

# NKBCI

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# NEWSLETTER

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Our lives are dedicated to yours



## NKBCI LAUNCHES ITS 2016 CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) in collaboration with AMALOUNA (Educational organization that supports cancer research and raises awareness about cancer and its prevention) at AUB, , launched the NKBCI adult cancer awareness campaign at ABC Ashrafieh Mall in August 2016. By educating members of our community, NKBCI could lead the way in the fight against cancer and solidify its role as a regional hub and pioneer in the field of oncology.

The campaign focused on raising awareness about cancer, encouraging prevention and empowering patients and their loved ones when confronted with the disease.

The campaign at ABC Ashrafieh continued for four consecutive days and included nurses, fellows, and residents who provided free physical examination, general knowledge. They also addressed questions of visitors and provided giveaways for those who participated in the booth activities.



# AUBMC RECOGNIZED AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPLANT CENTER

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) is now recognized as an International Transplant Center by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). The NMDP, a nonprofit organization founded in 1986 and based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, coordinates the collection of hematopoietic cells that are used to perform hematopoietic cell transplants. Hematopoietic cells from NMDP donors are used to transplant hematopoietic cells in patients with life-threatening disorders such as leukemia, lymphoma, aplastic anemia, as well as certain immune system and metabolic disorders.

In June 2016, the Stem Cell Transplant Unit at AUBMC signed an agreement with NMDP. Through this agreement, NMDP will provide AUBMC with stem cells from unrelated donors to perform stem cell transplantation. Prior to the signature of this agreement and since September 2011, NMDP facilitated and provided seven successful transplants for AUBMC patients.

# THE NAEF K. BASILE CANCER INSTITUTE IS NOW A FULL MEMBER OF THE UNION FOR INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONTROL (UICC)

UICC unites the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity, and integrate cancer control into the world health and development agenda. It has over 880 member organizations from over 155 countries around the world that gather efforts and meet once every two years in a General Assembly in conjunction with the World Cancer Congress. UICC works in close partnership with key international UN agencies including the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). It also has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC was featured in the UICC most recent newsletter published in September 2016. The post highlighted NKBCI as the leading center for academic oncology, hematology and bone marrow transplantation in Lebanon involved in the diagnosis and treatment of over 2,500 patients annually from Lebanon and the region. NKBCI is involved in all aspects of cancer control with strategic priorities aligned with those of UICC.

# CONGRATULATIONS

1. Dr. Deborah Mukherji received the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London, (FRCP) an honor held by some of the most exceptional and innovative physicians in the world. The FRCP marks her achievement and skill as a doctor and recognizes Dr. Mukherji's ongoing contribution to the profession.
2. Dr. Ali Shamseddine is now a founder member of the Oncology Drugs Development and Innovative Strategies in Clinical Trial (Onco DISTinCT) Network which aims at promoting excellence in clinical research with initially three development axes: novel anticancer agents, development of biomarkers (molecular biomarkers as well as other approached such as molecular imaging...), and innovative clinical trial designs.
3. Dr. Ali Shamseddine will serve on the scientific committee for the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) 19th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer to be held in June 2017.
4. The NKBCI Inpatient Unit has been awarded the "Exemplary Unit of the Year 2016". This award was presented during the Annual Nursing Excellence Awards Celebration held on September 14, 2016 at AUBMC.



## NEW FACULTY: DR. YOUSSEF ZEIDAN

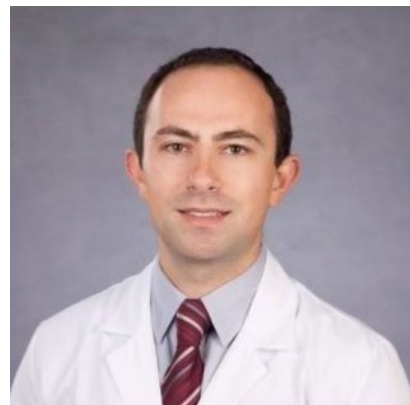
The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and the Radiation Oncology Department at AUBMC are delighted to welcome Dr. Youssef Zeidan, a new faculty member, who joined the team on September 1, 2016 as Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Zeidan is a graduate of the MD-PhD joint program of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He earned his PhD degree in 2007 and his MD degree from Stanford University in 2010.

He graduated from Stanford in 2014 and successfully completed his American Board of Radiology-Radiation Oncology section before joining the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Zeidan's research work toward his PhD has produced close to 17 original papers, 2 book chapters in basic and translational cancer research and 7 clinical papers.

Dr. Zeidan will take a leading role in the residency and teaching program of the Radiation Oncology Department and will develop specific areas of interest particularly in radiation biology, lymphomas, neurooncology, and gastrointestinal radiation oncology.



## VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN CANCER CENTER CHAIRPERSON

HRH Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), visited the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) in October 2016, and she met with the Faculty of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) and the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL). Dr. Hassan El Solh, Director of both NKBCI and CCCL, introduced faculty members and programs' directors and presented the current status and strategic plan of both centers. He took the opportunity to highlight the new strategic projects for AUBMC including the Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center (ACC) and the New Medical Complex (NMC) in addition to AUB's Health Initiative 2025. Dr. Ali Taher presented the ongoing national cancer campaign activities including the awareness and fundraising initiatives. He stressed on the importance of the collaboration between KHCC and AUBMC which focuses on AUBMC's main pillars: education, research, and patient care.





# NKBCI LAUNCHES ITS 2016 CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (cont'd)

A special feature for this campaign also included "Ask a Doctor" sessions, where different AUBMC physicians attended the booth to answer the questions of our community members in regards to specific diseases including breast, lung, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, and skin cancers in addition to hematological malignancies and bone marrow transplantation, smoking, and cancer research and prevention.

Educational information discussed during the events focused on cancer (including most common forms of cancer, risk factors, screening and early detection), cancer research, cancer myths and misconceptions, and cancer prevention (through diet, exercise, smoking, amongst others).



NAEF K. BASILE CANCER INSTITUTE

Telephone: +961-1-350000 ext: 7489 (Clinic) / 7903 (Administration)

Clinic direct line: +961-1-759618

Fax: +961-1-350000 ext: 7941 (Clinic and Administration)

Email: [nkbci@aub.edu.lb](mailto:nkbci@aub.edu.lb)