

# Little Ones



Our lives are dedicated to yours

By The Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at AUBMC - Issue N° 3

Save the Date

Brush up on your pediatrics knowledge.

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pediatrics Update Symposium

February 27-28, 2015 | Issam Fares Hall,  
American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Organized by the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent  
Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical  
Center in joint sponsorship with Yale University School  
of Medicine



Our lives are dedicated to yours

in joint sponsorship with



### Program Highlights

Autism, cardiology, breastfeeding, failure to thrive, general pediatrics, hematology-oncology, infectious diseases, metabolic diseases, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, cleft palate, and other topics

### Guest Speakers:

Dr. Nichola Cooper, Imperial College London  
Dr. Baba Inusa, King's College London  
Dr. Monique Chaaya, American University of Beirut

### Accreditation

*This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.*

For more information:  
Call +961 1 350000 ext. 5514, 4717/8  
Visit [www.aubmc.org](http://www.aubmc.org)



The detailed program can be found on the AUBMC website on the link:  
<http://www.aub.edu.lb/FM/CME/ACTIVITIES/Pages/UpcomingActivities.aspx>

## The Dr. Salim and Nabil Firzli Pediatric Education Room

Through a generous donation and in memory of late Dr. Salim Firzli and Dr. Nabil Firzli, the Firzli family dedicated a state-of-the-art pediatric education conference room to the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

The opening ceremony took place on December 22, 2014 in the presence of the Firzli family represented by Dr. Salim Firzli's wife, Mrs. Nabila Firzli, their sons, Dr. Elie and Mr. Mounir Firzli, friends, and faculty members. Dr. Fadi Bitar represented Dean Dr. Mohamad Sayegh V/P and the Raja N. Khury Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The room is located on the 6th floor near the playroom and is equipped with teleconferencing, and top of the line educational material that supports the department's mission of providing the best education in the fields of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.



## Little News

Attesting to his leadership in pediatric education in the region, Dr. Salman Mroueh was elected as Vice-President of the Scientific Council of Pediatrics of the Arab Board of Medical Specialties in its meeting in Amman on November 10, 2014.

Dr. Rolla Shbarou, pediatric neurologist and epileptologist joined the department on January 1, 2015 as full-time faculty member. Welcome Dr. Shbarou!

Dr. Raif Geha, Chief of the Division of Immunology, Allergy, Rheumatology and Dermatology Division, Boston Children's Hospital and James Gamble Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School visited the department on November 3, 2014 and gave the house staff case presentations of primary immunodeficiencies.

Dr. Ziad El Khatib, Director of the Neuro-Oncology division at Miami Children's Hospital visited the Children Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) and gave a lecture to the house staff about new advances in the treatment of children with brain tumors.

Dr. Rafi Tachjian, pediatrician and allergy-immunology specialist at the University of California Los Angeles, visited the department on December 16, 2014 and gave a lecture to house staff about hereditary angioedema.

## NCPNN Bi-Annual Meeting

More than 500 attendees from Lebanon and the region gathered at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Beirut, on November 6-8, 2014 to attend the 5th Regional Bi-annual meeting. The National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network held its meeting in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, Lebanese Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Lebanese Pediatric Society.

The meeting addressed important topics related to neonatal-perinatal medicine and hosted guest speakers from the Ministry of Public Health (Dr. Walid Ammar), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dr. Suzanne M. Gilboa), World Health Organization (Dr. Gabriele Riedner, Dr. Ramez Mahaini, and Dr. Alissar Rady), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Dr. Hani Atrash), and Dr. Christopher P. Howson, vice-president for global programs in The March of Dimes Foundation among others.

## Special Kids Transitioning to Adults: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Special Kids Clinic and OpenMinds

The second conference of the AUBMC Special Kids Clinic and OpenMinds entitled Special Kids Transitioning to Adults was held on November 28, 2014 at the Bathish Auditorium in West Hall at the American University of Beirut. The conference served the purpose of recognizing and addressing the medical and social difficulties young adults with autism or other Special Needs faced and the possible ways to integrate them into our community. Speakers from the UK, USA, and Lebanon included Declan Murphy, Professor of Psychiatry at Kings College, UK, Antonio Hardan, Professor of Psychiatry at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, USA, Ali Hamzeh, Special Educator at AUST, Lebanon, Reem Moawad, Director of FISTA, Lebanon, and Rana Sawaya, Owner of CARE, Lebanon.

## World Prematurity Day 2014: Raising Awareness

The world prematurity day on November 17 of every year brings forward an opportunity to raise awareness of preterm babies. For this occasion, the Neonate Fund organized several campaigns which highlighted the number of premature births that are increasing at a high rate in Lebanon pinpointing the causes for such an increase.

Live shows on Lebanese TV stations hosted the founders of the neonate fund in addition to doctors, nurses, and families who discussed prematurity and the role the Neonate Fund plays in providing financial support to needy families of premature newborns.

Reports were also filmed at the NICU at AUBMC and aired live during the daily news on three TV stations. The neonate fund developed a short TVC that focused on the fund's objective of having an ambulance for neonates specially equipped to transfer patients from other hospitals to be treated and supported by AUBMC. The TVC was aired on TV stations several times during the day.

A lecture on prematurity and the Neonate Fund was also given at IC school to grade 10 students in order to spread the word and raise more awareness among the new generation.

## Brave Heart In The Beirut Marathon

For the twelfth season, the Brave Heart Fund (BHF) joined the Banque du Liban Beirut Marathon 2014, on Sunday, November 9, 2014, to build awareness about Congenital Heart Disease and to raise funds to help cover the cost of surgeries and medical expenses of underprivileged children suffering from Congenital Heart Disease.

Thank you to our sponsors, contributors, runners and volunteers who contributed to the success of this event.



## Social Events

Dr. Rayan Damaj Awada, PGY2 resident, gave birth to her first baby boy, Mohamad, on December 15. Residents and attending held a surprise baby shower to wish her a smooth delivery and safe arrival of her little baby.



Pediatric staff exchanged gifts for the Christmas occasion through the Secret Santa tradition, and then they toured the pediatric floors with small gifts from Santa Clause to wish our admitted children happy and healthy holidays.



Department faculty, residents, nurses and staff gathered for the annual festive dinner at La Plage Restaurant, Ain El Mreisseh, to wish each other a merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year 2015. Dr. Miguel Abboud welcomed all the guests including Dr. Kamal Badr, Associate Dean for Medical Education, chairmen of departments, and all attendees, thanking every member of the pediatric team for their efforts and contributions during the past year.



## Early Moments Promote Literacy

In June 2014, the AAP published guidelines that recommend pediatricians to promote early literacy development during health supervision visits. Pediatricians advise parents to read aloud for their children, an activity that enhances social and emotional development and enriches parent-child interaction. Pediatricians are now advising parents about activities and books that are developmentally, linguistically, and culturally age appropriate and should be directed on where to find such material.

Reading is a very important and enjoyable activity. If introduced in early childhood, it has proven to be an independent factor which positively affects language skill acquisition and brain development (AAP 2014, Duursma et al 2008).

### References:

American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood (2014). Literacy Promotion: An Essential Component of Primary Care Pediatric Practice. *Pediatrics* 134, 2, 1384.

E Duursma, M Augustyn, B Zuckerman (2008). Reading aloud to children: the evidence. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*, 93, 7, 554–557.