

NKBCI

NEWSLETTER

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Our lives are dedicated to yours



AUB 150TH ANNIVERSARY, INAUGURATION OF FADLO KHURI, MD AND CANCER SYMPOSIUM

This issue is a special one highlighting the inauguration of Fadlo R. Khuri, MD as the 16th President of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Dr. Khuri is an oncologist specialized in Lung and Head and Neck Cancer. He was a faculty member at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center before he joined Emory University and the Winship Cancer Institute (Winship) in 2003. Since 2005, Dr. Khuri has been a member of the Naef K. Basile Foundation Board of Trustees.

The inauguration is special as it coincides with the 150th anniversary of AUB, a world class institution which has made history across the years through the contributions of its faculty, students and alumni at the national, regional, and international levels. (Continue on page 2)



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The inauguration was followed by three presidential symposia including one on “Cancer in the Molecular Era: Promise and Prospects”. Sponsored by the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and chaired by Drs. Nagi El Saghir and Ali Taher, the cancer symposium included a panel on academic mentorship, lectures on the novelties in oncology trials in the molecular era and advances in cancer research, debates on current and future management of lung cancer, and the new screening recommendations and future management of breast and ovarian cancer. International speakers from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, University of Colorado-Denver, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Institut Gustave Roussy, Emory University School of Medicine, American Cancer Society, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Temple University, Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology, and Winship Cancer Center – Emory University, in addition to speakers from the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) congratulated Dr. Khuri and gave interactive scientific lectures for more than 200 attendees.



JOINT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE ISCT EBMT (JACIE)

To maintain a global standard of the advanced quality of care received by patients in the Stem Cell Transplant (SCT) Unit at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and Children’s Cancer Institute, AUBMC applied to the Joint Accreditation Committee ISCT EBMT (JACIE). The application was favorably received adding an international recognition to AUBMC which will be the second JACIE accredited SCT program in the Middle East.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF STEM CELL TRANSPLANT UNIT

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) celebrated the achievements of the Stem Cell Transplant (SCT) Unit for the year 2015. More than a 100 transplants were performed, and patients were provided with the best quality of care from specialized physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and nutritionists during the year.

The dinner, held at Abdel Wahab Restaurant, was attended by physicians, nurses and support staff from the Hematology Oncology Division, Department of Radiation Therapy, Children's Cancer Institute, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. It included members of the Stem Cells Lab and the Blood Bank.

Short speeches were presented by Dr. Hassan El Solh, director of NKBCI, Dr. Ali Bazarabachi, director of SCT Program, and Drs. Miguel Abboud and Jean El Cheikh who thanked all the staff for their efforts and dedication in providing comprehensive quality care for SCT patients highlighting the program as one of the largest and most successful in Lebanon and the region.



BEIRUT BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE IV

Aiming at discussing the latest paradigms and updates in breast cancer management, the Breast Cancer Center of Excellence at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute of the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), organized their 4th Annual Beirut Breast Cancer Conference (BBCC-4) on February 11-13, 2016 at GEFINOR Rotana Hotel. The conference, held under the auspices of Mr. Wael Abu Faour, Minister of Public Health, was designed in collaboration with the Clinical and Professional Development Center (CPDC) of the Department of Nursing, and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office at AUBMC.

BBCC is a distinctive annual event that brings together a unique and international mix of experts, medical, surgical and radiation oncologists, healthcare professionals, scientific researchers and decision makers to exchange their knowledge, experience, and research innovations in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Over 190 attendees including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and various Lebanese, Arab, and international experts joined this year's conference.

BBCC-4 opening ceremony included a debate on breast cancer control in Lebanon and the Arab countries. In the presence of the Minister of Public Health, Mr. Wael Abou Faour, the event was moderated by TV anchor, Neshan Haroutiounian who stressed the need for quality care for all patients. Mr. Abou Faour recognized the major advances in breast cancer treatment in Lebanon and indicated the important role AUBMC and major universities play in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health to promote the health of individuals; he vowed to try to provide support for all cancer patients in Lebanon. During the ceremony, TV anchor, Jacqueline Chehwan, stressed on the importance of the conference and moderated a medical, nursing, NGO forum on awareness and patient needs for education, psychological, and financial support.



LEBANESE BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION DONATES TO NAEF K. BASILE CANCER INSTITUTE

For the third year in a row, the Naef. K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) has received a donation of 126,000,000 LBP from the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBCF). The donation is earmarked to cover expenses of breast cancer patients treated at AUBMC's NKBCI Breast Cancer Center. This donation was collected from the proceeds of the health awareness campaigns organized by the LBCF all throughout Lebanon during 2015.

Without the true dedication of LBCF volunteers and the generosity of donors, patients at NKBCI would not have been able to afford the treatment they needed. During the past year, a total of LBP 230 million was already disbursed to help patients from all over Lebanon and the region pay for their treatment, radiation, surgery and follow-up tests. Sixty percent of these patients were young mothers below the age of 50, and more than half of them lived with less than LBP 750,000 per month.

The Director of the Breast Cancer Center of Excellence at NKBCI and President of the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation, Dr. Nagi El Saghir presented the check during a ceremony which was held on January 29, 2016. The ceremony was attended by members of AUBMC and LBCF leadership including Deputy VP/Dean, Dr. Ziyad Ghazzal, Chief of Staff and Director of the NKBCI and Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), Dr. Hassan El Solh, Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr. Fady Geara, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Mrs. Nadine Chatila, and Director and Assistant Director of Development Office, Mr. Walid Katergi and Ms. Cynthia Kreichati. The Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation was represented by Mrs. Mirna Hoballah, Mrs. Fatmeh Baydoun, Mrs. Rania Alameddine, Mrs. Lina Hosari, and Mrs. Rana Sabbah while Naef K. Basile Institute was represented by Clinical Department Administrator, Mrs. Mira Wehbe. Hariri School of Nursing and Ambulatory Treatment Unit Nurse Manager, Mrs. Zeina Koussa was also in attendance in addition to oncology nurses, Mrs. Rebecca El Asmar and Mrs. Latifa Shihab.



NKBCI ANNUAL DINNER PARTY

On November 20, 2016, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute held its annual dinner party at Movenpick Hotel and Resort. Over 250 attendees of NKBCI faculty, staff, and a multi-disciplinary group of colleagues from different departments at AUBMC joined with 'One Spirit and as One Team' for a warm and memorable evening full of love, courtesy, and messages of value and tradition.



MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In collaboration with McDonald's Restaurant Support Center, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute initiated the Men's Health Awareness Campaign in November 2015 as part of the worldwide Movember initiative. AUBMC nurses, Mr. Ammar Zahreddine and Ms. Najla El Moufarrej, and clinical psychologist, Ms. Mia Malda Atwi from AUBMC presented awareness lectures to restaurant support center employees about Men's health issues including sexual health, cardiovascular health, cancer, mental health, and work life stress.

For a whole month, Mc Donald's Restaurant Support Center employees participated in raising awareness and collecting donations. Supported by their suppliers and business partners, they were able to raise a decent amount of money and donate it to Naef K. Basile Cancer institute (NKBCI).



CONGRATULATIONS

- Dr. Nagi El Saghir was an invited speaker at San Antonio Breast Cancer Conference 2015 and contributed as a faculty member in the Advanced Breast Cancer Third ESO-ESMO International Consensus Conference held in Lisbon in November 2015. In addition, Dr. Saghir was an active participant in the writing of Advanced Breast Cancer Guidelines in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Dr. Jean El Cheikh was awarded the best oral presentation in the meeting for the French Society and Bone Marrow Transplantation in November 2015.
- Dr. Rita Assi will be joining the Advanced Oncology Fellowship Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas by the beginning of the academic year 2016/2017.

FIFTH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISING "MAMA" BRUNCH

Under the patronage and in the presence of HE Mrs. Lama Tammam Salam, and in collaboration with the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and the Breast Cancer Center of Excellence at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBCF) celebrated this year's Mother's Day during its "MaMa" brunch on March 19, 2016 at Four Seasons Hotel.

The event was attended by a large group of women, sponsors, and community members who support the cause of LBCF. The event, which was moderated by Mrs. Riwa Al-Atrash, included a breast cancer patient story and speeches by the Chief of Staff and Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC, Professor Hassan El Solh, HE Mrs. Salam, and the president of LBCF, Professor Nagi El Saghir.

This year's award of excellence in awareness and support was presented to Dr. Firas Kreidieh for his hard work, dedication, and excellence in providing patient care services.



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