

NKBCI NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022



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It is About Time - صار الوقت

The Cancer Support Fund (CSF) at AUB's Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) in partnership with Sar El Waqt and MTV concluded an incredible fundraiser to support adult cancer patients in need. The show went from 8:30 pm until 1:45 am. The show and the results were moving and impactful beyond AUB and NKBCI's wildest expectations.

The CSF Founder and President together with the Faculty of Medicine and Basile Cancer Institute leadership, physicians, nurses, staff, students, and patients all gathered in the studio sharing their knowledge and experiences to the world making them part of their mission. Testimonies were provided by celebrities, media figures, sports players and influencers to prove that cancer is near to every person and echo the challenges patients face to access treatment. All made extraordinary contributions for which AUB, NKBCI and more importantly our cancer patients and providers, are profoundly grateful.

The fundraiser managed to raise \$5.1 million and LBP 5.4 billion by dawn and more than 15,000 WhatsApp messages were reviewed in the following days with more pledges arriving even to date. That was simply remarkable. Fewer than a dozen adult cancer centers in the world could have pulled that number off. The emotional impact of this event, in this country was incalculable.

Over the course of the night, AUB came to the increasing conviction that this was much more than a fundraiser. This event came as an indication that all of the university, medical center and NKBCI is better placed than it has been in years to empower individuals with genuine confidence and self-belief, and more importantly, a true understanding of the requirements, responsibilities, and blessings of true citizenship, and that citizenship's intermixture of belonging and responsibility.

It is worth noting that while the majority of gifts for the Cancer Support Fund came from Lebanese, numerous Arab donors stepped up considerably. Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, Kuwaitis, Saudis, Emiratis, Qataris and others, all called in or pledged substantial gifts. Most moving of all were the small pledges. A soldier giving up \$100, or two months wages, to help support cancer patients. Children giving away several months' allowance. The staff of MTV, the nurses and others at AUBMC contributing. The testimonials of patients, staff, and physicians of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute were deeply moving, the whole evening simply indescribable. And uplifting beyond description.

Our thanks go to all who made this show a spectacular success, from our magnificent donors and community who have stepped up time and again this year, to Cancer Support Fund Founder and President Ms. Hala Dahdah, Co-Founder and Director of NKBCI Dr. Ali Taher, Mr. Marcel Ghanem, Mr. Michel El Murr, Mr. Ali Jaber, Sabbah Media Group, our exceptional Advancement and Development team, led by Dr. Imad Baalbaki and Ms. Salma Dannawi Oueida. And we cannot sufficiently thank Trustees Dr. Huda Zoghbi and Dr. Viviane Tabar, as well as distinguished AUB alumni Dr. Hagop Kantarjian and Dr. Josiane Abisaab for their magnificent, recorded messages in support of adult cancer patients in need. We are more certain than ever that Lebanon will indeed endure to become the great nation we all know it can be.



Dr. Fadlo Khuri, President of AUB

"All of this further increases my considerable faith, built over a lifetime of learning and effort, that a people so willing to give to those less fortunate and to embrace the pursuit of excellence and generosity for the greater good are more than capable of building a sustainable nation"

USD 026,890

LBP 112,800,000

للتبرع: إرسال الاسم والمبلغ عبر واتساب على الرقم: +961 3 033488

صار الوقت
تصير بكرة احلى

Ms. Layal, Patient with metastatic breast cancer and a teacher at a public school

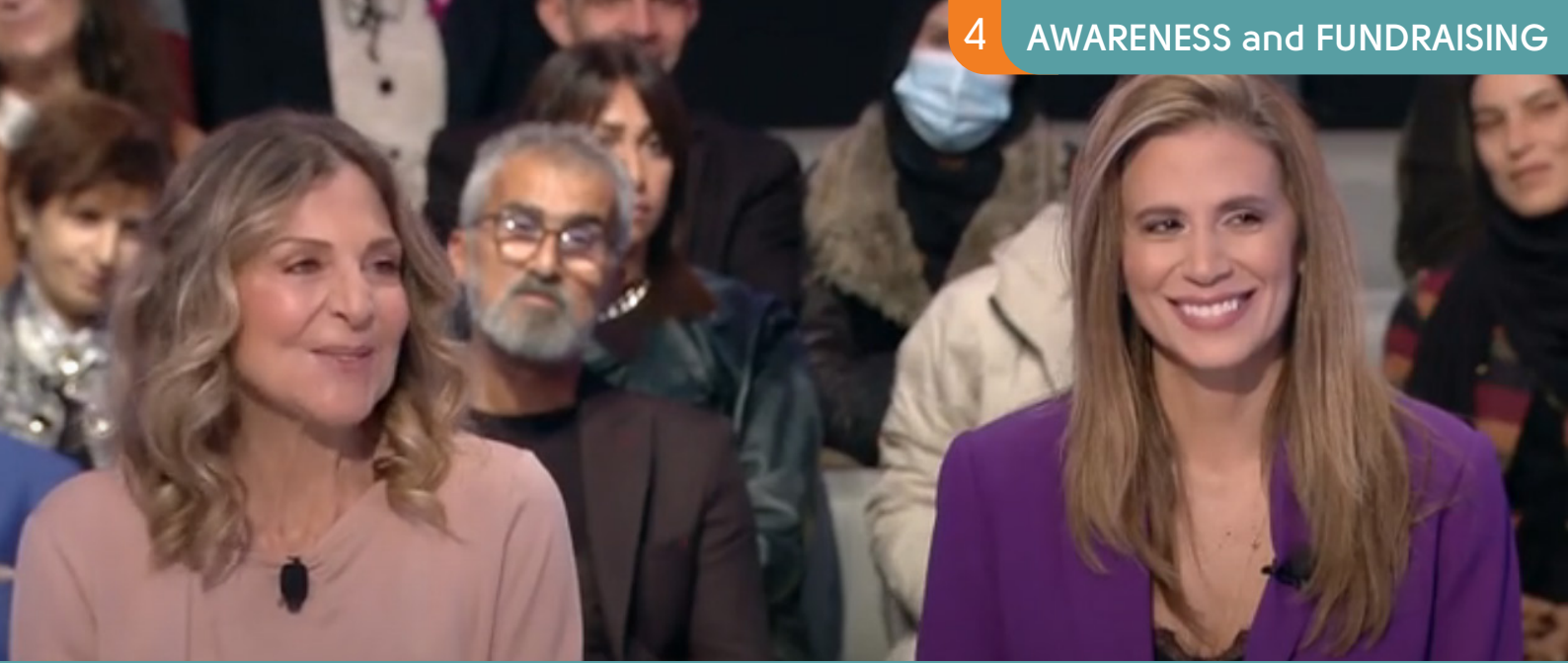
"[...] I am emotional because truly truly, the Basile center is the warm home that reduces the ferocity of the disease on you and your family, magnificent thing. I did 60 chemotherapy sessions [...] and I want to say that the NKBCI does not close its doors in front of any patient."

“



USD 001,265,000

LBP 155,866,000



Dr. Ali Taher, Director of NKBCI



"Do not think that all physicians left or became less in number, on the contrary the numbers increased at NKBCI. Our value in our job as physicians does not stem from our intelligence, our value lies in giving. If we were not giving, we could not have stood here tonight and asked people to give. All physicians present here tonight could have left to the most renowned places, part of our giving is staying in this country."

LBP 112,800,000

Picture in picture



الدكتور حازم عاصي

مدير الخدمات الطبية وأخصائي أورام سرطانية

USD 002,661,440



Ms. Rima Maktabi, previous Lebanese TV presenter

"My physician was Lebanese and he referred me to one of the most important surgeons in the US which also turned out to be Lebanese. I was afraid not to outlive the overcomplicated surgery, but this surgeon performed it with great success. The most difficult thing is to be a patient and have to knock on doors to ask for a medication. Down the road, death is inevitable if we do not support patients, we the Lebanese are there for one another despite our differences."

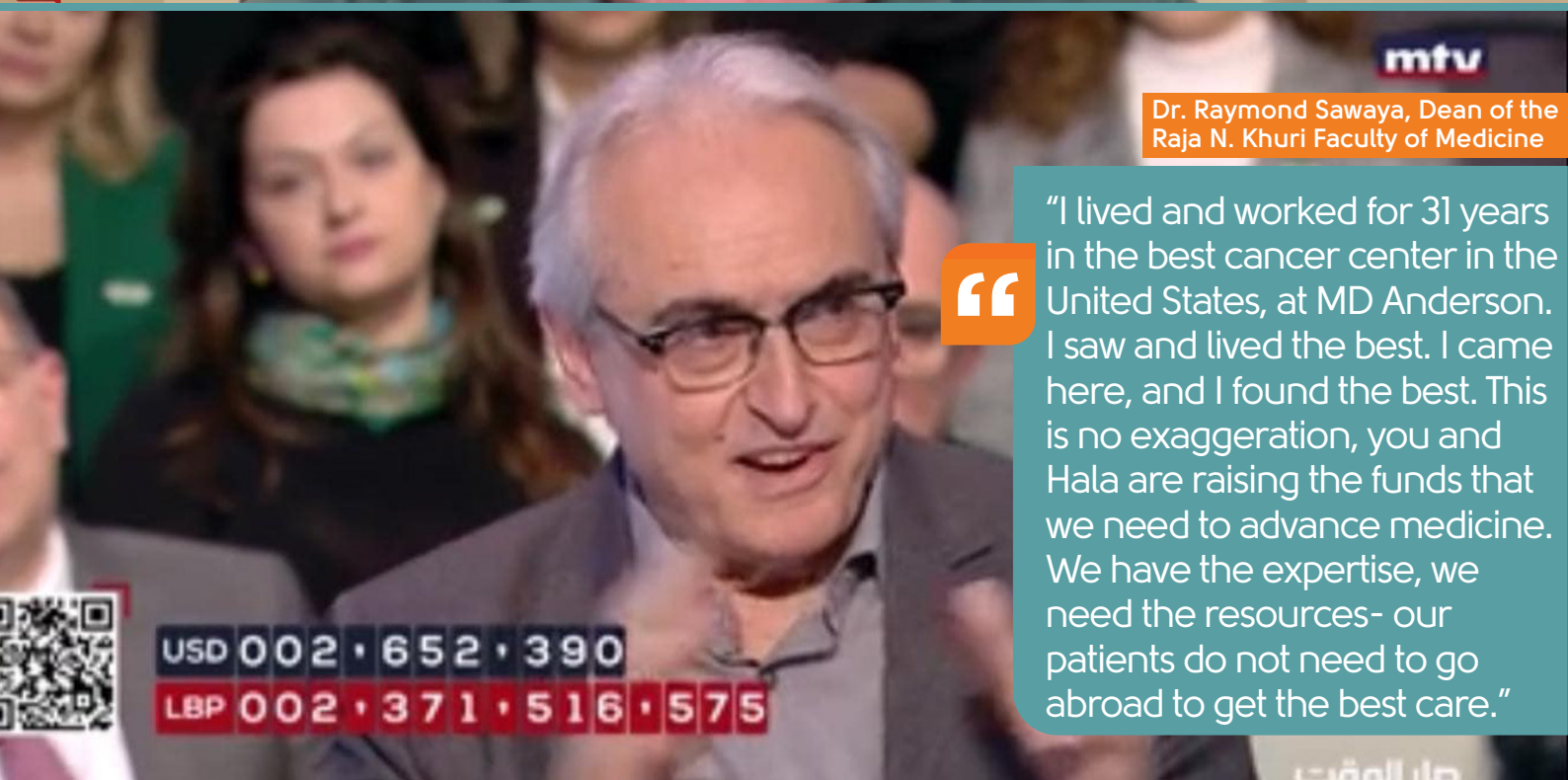


mtv



علي جابر

مدير القنوات في مجموعة MBC



mtv

Dr. Raymond Sawaya, Dean of the Raja N. Khuri Faculty of Medicine

"I lived and worked for 31 years in the best cancer center in the United States, at MD Anderson. I saw and lived the best. I came here, and I found the best. This is no exaggeration, you and Hala are raising the funds that we need to advance medicine. We have the expertise, we need the resources- our patients do not need to go abroad to get the best care."



USD 002,652,390

LBP 002,371,516,575

The American University of Beirut Medical Center thanks Princess Ghida Talal for her support of cancer patients

Princess Ghida Talal, chair of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), visited Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), to celebrate the long-lasting collaboration between the two centers and as an appreciation to her support through medications donations for adult cancer patients in times of crisis in 2020 and 2021. The ceremony was attended by the AUB President, and leadership of the Faculty of Medicine, Medical Center, Basile Cancer Institute, Children Cancer Institute, and Cancer Support Fund, in addition to members of faculty and staff body.

Her Excellency visited the new NKBCI facility in the Halim and Aida Daniel ACC building and was introduced to its holistic model. Covering – but not limited to – the facility clinical programs, new initiatives, floor design concept, patient flow as well as the adoption of EPIC digital medical record for patient records and its implementation as a communication tool between physicians and patients. Dr. Ali Taher, AVP for Medical Advancement and Communication and Director of NKBCI, also presented the NKBCI Cancer Ecosystem, its new initiatives, research outcomes and new projects that all cater towards holistic patient care and advancement of cancer care.

Recognized as an international cancer advocate with Lebanese origins, Princess Ghida Talal was honored in a private lunch following her visit, where she received a token of appreciation from Dr. Taher. AUBMC insists that cooperation is key in the Middle East region to improve access to cancer care and to raise the bar in clinical patient outcomes and survivorships.

For more info, please visit: <http://www.aubmc.org/Pages/AUBMC-thanks-Princess-Ghida-Talal-for-her-support-of-cancer-patients.aspx#sthash.VEDSr8Bj.dpbs>





Princess Ghida Talal



“AUB represents a beacon of great value to the Lebanese community and the MENA region, and it is important to continue the development of cancer care services, having no doubt of the struggles the team goes through. When conditions in Lebanon began to decline, His Majesty ordered support for the country and, as a result, the KHCC Board of Trustees led a fundraising campaign and were able to assist seven hospitals in need in Lebanon.





Princess Ghida Talal

Chair of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF)
and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC)

For over two decades, Princess Ghida Talal devoted her life to combatting cancer in Jordan and the Arab world, and she became an internationally recognized leader in the fight against cancer. In October 2001, King Abdullah II of Jordan designated her to establish the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) and Center (KHCC). Under her leadership, KHCF/KHCC have transformed the landscape of cancer care in Jordan, and KHCC stands as the only internationally accredited comprehensive cancer center in the entire Middle East, welcoming patients from across the region seeking the most advanced treatment available. Princess Ghida's humanitarian vision for KHCF/KHCC has enabled the treatment of thousands of underprivileged and refugee patients, by tirelessly fundraising for their treatment at KHCC.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In Lebanon, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in women; it occurs at a particularly high rate in women below age 50 compared to other countries. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many women avoided seeking early detection hence many advanced cases of breast cancer have been appearing again.

Each of the Naef K. Basile Institute (NKBCI), the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBCF) and the Cancer Support Fund (CSF) embarked on a series of activities during the Month of October to raise awareness around breast cancer. Dr. Nagi El-Saghir, Dr. Hazem Assi and Dr. Hiba Moukadem- oncologists at NKBCI promoted prevention through videos featured on social media channels. Along the same lines, Mrs. Mirna Hoballah, the president of the LBCF, together with Dr. Firas Kreidieh, a clinical fellow at MD Anderson, held an awareness webinar discussing symptoms and means of detecting this type of cancer.

To underscore the right of every woman to access screening and receive the support she needs, the CSF offered 150 free mammograms to women aged more than 40 years old. Also, the LBCF held a Hair Donation Day at ABC Ashrafiyeh on October 30 organized by the L'Oreal Professional Products Division in partnership with Holdal Group, where people contributed their hair to help create wigs for cancer patients in Lebanon. "I Took the Cut" event joined 14 talented professional and renowned hairdressers and was marked by the participation of 105 donors. In addition, several shops and fitness clubs adopted the cause by generously donating a percentage of their sales and magnifying the institute's voice through social media impressions to encourage women to get tested. Pink October month was culminated with the lighting of the famous Jezzine waterfall (82m high) in pink as a symbol of fight against breast cancer and Dr. Saghir gave an awareness lecture at the municipality to spread the word around its prevention, and encourage women to get tested.





WE ARE OFFERING

150

FREE MAMMOGRAM
GET SCREENED

WHEN DO WOMEN NEED TO START BREAST CANCER SCREENING?



Women between ages 20 and 40

- Breast awareness and breast self-exam
- Clinical breast exam: every three years

Women above the age of 40

- Breast awareness and breast self-exam
- Annual clinical breast exam
- Annual screening mammography
- Breast ultrasound, based on doctor's assessment

Women at a higher risk of breast cancer

- Clinical breast exam every six months
- Annual mammography and/or ultrasound, should start around 10 years before the first diagnosed case of breast cancer in the family
- Annual MRI of the breast

No Shave Movember - no typo in there!

"Grow those mustaches and beards" was a request LOIG addressed to men in November in preparation for its special event for the Prostate Cancer Awareness month. In collaboration with the Naef Basile Cancer Institute and the Biology Student Society, LOIG set up on the 17th its stands at AUB-West Hall whereby a barber from the Barber Shop was ready to perform clean shaves for participating men. Awards were given to the most creative and longest beards and twistiest moustaches. As such, LOIG raised funds to support patients in their journey with fighting prostate, by selling food, accessories and holding a tombola.

Later, on the 23rd, LOIG invited Dr. Albert Hajj, Head Division of Urology at AUBMC, to speak in a webinar on the Implementation of Robotic Surgery in the treatment of Prostate Cancer in order to further increase awareness around disease.

For the same purpose, the NKBCI in collaboration with the Cancer Support Fund offered 50 antigen free PSA blood test for men aged more than 50 years old, which is one way to test for prostate cancer.



Lung Cancer Awareness Month

During the Lung Cancer awareness month, Dr. Arafat Tfayli discussed in a video the risk factors associated with this disease and the means of preventing it. Lung cancer is among the cancers with the highest death rate and its main cause as Dr. Tfayli elaborated is smoking in all its forms including the Hookah, cigarette or cigar. By not smoking, one protects themselves by 90% from developing the disease, and the low dose CT-scan allows to detect the tumour in its early stages hence improve the chances of treatment.



د. عرفات طفيلي

أخصائي أورام

المركز الطبّي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت



Healing Hearts with the Palliative and Supportive Care Team

On the occasion of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, the Palliative and Supportive Care Program at NKBCI organized a workshop on October 14 entitled "Tips for a better grief" to help normalize the experience of grief upon the loss of a loved one.

The event started with a violinist playing melodies that echoed warmth and melancholy. Then, the program's social worker shared an interactive presentation on effective coping strategies for grieving. Afterwards, several caregivers and family members of bereaved patients shared their testimonies of grief experiences with the audience. The event concluded with attendees writing heartfelt messages to honor the memory of their beloved and olive trees distributed to make their memories last forever.



Give yourself permission not to be okay, free yourself from expectations.



Write them letters to express your feelings.



HELP US SPREAD THE HOPE
DONATE
CHECK CARD DEBIT CREDIT CARD CASH | WIRE TRANSFER



PERFORMERS VISITING THE AUBMC
CANCER PATIENTS' WARDS IN
PREPARATION FOR SAR EL WAQT
FUNDRAISER PROMOTION VIDEO



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



The National Order of the Cedar Medal

NKBCI leadership were honoured to receive the prestigious National Order of the Cedar Medal in recognition of their remarkable contributions to their medical fields. The ceremony took place at the Grand Serail where the Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati granted the medals to the awardees. Dr. Bazarbachi, the Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program received the medal in the field of malignant haematology. Dr. Ali Taher, received a medal in the fields of thalassemia, haemophilia and iron deficiency anemia.

Lebanon is proud of you Doctors!



Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Prize

The prestigious Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Prize for the year 2021 has been awarded to three outstanding Lebanese scientists and members of the American University of Beirut community. The KFAS Prize was established in 1979 to recognize the lifetime achievements of Arab scientists worldwide. Notably, the American University of Beirut is the only institution to count two alumni among the winners as well as both of the solo winners, in the arts and sciences and social sciences categories.

American University of Beirut Professor of Medicine Ali Taher was awarded the KFAS prize in the field of applied sciences, along with his peer University of Montreal Professor Nabil Seidah from Egypt, for their research and clinical experiments that led to new horizons for treating patients with thalassemia, in addition to developing new and effective drugs to treat high cholesterol.

Dr. Taher is professor of hematology and oncology, associate vice president for medical advancement and communications, director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, and vice chair for research in the Department of Internal Medicine. He is also the founding director for the Fellowship and Residents Research Program (FRRP) at the Faculty of Medicine. Nationally, Professor Taher is a member of a team of consultants at the Thalassemia Department of the Chronic Care Center (CCC) in Lebanon where he has contributed to state-of-the-art programs for prevention and management of thalassemia patients in the country. Dr. Taher is the most cited thalassemia scholar in the world and has received numerous awards and honors for educating and mentoring hematologists worldwide, for his dedication to advancing knowledge and research, and for his groundbreaking work on thalassemia intermedia.

Professor of Arabic at the American University of Beirut Ramzi Baalbaki was awarded the KFAS prize in the field of humanities, on the subject of Arabic linguistics. Also, the American University of Beirut graduate, Professor Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, was awarded the KFAS prize in the field of economic and social sciences on the subject of educational sciences, for research in science education and learning, with a focus on the importance of introducing the STEM curriculum in the classroom to hone and develop students' skills.

For more info, please visit: https://www.aub.edu.lb/articles/Pages/Kuwait_Foundation_for_Advancement_of_Sciences_Prize.aspx

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Un prestigieux prix koweïtien à deux professeurs et un ancien étudiant de l'AUB



De gauche à droite Ali Taher, Ramzi Baalbaki

Le prix de la Fondation koweïtienne pour l'avancement des sciences (KFAS) pour l'année 2021 a été décerné à trois scientifiques libanais, dont deux professeurs de l'AUB et un ancien étudiant de l'université, Ali Taher, Ramzi Baalbaki et Fouad Abdel Khalek.

Ali Taher est professeur de médecine à l'AUB. Il a reçu le prix KFAS dans le domaine des sciences appliquées, avec son homologue égyptien Nabil Seidah, professeur à l'Université de Montréal, pour leurs recherches et expériences cliniques qui ont ouvert de nouveaux horizons pour le traitement des patients atteints de thalassémie, en plus de la mise au point de nouveaux médicaments efficaces pour traiter l'hypercholestérolémie. Le Dr Taher est professeur d'hématologie et d'oncologie, vice-président associé pour l'avance-

mentaire du professeur Ramzi Baalbaki, professeur de linguistique arabe à l'AUB, et de son collègue égyptien Nabil Seidah, professeur à l'Université de Montréal, pour leurs recherches et expériences cliniques qui ont ouvert de nouveaux horizons pour le traitement des patients atteints de thalassémie, en plus de la mise au point de nouveaux médicaments efficaces pour traiter l'hypercholestérolémie. Le Dr Taher est professeur d'hématologie et d'oncologie, vice-président associé pour l'avance-

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عبد الخالق وبعليكي وطاهر (من اليمين إلى اليسار)

"جائزة الكويت للتقدم العلمي 2021" لثلاثة لبنانيين

جائزة

Dr. Ali Bazarbachi Receives the King Hussein Award for Cancer Research

The 2022 King Hussein Award for Cancer Research - Lifetime Achievement Regional Category - has been awarded to Dr. Ali Bazarbachi, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Bone Marrow Transplantation Program. The King Hussein Award recognizes the pillars and pioneers who have played critical roles in both advancing regional research and the fight against cancer at the international level through its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Bazarbachi established and continue to direct the BMT program at AUBMC, which is accredited by the Joint Accreditation Committee ISCT-Europe & EBMT. The Program is currently the largest transplant program in Lebanon, and largely attracts patients from Lebanon and most regional countries. Over the years, it expanded to exceed 1000 transplants with impeccable record in survival exceeding worldwide statistics.

Congratulations Dr. Bazarbachi for this deserved honor!

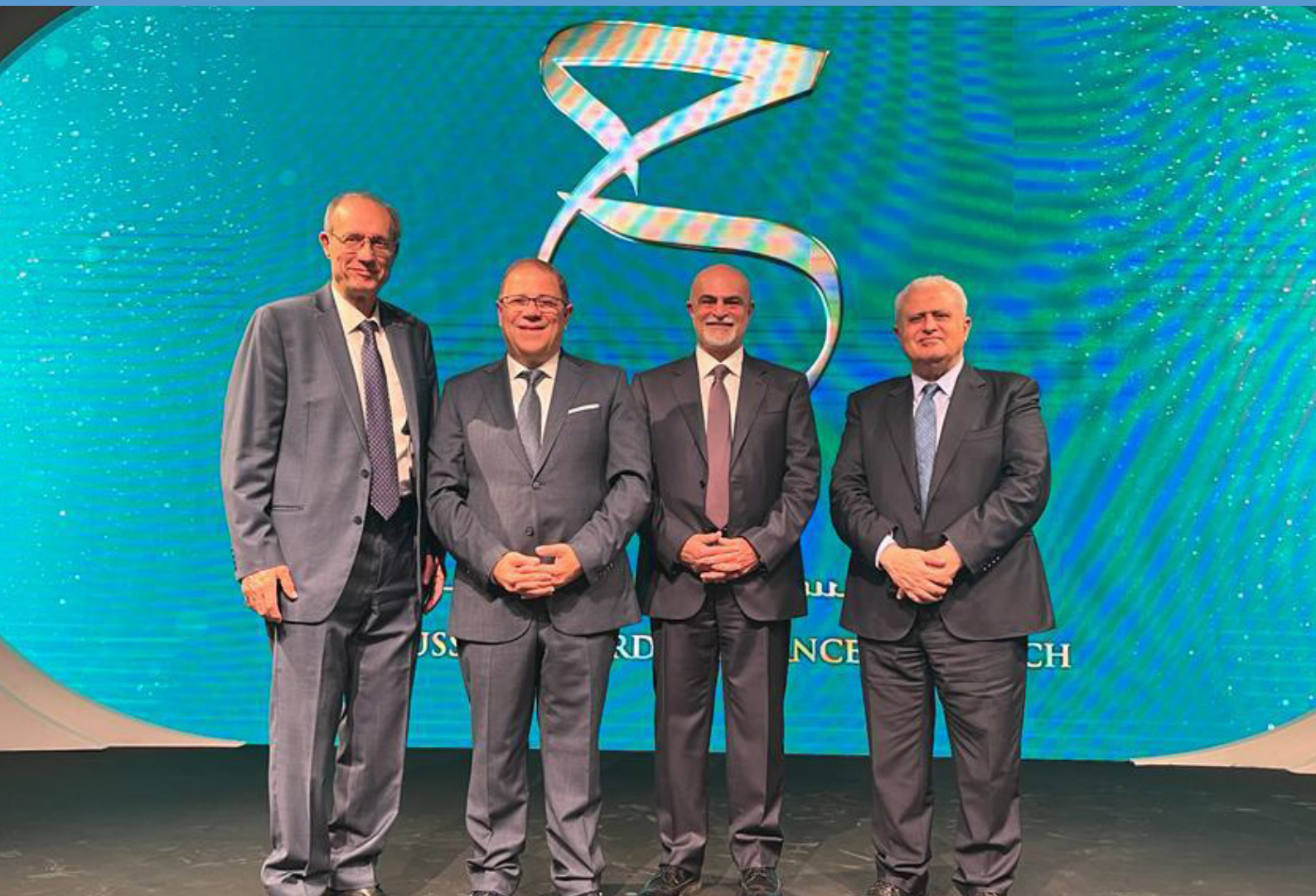




Dr. Ali Bazarbachi

Professor of Medicine and Director of the Bone Marrow Transplantation Program

During his tenure, Dr. Bazarbachi has demonstrated impactful basic, translational, and clinical research work and has made significant contributions to science. Dr. Bazarbachi's research focuses on developing oncogene-targeted therapies for human leukemia and lymphoma, and post-transplant pharmacological interventions. His discovery of targeted therapy of Adult T-Cell Leukemia (ATL), using the combination of zidovudine and interferon-alpha, has dramatically changed the natural history of this devastating disease and significantly prolonged five-year survival of patients from 10% to nearly 50%. Dr. Bazarbachi also made seminal contributions to the understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms of ATL leukemogenesis, including the role of the Human T-Lymphotropic Virus 1 (HTLV-1) oncoprotein activation, epigenetic deregulation, immune suppression, and long-term maintenance of leukemia stem cells.



Faculty of Medicine Dean's Excellence Awards Honours Leaders in Dedication and Professionalism

The Faculty of Medicine (FM) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held its annual FM Dean's Excellence Awards ceremony to recognize awardees of the administrative and research staff categories for the year 2022 – 2023.

The award was granted based on eight criteria: commitment, knowledge, reliability and quality of work, professionalism, creativity and innovation, leadership, supporting others, and professional development. This year, four awardees were recognized in each category. The excellence award offered to excelling administrative staff, was granted to Ms. Celine Abou Karam, Clinical Department Administrator of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) for her efforts and contributions to promoting and positioning the NKBCI as the lead cancer institute in Lebanon and the region.

In the ceremony that took place at the Issam Fares Lecture Hall, Dr. Raymond Sawaya, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Raja N. Khuri Faculty of Medicine, spoke about "the superb talents, and the extreme dedication that our staff bring to work every day" and the critical role they play, frequently hidden from the limelight, in "getting things done efficiently, successfully, and without fanfare." A reception followed where FM faculty members, staff, and research assistants celebrated with residents, fellows, and students, along with family of awardees and guests of AUB, FM, and the American University of Beirut Medical Center.





"They are the ones who make things happen, and whose sacrifices have helped us weather the storm of the successive crises."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS



Second Conference of the Arab Society of Nuclear Medicine Gathers International Experts

The Arab Society of Nuclear Medicine (ARSNM) in cooperation with the American University of Beirut Medical Center and Faculty of Medicine organized the Second Conference of the Arab Society of Nuclear Medicine with the participation of 615 physicians and researchers from 52 countries. The conference discussed the status of nuclear medicine in the Arab world and its role in cancer diagnosis and modern radioactive therapy for diseases like prostate cancer, neuroendocrine tumors, along to heart and brain pathologies.

Participants in the conference included caretaker Minister of Public Health Dr. Firas Al-Abiad, AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians Dr. Youssef Bakhach, President of ARSNM and the conference Dr. Mohamad Haidar, International Atomic Energy Agency Representative Dr. Enrique Estrada Lobato, President of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission Dr. Mohamed Roumieh representing Dr. Bilal Nsouli, President of the Parliamentary Health Committee Dr. Bilal Abdallah, as well as physicians, professionals, and researchers.

Dr. Mohamad Haidar gave the opening address. He spoke about ARSNM, which was established with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Society aimed to boost nuclear medicine in the Arab world and improve knowledge of practitioners in this field to keep pace with its development as it becomes one of the basic pillars for diagnosis and treatment of several diseases. The speakers concertedly agreed on the importance of this scientific meeting in gathering international experts to discuss innovative techniques of nuclear medicine to provide the best services and make them accessible to everyone.

Minister Al-Abiad announced that Dr. Mohamad Haidar will be granted the golden medal for his medical accomplishments to recognize his relentless work, care for patients- especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and his accomplishments in nuclear medicine.

This conference marked AUB as a pioneer in the field of nuclear medicine, notably in Lebanon and the region, and reaffirmed its commitment to education and service through using its advanced facilities and world-class expertise of its educational staff to improve nuclear medicine practice.

For more information, please visit:

<https://aubmc.org.lb/Pages/Second-Conference-of-the-Arab-Society-of-Nuclear-Medicine-Gathers-International-Experts.aspx>





Dr. Mohamad Roumie delivered the speech of the Director of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Authority Dr. Bilal Nsouli

"We are monitoring the peaceful uses of atomic energy, especially in the areas of radiotherapy and diagnostic radiology, and of course, nuclear medicine that we, together with Dr. Haidar, support for the development of new radioactive radionuclide production through the programs funded by the agency"



Dr. Firas Al-Abiad, Lebanese Minister of Public Health

"[...] we find that these scientific developments must be looked at not only from a medical perspective, but also from the perspective of evaluating modern technology, especially costs and usage ethics"



San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) showcases the Right Choice Clinical Trial

The Right Choice study's preliminary positive results, co-led by Dr. Yen-Shen Lu (National Taiwan University Hospital) and Dr. Nagi El Saghir (American University of Beirut), were presented at the general session of the SABCS22 symposium held in Texas from December 6-10. After five years of hard work, the randomized phase II Right Choice Trial investigated the treatment of Ribociclib + Endocrine Therapy vs Physician's Choice Combination Chemotherapy in premenopausal patients with aggressive HR+/HER2- advanced breast cancer. The abstract of the study was also featured in the SABCS press release.

Dr. El Saghir said "RIGHT Choice study results were highly echoed at SABCS, as we showed that first-line Ribociclib + Endocrine Therapy is superior to combination chemotherapy for patients with hormone receptor-positive HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer who have aggressive rapidly progressive disease and visceral impairment and crisis; it doubles the Progression Free Survival PFS from 1 to 2 years, with equivalent ORR and TTR, longer TTF. RIGHT Choice study establishes that Ribociclib + Endocrine Therapy as an efficacious, effective, and less toxic treatment option than chemotherapy for those patients".

Now in its 45th year, the SABCS annual meeting hosts about 10,000 clinicians and scientists from all over the world and is the largest and most prestigious scientific gathering on breast cancer research.

Kudos to Dr. Yen-Shen Lu, Dr. Nagi El Saghir, Steering Committee, Right Choice clinical trial sponsor Novartis, investigators and patients worldwide.



Dr. Ali Shamseddine Speaks at Hopes, 12th International Gastrointestinal Cancers and American Society of Clinical Oncology 2023 conferences

The Dr. Ali Shamseddine, Professor of clinical oncology at NKBCI, was invited to participate in a number of conferences. In November 25-26, Dr. Shamseddine presented at the Hopes meeting held in Istanbul and joined by Gustavo Roussy experts- the first leader cancer research hospital in Europe and third best specialized hospital in the world. In this meeting, he discussed the recent advances in metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer. Hosted in the same country, Dr. Shamseddine also presented at the 12th International Gastrointestinal Cancers Conference on recent data from their ongoing averectal clinical trial. The conference held from 1-4 December and endorsed by the UICC allowed for a greater understanding of current clinical practices in gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, pancreatic malignancies as well as NETs, GISTs and gastrointestinal lymphomas.

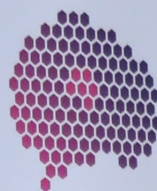
Most Importantly, ASCO addressed a faculty invitation to Dr. Shamseddine to be a speaker at their upcoming Annual Meeting 2023 in the education session entitled "Are we ready for universal screening for colorectal cancer in the Middle East?" The meeting is scheduled to take place in Chicago on June 2-6, 2023.

Doctor, let us know if you need a hand with all these presentations!





AUB leading innovation
therapies in cancer care



STRIASCAN™

74MBq/ml solution for injection loflupane (^{123}I)

quality ima
with I-123 loflup
from the Curium



CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas Season

Christmas at NKBCI was busy as always. It all started with setting-up the Christmas tree; while one held the balls, another decorated the lights, yet a third observed at a distance enjoying the harmony with which the group ornamented the tree. With the same merriment, the NKBCI team celebrated together in a dinner as they enjoyed the chatter outside office routine, got acquainted with newcomers, ate nice food, and discovered each other's dancing skills.

The festivities moved to the larger NKBCI family, as physicians, faculty, nurses and staff toured together with CSF, LOIG, and Zaki Nassif program members in patients' wards lightening the atmosphere with Christmas carols, laughs, gifts and cookies. LOIG went further to holding a stand at Beirut Souks together with the CSF encouraging the joy in giving by selling brownies, pins, stickers and pens. The tip of the iceberg culminated in the incredible fundraiser for cancer patients in partnership with Sar El Waqt as the whole community stood up to the institute's cause.







CHRISTMAS
MARKET



A black silhouette of a spotlight hanging from above, casting a beam of light downwards onto the title.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hala Dahdah Abou Jaber

Q: When did your humanitarian journey start at AUB?

A: My humanitarian journey at AUB began after I delivered my twins there, Karl and Peter. My preterm labor posed a risk on my life and the life of my twins who were premature. After surviving this life-threatening incident, I was grateful for the institution, so I collaborated with AUBMC as my way to express gratitude. I created, together with four other women, the Neonate Fund- the first NGO in Lebanon to shed light on such a painful and long battle towards a cause which is unknown to the Lebanese public. After this successful venture, I left the Neonate Fund. When my father got diagnosed with cancer and passed away after a long and exhausting fight with the disease, I was approached again to establish a much-required initiative for adult cancer patients in need. The Cancer Support Fund at NKBCI was then established in March, 2019.

Q: What is your title?

A: The Cancer Support Fund Founder and President.

Q: Why did you choose to advocate for cancer patients?

A: Amidst the pain and heartache I faced, I always realized that there was a way to fight back. I want to help cancer patients find their own way through the battle too. Cancer is preventable and curable to a large extent; this is why we are trying our best to create awareness in an aim to reduce its burden.

Q: Where did you pursue your college studies?

A: Born during the civil war, I studied at College Notre-Dame de Jamhour and being passionate about politics I pursued my B.A in political science at Lebanese American University.

Q: What do you like most about your "Mission"?

A: Being able to give and comfort cancer patients and their families who are really going through very hard times, being next to them gives me a lot of self-satisfaction. I highly desire to reach a point where all cancer patients are fully covered for their proper care, so they can only focus on their recovery journey.

Q: How was this year in terms of fundraising? did u achieve your goal?

A: This year's fundraising went beyond expectations especially with the Sar el Waqt telethon, but it is never enough since cancer is very expensive and requires a lot of resources.

Q: Where is your best trip destination?

A: Paris is always a good idea.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I am an athlete and a swimmer since the age of seven; and I was a Lebanese champion for a couple of years.

Q: What would be your best food choice?

A: Kibbeh Nayyeh.

Q: Tell us more about your character.

A: Passionate and determined but too sensitive which is sometimes double edged.

Q: What is your advice to your peers?

A: Never take failure as the end; put a goal and work on it.

Q: What is your message to cancer patients?

A: I will keep fighting till the last breath to ensure their right to access proper care and treatment.



Additions to the NKBCI family

After nine months of eager wait, NKBCI welcomes baby Fares and baby Youssef. Fares is the second child after Lana to Ms. Zeinab Chahine (Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation Coordinator) and Mr. Mohamad Abdel Rahman.

Youssef is the newborn of Dr. Iman Abou Dalle (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Wael Al Atrouni, and a brother to Miral. He managed from day one to be featured on Reuter's as he made the world's population hit 8 billion.

That little one has got some future in media!

Fares and Youssef, you are the bundle of joy to your families and to NKBCI.



PUBLICATIONS



Publications: October - December 2022

Correction to: Impact of conditioning regimen intensity on outcomes of second allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for secondary acute myelogenous leukemia. Authors: Nagler A, Peczynski C, Dholaria B, Labopin M, Valerius T, Dreger P, Kröger N, Reinhardt HC, Finke J, Franke GN, Ciceri F, Verbeek M, Blau IW, Bornhäuser M, Spyridonidis A, Bug G, Bazarbachi A, Schmid C, Yakoub-Agha I, Savani BN, Mohty M. Journal/Venue: Bone marrow transplantation. PubDate: Dec 2022

Correction: Comparison of HLA-mismatched unrelated donor transplantation with post-transplant cyclophosphamide versus HLA-haploidentical transplantation in patients with active acute myeloid leukemia. Baron F, Labopin M, Tischer J, Ciceri F, Raiola AM, Blaise D, Sica S, Vydra J, Fanin R, Diez-Martin JL, Bulabois CE, Stölzel F, Busca A, Jindra P, Koc Y, Chevallier P, Forcade E, Rösler W, Passweg J, Kulagin A, Carella AM, Simand C, Bazarbachi A, Pioltelli P, Nagler A, Mohty M. Bone marrow transplantation. Nov 2022

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