

ISSUE 16 - Summer 2019

# NKBCI NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER  
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

Our lives are dedicated to yours



NAEF K. BASILE  
CANCER INSTITUTE  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

معهد نائف ك. باسيل للسرطان في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

## BMT 1000 A LANDMARK IN CANCER CARE

On August 30, 2019, AUBMC celebrated a landmark achievement of crossing the 1000 bone marrow transplants since its fruition in 2004, with 80% patients being adults and 20% being children. Results from the AUBMC BMT program benchmark with the most prestigious BMT programs in North America and Western Europe, whereby it is the first program to perform unrelated donor transplants, mismatch and haplo-identical transplants in Lebanon.

Held at the Issam Fares Lecture Hall, the event was organized by Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute under the leadership of Dr. Ali Taher, Director of the Institute, and Dr. Ali Bazarbachi, Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program with Dr. Jean el Cheikh, Master of the Ceremony. The event was held in the presence of Dr. Mohamad Haidar representing his excellency the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Jamil Jabak, Dr. Fadlo Khuri, AUB President, Dr. Miguel Abboud, Director of the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program, patient survivors, families of patients, medical practitioners, and media representatives.



Attendees witnessed innovation in treatment measures offered by the BMT program and listened to patient success stories from across Lebanon and the MENA region. Dr. Jean El Cheikh spread hope by sharing the possibility of finding a matching donor for every hematology patient in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Dr. Bazarbachi, Director of BMT Program said, "The program received the JACIE accreditation in 2016, and as such became the only internationally accredited program in Lebanon and one of eight worldwide outside Europe and North America with its state-of-the art research facility and compassionate, customized care in curing patients from cancer. With this acquisition, AUBMC achieved another milestone and continued to establish its legacy of being an enduring medical center in Lebanon and the region."

Dr. Miguel Abboud, Director of Pediatric BMT program, noted, "At AUBMC, we have all the advanced capabilities and treatment modalities to transplant children with benign and malignant conditions. What is needed is the support to allow access to these therapies to improve patient outcome."

Dr. Ali Taher, Director of Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, added, "BMT patients are our inspiration. As a Director of Naef Basile Cancer Institute, I constantly seek to provide our patients with the highest modalities of treatment. Our work is at the core of our 2020 Vision. We seek to provide our patients with individualized care and most advanced treatment modalities. It also revolves around 2025 Vision, launched by Dr. Fadlo Khuri in 2016, in terms of social and human well-being."



During the event, Dr. Khuri, AUB President, said, "This moment is for pausing to celebrate and reflect with our champion survivors, their loved ones, and all our diligent staff, on a journey that has not been an easy one but has saved lives and inspired thousands of others on the power of knowledge, duty, sharing, and all what binds us as fellow human beings." At the end, Dr. Haidar mentioned that the exceptional results of the Bone Marrow Transplant program led to additional support from the Ministry of Public Health and that was translated in increasing the annual budget for the Children Cancer Center as well as for the Adult Bone Marrow transplant at AUBMC. The ministry is also in the process of developing new policies regarding new therapies such as the inception of CAR T-cell therapy.



Celebrations also featured a comedic performance by Mr. Hisham Haddad, followed by a solo song performance by Ms. Samia Harake, a motivational talk by Ms. Joumana Mansour, an open debate with cancer survivors led by Annahar editor, Ms. Rola Mouawad, a musical performance by BMT survivor, Tiyyarat Warak Band, followed by a storytelling session by TIES at AUBMC, cake celebration, and lighting of the Daniel ACC building. This ceremony is one of a series of events that will be held to shed light on the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, as well as the state-of-the-art oncology services and the personalized cancer care that is offered at the center. It is aligned with AUBMC's vision of transforming healthcare delivery in Lebanon and the region to unprecedented levels of excellence.



# CANCER AWARENESS DAY AT IBAD AL RAHMAN ASSOCIATION

On Sat. Sept 28, the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Naef K. Basile Cancer Center in collaboration with AMALOUNA, organized a Health Day in Ibad Al Rahman Association in Barbour. Several NGO participated in this successful event including CHAMPS FUND: The Hicham El Hage Program for Young Hearts & Athletes Health, Children Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), Lebanese Association for Diabetes Research (LADR), and the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBCF). This event, which engaged youth and adults, included educational awareness sessions as well as interactive activities.

تنظم جمعية عباد الرحمن وبرنامج الوقاية والسيطرة على مرض السرطان في معهد نايف باسيل للسرطان في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت وجمعية أملنا بالتعاون مع مركز الصحة والعافية ومركز سرطان الأطفال في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت والجمعية اللبنانية لمكافحة سرطان الثدي وجمعية Champs Fund والجمعية اللبنانية لأبحاث السكري:

## نهار صحي في مركز جمعية عباد الرحمن فحوصات مجانية

- ✓ فحص لمراقبة القلب من سن 35-12
- ✓ فحص السكري
- ✓ فحص لمراقبة ضغط الدم
- ✓ محطات لنشر التوعية حول نمط حياة صحية، التغذية، الوقاية من السرطان، والإقلاع عن التدخين



**التاريخ:** السبت، 28 أيلول، 2019

**الوقت:** الساعة العاشرة حتى الثانية بعد الظهر  
(نستقبل النساء من العاشرة حتى الواحدة والرجال من الواحدة حتى الثانية)

**المكان:** مركز جمعية عباد الرحمن، بربرور

لتسجيل المواعيد، الرجاء الإتصال على الرقم 654 088 - 01 مقسم 109  
(من الساعة الثامنة صباحاً حتى الثالثة والنصف بعد الظهر)



## CANCER SUPPORT FUND CELEBRATES EID AL ADHA

On the blessed occasion of Eid Al Adha, the Cancer Support fund at NKBCI organized a music round in collaboration with Ties AUBMC volunteers at NKBCI inpatient and outpatient units. This round accompanied NKBCI leadership team and Ms. Yara Abou Harb, Deputy Director of Patient Affairs.

The initiative aimed to offer a variety of healing modalities to patients, wishing them fast recovery and wishing the staff a blessed and safe Eid Al Adha.

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## FAREWELL GATHERINGS

### Gladys Waked

A "Thank You Gathering" was held on Friday, April 30, 2018 for Mrs. Gladys Waked, Tumor Registry Coordinator, to bid her a farewell and thank her for the invaluable contribution to the institution.



### Nour Moukalled

In a very notable and convivial gathering, physicians, residents and staff bid farewell to one of the shining Hematology Oncology fellows, Dr. Nour Moukalled, who joined the Program in June 2016.

Nour who is exceptionally proficient, compassionate, kind, responsible and concerned about the welfare of patients, colleagues, staff and students was accepted for an advanced fellowship in Leukemia – (Hanna Jean Khoury fellow) in Emory University Hospital. Nour, who is also known for her selfless dedication to excellence, will be greatly missed.



# FIGHT WITH A SMILE - MOTIVATIONAL TALK WORKSHOP - BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS

On the occasion of world CML day on September 22, AMALOUNA, in collaboration with the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, organized a Motivational Talk Workshop in DTS Building in AUB Campus.

During this workshop, three amazing cancer survivors inspired the audience with their stories: Ms. Raquel A. Bahnam, Mr. Georges Sayde and Mr. Charif Kaiss.

Mr. Georges Sayde shed light on his experience with CML as a Lebanese citizen and highlighted the privileges that the CML group in Lebanon fought for in order to provide to patients. Mr. Charif Kaiss took the audience on his "fight the cancer" journey, a journey full of smiles, tears, and lessons for life!

## FIRST REGIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE

With the increasing focus on patient's personal satisfaction, the Palliative and Supportive Care Program at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute held its First Regional Palliative Care Conference at AUBMC. The conference was held in collaboration with the Global Palliative Care Program at Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical School, and in Joint Providership with Cleveland Clinics.



The American University of Beirut, Faculty of Medicine,  
in collaboration with the Global Palliative Care Program at Massachusetts  
General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and in joint providership with  
Cleveland Clinic invite you to attend

### FIRST REGIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE

Target audience: Physicians, nurses and social workers across medical specialties,  
mental health professionals, healthcare officials, and policy makers

Date: 25-26, September 2019  
Location: American University of Beirut Medical Center

   

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

This conference offered the opportunity to the attendees to promote awareness on the need for palliative care as part of Universal Health Services in addition to the role of palliative care across disease groups, age groups, and health system levels as per WHO guidance.

This two-day course was designed to introduce physicians, nurses, and other clinicians to the core principles of palliative care. Participants included practitioners who are interested in improving clinical practice and influencing policies related to the provision of patient-centered comprehensive care for patients with serious illness in the Eastern Mediterranean.



Subsequently, a meeting was held in the presence of regional and international experts of WHO to set and define the practice of palliative care in the region for the upcoming years.

Opening remarks were given by Dr. Ali Taher, Director of Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute. Dr. Ziyad Ghazzal, Interim Medical Center Director and Chief Medical Officer, gave a speech on behalf of AUB President, Dr. Fadlo Khuri, , Dr. Iman Shankiti, WHO country representative in Lebanon, and Dr. Mohammad Haidar, Adviser to the Minister of Public Health, on behalf of His Excellency, Minister of Public Health, Dr. Jamil Jabak. Speakers reiterated their commitment to palliative care as an integrated part of the healthcare system, beyond cancer and at all levels, using a holistic, patient-centered approach and ideally delivered by multidisciplinary teams.



It is important to note that this conference aligns with NKBCI's strategic plan to establish specialized centers of excellence in the treatment and care of critically ill patients, which in turn is an integral implementation of AUB and AUBMC's vision.

## PALLIATIVE CARE WORKSHOP ASSIGNS AUBMC CHAMPIONSHIPS

On September 16, 2019, a workshop to train the Palliative Care Champions at AUBMC was held in Daniel ACC Multipurpose Room - AUBMC. This workshop was organized by the Palliative and Supportive Care Program (PSCP) at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI), in collaboration with the Clinical and Professional Development Center (CPDC).

The workshop trained one registered nurse from each nursing unit to become a Palliative Care Champion. Registered nurses were identified based on their expertise and their interest in patient advocacy. During this workshop, the registered nurses showed interest in palliative care and a lot of compassion and enthusiasm for their new role as champions. This initiative is in line with the MoPH requirements for medical centers that provide palliative care service.

**Below is the list of the palliative care champions:**

Ahmad Shatila, Annie Belehjian, Batoul Hamade, Darine Haidar, Farah Kaissi, Grace Kurkjian, Hiba Awli, Jihane El Ramy, Lamia Eid, Laurine El Khouri, Linda Haris, Loubaba Hneini, Marie Joe Fahmi, Naysam Dallati, Mariam Chatila, Naji Khatib, Nour Hammoud, Nourhan Mneimneh, Nesrine Kumbarji, Nesrine Kabbani, Pascale Rabbat, Rayan Safawi, Rania Abou Eid, Remy Illias, Sara Ayyas, Sara Mawla, Simone Karam, Zeinab Hamzeh, Mira Sidani, Mohamad Karaki, Fatima Salloum

# WISH INITIATIVE

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) has recently launched the new Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program at the Women's Health Center (WHC). The program comes in line with the ease women in Lebanon are now experiencing when it comes to the discussion of critical matters that affect their sexual, mental, and reproductive health.

As part of its integrated services, the Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program provides a safe space for women (and men) to address sexual health issues and problems through a full scope of services such as education, counseling, wide- range treatment, and trauma rehabilitation.



The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute in collaboration with the WISH Program at AUBMC enhances patient-provider communication about sexual health. Sexual concerns is among the most common, distressing, and persistent quality of life sequelae of cancer surgery and treatment. This unique program is the first-of-its-kind, in Lebanon and the MENA region, and will encompass clinical, research, training, and advocacy services on sexuality in general and sexual health in particular.



# WORLD LUNG CANCER AWARENESS DAY

On the occasion of World Lung Cancer Day, the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at NKBCI and the Smoking Cessation Program at the Health and Wellness Center held a "Lung Cancer Awareness Day" at AUBMC Daniel ACC Lobby on August 1, 2019.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness about lung cancer screening as well as the importance of smoking cessation as part of lung cancer prevention. The campaign also focused on the new lung-screening program at AUBMC that uses low dose CT for heavy smokers who are above 55 years.

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Jean El Cheikh

Many congratulations to Dr. Jean El Cheikh and Mrs. Ritta Rashed, who celebrated their marriage in Rome, Italy on July....



On behalf of the Basile Family, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations on their marriage, wishing them the happiest of times.

### Congratulations to:

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute would like to wish them sincere congratulations on the arrival of their newborns.



Dr. Rana Salem on the arrival of her newborn Baby "Ray-Joe Sassine" on August 22, 2019.



Mrs. Joelle Bassila on the arrival of her newborn Baby "Fawzi Nehme" on September 18, 2019.



Mrs. Rebecca El Asmar on the arrival of her newborn baby "Thomas Lahdou," on September 22, 2019.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MILESTONE

As part of the continuous patient education program at AUBMC, the Communication and Public Relations Office at AUBMC featured Dr. Jean El Cheikh in a live Facebook interview on September 12, 2019 to talk about blood cancer, its types, and the advanced treatment methods.

This live video was very successful with over 50K views and 202 shares.

Social media is an important tool for healthcare professionals to enhance professional networking, patient care, and patient education.



## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE IN NEURO-ONCOLOGY

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at AUBMC in collaboration with Brigham Women Hospital and Heidelberg University and in joint providership with Cleveland Clinics organized the second Middle East Neuro-oncology Conference for the second year in a row on September 13 and 14, 2019. The conference aimed at providing an opportunity for local and overseas experts to share their thoughts and insights for the improvement of outcomes of Central Nervous System (CNS) tumors.

Attendees included experts from different subspecialties worldwide, medical oncologists, neuro-oncologists, neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, pathology, radiology and people living from all parts of the MENA region. Attendees had the opportunity to collaborate and reflect on the subspecialized neuro-oncology program that is established at the NKBCI and on the advanced international standard of care that are applied in the treatment of neurological cancers.

Dr. Hazem Assi, Director of the conference, welcomed the guests, expressed his pleasure in organizing this annual conference, thanked all the international speakers for their tremendous support, and wished the attendees fruitful exchanges in making the conference a successful one. Dr. Ziyad Ghazzal and Dr. Fadlo Khuri stressed on the pillar role that NKBCI and AUB play in the middle east in sharing and spreading knowledge. Dr. Nagi El Saghir representing Dr. Ali Taher, Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute also said, "NKBCI is a leading cancer institute in the Middle East, offering a specialized cancer program and advanced clinical research. The neuro-oncology conference is one of several subspecialized conferences that are held on yearly basis at NKBCI such as BBCC, Lung Cancer Conference, Angiogenesis and immunotherapy, and palliative care conference". Dr. Nizar Bitar, President of the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology, noted the importance of such specialized conferences that help in improving physician's knowledge and improving outcome of care in different areas.

Save the Date

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MIDDLE EAST  
NEURO-ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE**  
American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut - Lebanon

Course Directors  
Hazem Assi, MD, American University of Beirut Medical Center  
Wolfgang Wick, MD, Heidelberg University Hospital  
Tracy Batchelor, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

SEPTEMBER  
13-14, 2019

LSMO  
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In providership with  
Cleveland Clinic  
AUBMC  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER  
الجامعة اللبنانية الأمريكية - المركز الطبي

## New Appointments

The Division of Hematology Oncology welcomed new members bringing with them fresh viewpoints and new expertise in the vital fields of medicine.

### Ziad Salem

Dr. Ziad Salem has been appointed as a Full Time Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine. The extensive clinical expertise and experience of Dr. Salem in Hematology - Oncology covers a broad range of hematological and oncological diseases. In joining AUBMC as a full timer, Dr. Salem will be involved in the teaching activities of medical students, residents, and clinical fellows. He will also support research and clinical activities within the Division of Hematology-Oncology and the Department of Internal Medicine.

### Iman Abou Dalle

Dr. Iman Abou Dalle joined the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC as Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, subspecialty Hematology Oncology, in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Abou Dalle's clinical expertise involves the diagnosis and management of hematologic malignancies, including acute and chronic leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative neoplasms, aggressive and indolent lymphomas as well as multiple myeloma.

In joining FM/AUBMC, Dr. Abou Dalle will be involved in teaching medical students, residents, and fellows. Her ultimate goals are to advance medical research regionally, collaborate in international clinical trials, and contribute to personalized patient care and innovative malignancy treatments.

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute welcomes Dr. Hiba Moukaddem, Dr. Jeannot Kekedjian and Dr. Diana Abboud as Clinical Associates.

## Successful move of NKBCI Infusion Unit to Daniel ACC Building

On Monday, September 9, 2019, the new expanded Hematology - Oncology 43 beds Infusion Center became operational at the new Aida and Halim Daniel ACC Building - 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

This successful move was completed by the support of Capital Projects Management team, EPIC team, Patient Access team, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Pharmacy Department, Medical Engineering, Plant Engineering, IT, Housekeeping, Medical Records who all showed tremendous efforts and exemplary teamwork.

The wait is almost over for cancer patients needing expanded access to chemotherapy services at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute. This was only successful due to the support of a dedicated admission office and financial coordination station, an oncology lab with two phlebotomy stations, in addition to a pharmacy with two hoods and a procedure room.



The new center is designed to cater for all patients' needs in one area in order to increase patient satisfaction and enhance our patient experience. The capacity of the Infusion Center is 43 patients out of which 12 are private patient rooms; access to the center is from the Daniel ACC patient main entrance.

The Center is also equipped with a proper scheduling team to allow coordination of patients' appointments and all pertinent services.



## KATIA MOKDAD

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

A: I joined the department in January 2014

**Q: What is your Job title**

A: Floor Clerk (Inpatient).

**Q: What are your main responsibilities**

A: In addition to my administrative duties, I am mostly involved in providing reception support to patients, visitors and all members of the health care team; answering phone calls and scheduling future appointments for patients before discharge.

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

A: I had worked as Floor Clerk in the Outpatient Department (OPD) for four years, and used to help in Private Clinics, MS center and Hemodialysis unit.

**Q: Where did you pursue your College studies**

A: I got my Bac 2 certificate from Seven Moons High School.

**Q: What do you like most about your job**

A: Helping cancer patients and seeing their smile.

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

A: First of all, communication among all staff and departments must be improved. Ensure that prescription requests are available and more organized. Blood results must be available the day before patients are treated, which reduces the waiting time for patients.

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

A: I hope I can be a member in a support group that visits needy patients during treatment and help them afford chemotherapy and BMT. A donation program must be generated and developed for this issue.

**Q: Where is your best trip destination and why**

A: Italy is well known for its art and beautiful view. I like to visit Venice; the city of love.

**Q: What are your hobbies**

A: Traveling.

**Q: what would be your best food choice**

A: Sfiha; a traditional food in Baalbeck.

**Q: Tell us more about your character.**

A: I am sensitive, diligent, friendly and polite.

**Q: what is your advice to your peers**

A: "If you see a patient without a smile; give him one of yours."  
Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

**Q: what is your message to cancer patients**

A: With prayers, love and courage you will win the battle over cancer. Never give up, keep hoping.



## PUBLICATIONS JANUARY - MARCH 2018

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