q: What is your message to cancer patients?

A: Positivity is the key for bridging gaps towards a better health. We are always part of your support system.



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