

# NKBCI

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2022



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# CONGRATS TO OUR NKBCI FELLOWS



## Ali Taher earns the EHA Education and Mentoring Award 2022

Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) Ali Taher has been announced as this year's winner of the European Hematology Association (EHA) Education and Mentoring Award 2022. Being given to a non-European, this award truly shows that science and education has no geographical boundaries and recognizes Professor Taher's outstanding efforts towards educating and mentoring hematologists worldwide.

Professor Taher is highly recognized for his pioneering work in benign hemoglobinopathies, in particular the prevention and management of thalassemia patients. His major contribution to benign hematology is not only reflected by his extensive publication record, but also by a high number of awards for his contribution to research and education. For many years Professor Taher has been actively involved in education and mentoring. He has always shared his broad knowledge with young colleagues and became a highly valuable mentor for many young physicians.



Dr. Ali Taher, Director of NKBCI



"Mentorship is not about creating replicas of who you are. On the contrary, it is about recognizing that there is strength in diversity, and in creating space for people to thrive."



## Graduation of NKBCI fellows

The NKBCI family celebrated the graduation of its two fellows, Dr. Ghid Amhaz and Dr. Firas Kreidieh. Dr. Naji El-Saghir even joined the dinner virtually from the U.S to wish the graduates best of luck in their new endeavors.

Dr. Ghid Amhaz was accepted for oncology training at Knappschafts krankenhaus in Germany, and Dr. Firas Kreidieh was accepted for an advanced fellowship in melanoma and skin cancers at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Kudos on your hard work DOCTORS!





## King Hussein Cancer Center signs MoU with the American University of Beirut Medical Center

Under the patronage of HRH Princess Ghida Talal, chair of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to renew the agreement between King Hussein Cancer Center and the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), with the aim of bolstering joint efforts in cancer care and clinical research. The agreement was signed on 21 April, 2022 by Dr. Asem Mansour, KHCC's CEO, and Professor Ali Taher, Director of Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute.

The Memorandum reiterated the goal of strengthening joint efforts between KHCC and AUBMC in scientific research and in fighting cancer in the region. It also stipulated the establishment of a joint experience exchange program for medical personnel in cancer care and clinical research, enhancing communication for complex medical cases, and providing opportunities for doctors and specialists to participate in joint conferences.

Read the full story here: <https://aubmc.org.lb/Pages/KHCC-signs-MoU-with-AUBMC.aspx>



## UICC features NKBCI in the World Cancer Day Impact Report and invites it to join 2023 Advisory Group

The World Cancer Day (WCD) Impact report showcased various campaigns NKBCI held for that occasion; it highlighted the Cancer Prevention and Control Program (CPCP) online awareness sessions, #CloseTheCareGap videos on equity in cancer care, and quiz event called "DTS Cancer IN-QUIZ-ITION". The report also highlighted the Institute's lighting ceremony at the Saab Medical Library and the Cancer Support Fund's national stand event for adult cancer patients, under the patronage of Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

As such the UICC extended an invitation to Dr. Rihab Nasr, Director of CPCP at NKBCI, to join the WCD Advisory Group for the 2023 campaign as a representative of NKBCI. The Advisory Group is a valuable sounding board for UICC's World Cancer Day campaign. It brings together a diverse group of health and communications experts from the UICC membership whose input, feedback, insight and support helps to ensure WCD continues to be an inclusive and meaningful platform for everyone, everywhere.

## 2022 Impact Report



Close  
the care  
gap

World  
Cancer Day  
4 February



World Cancer Day is an initiative of the  
Union for International Cancer Control.

#CloseThe  
WorldCancerDay



World Cancer Day: 2022 Impact Report

## World Cancer Day 2022 Advisory Group

The World Cancer Day Advisory Group brings together a diverse group of health and communications experts from the UICC membership whose input, feedback, insight and support helps to ensure World Cancer Day continues to be an inclusive and meaningful platform for everyone, everywhere.

### Eastern Mediterranean

#### Qatar

Qatar Cancer Society

#### Lebanon

Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the  
American University of Beirut

#### Iran

MAHAK Society to Support Children  
Suffering from Cancer

### Africa

#### Kenya

International Cancer Institute

#### South Africa

Cancer Association of South Africa  
(CANSA) – Head Office

#### Nigeria

Project PINK BLUE



World Cancer Day: 2022 Impact Report

## Lebanon

On the occasion of World Cancer Day and under the patronage of Prime Minister Najib Mikati, the Cancer Support Fund at AUBMC held a National Stand for Adult Cancer Patients event to raise awareness and pledge to assist and support cancer patients. The event took place on 4 February and was attended by Prime Minister Mikati, Minister of Health Firass Abiad, Minister of Industry George Boujikian and Minister of Environment Nasser Yassin, among other dignitaries.



World Cancer Day: 2022 Impact Report

## Lighting up the world in orange and blue





## Dr. Ali Shamseddine awarded the Faculty Certificate

As a sign of appreciation for his constant contribution to activities organized by the European School of Oncology, Dr. Ali Shamseddine was awarded the title of Faculty Member of the European School of Oncology for the year 2022.



# FACULTY CERTIFICATE

College of the European  
School of Oncology

As a sign of appreciation for his constant contribution to activities organized by the **European School of Oncology**

*Ali Shamseddine*

has been awarded the title of **Faculty member** of the **College of the European School of Oncology** for the year **2022**

N. Pavlidis  
Dean of ESCO

Alexandru Eniu  
Chair of ESCO



EHA EDUCATION  
AND MENTORING  
AWARD 2022





# AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



## Establishing the Neuro - Oncology Program at NKBCI

This year NKBCI dedicated several social media posts to raise awareness on Brain Tumour diagnosis and treatment. This comes in line with the Institute's intent to establish a Neuro-Oncology Program considering the increased numbers of patients presenting to NKBCI with CNS and Brain tumors from Lebanon and the MENA region.

This Program is planned as a multi-disciplinary one that meets *patient care purposes* through state-of-the-art techniques recognizing the particular needs of neurological related cancers; *research purposes* including investigations on imaging and cell-markers for early detection of brain cancers and on whole-genome analysis of gliomas; and *education purposes* through the yearly MiddleEast conference in affiliation with the most renowned universities in Brain tumours- Heidelberg university, Dana Fabre Cancer Institute as well as Brigham Health. The Program will be led by Dr. Hazem Assi supported by a team of multi-disciplinary subspecialties.



### BRAIN TUMOR TREATMENT

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapy
- Rehabilitation after treatment

### سرطان الدماغ علاج أورام الدماغ

- الجراحة
- العلاج بالأشعة
- العلاج الكيميائي
- العلاج الموجه
- إعادة التأهيل بعد العلاج



### BRAIN TUMOR DIAGNOSIS

- A neurological exam
- Imaging tests
- Tissue biopsy
- Molecular/Biomarker tumor testing: to identify specific gene mutations.

### سرطان الدماغ تشخيص أورام الدماغ

- فحص عصبي
- فحوصات التصوير
- خزعة الأنسجة
- فحص الدلالات الحيوية الجينية للورم
- لتحديد الطفرات الجينية





# FUNDRAISING EVENTS



# Support is an act with numerous aspects

Faced with daily struggles, our community needs so much care and continuous encouragement! As a gesture of support, the Cancer Support Fund (CSF) in collaboration with ALAM Suisse Foundation gathered food parcels and distributed them to adult cancer patients to relieve yet another chore they must take care of. Parcels were also distributed to hematology oncology healthcare workers at NKBCI as an appreciation of their unparalleled care and for always being there to serve patients. CSF is so grateful for ALAM Foundation's generosity and for the great work they are doing to support all the Lebanese population.





# Football Tournament

On June 6, the Lebanese Oncology Interest Group (LOIG) organised “Tackle the Cancer Football Tournament” at AUB’s Hostler courts, to raise money for underprivileged adult cancer patients! Congrats to “High Yield” team for winning the tournament, and props to them for donating their winning prize to help cancer patients.





## “كان سرّاً” Book Signature

“Every secret of a writer’s soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind is written large in his works” A quote by Virginia Woolf that matches the “كان سرّاً” written by Maysaa Sharif.

Maysaa Sharif signed her book in a ceremony held on June 14; 25% of whose proceeds went to support adult cancer patients in need through the Cancer Support Fund-AUBMC. In her book, Sharif, a previous patient at NKBCI, builds on her personal journey fighting cancer, speaking to those who are passing through similar challenging situations. Sharif dedicates this book to her son, hoping it would be a letter addressed to him for inspiration in the future.





## Heartfelt Thank You for Medications Donations

### People to People Aid NGO donation

Another donation from People to People Aid NGO to help underprivileged cancer patients. The Cancer Support Fund can only share the gratitude that its patients feel when they find their medications.

### American Woman Club donation

Special thanks to the American Woman Club on their genuine support to help the Lebanese community for more than 70 years now. The Cancer Support Fund is glad to receive its share from this continuous aid through medications donations to cancer patients.







“THE STRONGEST  
PEOPLE ARE NOT  
THOSE WHO SHOW  
STRENGTH IN  
FRONT OF US BUT  
THOSE WHO WIN  
BATTLES WE KNOW  
NOTHING ABOUT.”

WHERE HOPE GROWS



CSF OFFICIAL  
BANNER



# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS



# Best of ASCO Lebanon 2022: A Great Educational Scientific Annual Event

Under licensure from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology (LSMO), Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC), and Emirates Oncology Society (EOS), held the 17th annual Best of ASCO Lebanon meeting in Beirut, on July 7-8, 2022, in a virtual format. This year's conference got also endorsed by the newly appointed President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, Dr. Youssef Bakhsh.

Dr. Najji El-Saghir chaired the conference, while leaders from collaborating institutions addressed their opening words in the launching ceremony. Best of ASCO Lebanon included world-renowned speakers from the U.S., Europe, Arab countries, and Lebanon, in addition to presenters from Chicago Annual Meeting, and showcased the most important abstracts presented in Chicago at the ASCO Annual Meeting in June 2022. The meeting was attended by 309 attendees from all over the world and was a great opportunity for physicians to discuss the most significant and practice changing research presentations in all aspects and subspecialties of oncology.

The Raouche Pigeon Twin Rocks, Beirut's most famous natural beauty landmarks, was again used on the announcement cover, inviting friends and colleagues from around the globe.

OFFICIALLY LICENSED  
**BEST OF ASCO**  
2022 ANNUAL MEETING

**AUBMC**  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER  
الجامعة اللبنانية الطبية - المركز الطبي في بيروت  
Our lives are dedicated to yours

**LSMO**  
Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology  
الجمعية اللبنانية لأطباء الأورام الحديث

**EOS**  
Emirates Oncology Society  
الجمعية الإماراتية للأورام  
EMIRATES ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

**AMAAC**  
Arab Medical Association Against Cancer  
الجمعية العربية لمناهضة السرطان  
ARAB MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AGAINST CANCER

Organized by AUBMC  
Licensed by ASCO  
In collaboration with LSMO, EOS and AMAAC

**THE 17<sup>th</sup> BEST OF ASCO22 VIRTUAL**  
July 7 - 8, 2022 | Virtual Meeting

Dr. Arafat Tfayli

hassanj aafar

Infomed Christelle

Dr. Arafat Tfayli

Pin

hassanj aafar

Maha M

ghazinsouli

Bassem Youssef

Fadlo Khuri

Nagi El-Saghir



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Middle East Lung Cancer Congress

The American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine in collaboration with Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, organized the 4th Middle East Lung Cancer Congress on June 17 and 18, given in a virtual format. The conference observed a special participation from the Minister of Public Health- Dr. Firas Abiad who gave an opening word, endorsing the No Tobacco Strategy and implementation of the Tobacco Control law.

The Fourth Middle East Lung Cancer Congress was a platform that discussed recent advances in understanding the pathophysiology of lung cancer. It aimed to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration between various specialties involved in the care of lung cancer patients.

This congress targeted medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, pulmonologists, residents, fellows, nurses, and medical students. Sessions complied with the Lebanese Order of Physicians' Continuing Medical Education guidelines, Order of Pharmacists in Lebanon's Continuing Pharmacy Education guidelines, and American Nursing Credentialing Center's Continuing Nursing Education guidelines.

The American University of Beirut,  
Faculty of Medicine,  
in collaboration with the  
Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute  
invite you to attend

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLE EAST LUNG CANCER CONGRESS



SAVE THE DATE  
June 17-18, 2022

Activity Director  
Arafat Tfayli, MD

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Zoom Webinar

Dalya Salem

Dalya Salem



Arafat Tfayli

CME Team

CME Team

CME Office

CME Office

Reem - Science...

Reem - Science PRO

Celine

Celine

### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLE EAST LUNG CANCER CONGRESS

Original Sound: Off Recording...

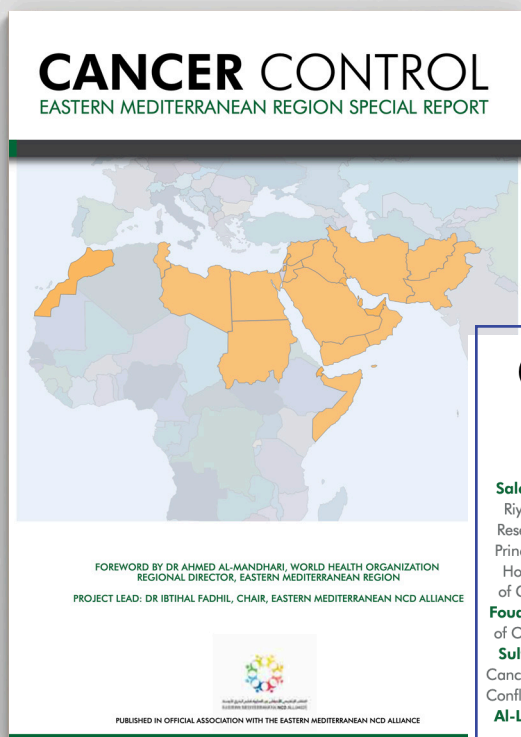


Firas Abiad



# The Cancer Control: Eastern Mediterranean Region Special Report

The Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance published The Cancer Control: Eastern Mediterranean Region Special Report, which drew on the expertise and knowledge of more than 60 contributors, most from within the region, to analyze cancer issues at first hand, what is being done to overcome them, and future directions. Dr. Ali Shamseddine and Ms. Maya Charafeddine from NKBCI made a contribution to three chapters of this report entitled "Cancer prevention: Modifiable risk factors" (chapter 2), "Cancer prevention: Infection and environment as risk factors" (chapter 3) and "Cancer prevention: Infection and environment as risk factors" (chapter 9).



## Cancer surveillance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**Saleh A Alessy**, Assistant Professor, Public Health Department, College of Health Sciences, Saudi Electronic University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; **Ariana Znaor**, Scientist, Section of Cancer Surveillance/Hub Officer, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; **Ze Shen**, MPH candidate, University of Southern California, USA; **Ali Al Zahrani**, Principal Clinical Scientist and Senior Consultant, Gulf Center for Cancer Control and Prevention, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; **Ali Shamseddine**, Professor of Clinical Medicine and Director of Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary Cancer Programme at Haematology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; **Heba Fouad**, Regional Surveillance Officer, NCD Surveillance Unit, WHO EMRO, Cairo, Egypt; **Kazem Zendehele**, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology, Cancer Research Center, Cancer Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran; **Sultan Eser**, Professor of Public Health, Balikesir University, Medical Faculty and International Agency for Research on Cancer/Global Initiative for Cancer Registry, Izmir Hub, Izmir, Turkey; **Zahi Abdul-Sater**, Programmes Division Manager, Conflict Medicine Programme Coordinator, Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon; **Jawad Al-Lawati**, Senior Consultant in Public Health, Directorate General of Primary Health Care, Ministry of Health, Muscat, Oman; and **Ibtihal Fadhil**, Chair, Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance, Kuwait City, Kuwait

## Cancer prevention: Infection and environment as risk factors

**Ali Al Zahrani**, Principal Clinical Scientist and Senior Consultant, Gulf Centre for Cancer Control and Prevention, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; **Ali Shamseddine**, Professor of Clinical Medicine and Director, Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary Cancer Program, Basile Cancer Institution, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; **Partha Basu**, Deputy Head, Early Detection, Prevention and Infections Branch, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; **Randah Hamadeh**, Professor of Community Medicine, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain; **Hikmat Abdel-Razeq**, Deputy Director General, Chief Medical Officer and Professor, King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan; **Maya Charafeddine**, American University of Beirut, Lebanon and **Fatima Altahan**, Director, Cancer Control Programme, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia



# IN THE NEWS



“NOT TO GIVE UP RATHER  
OVERCOME OBSTACLES  
WITH NEW RIGOUR”



## Supporting Cancer Patients to Access Opioid Medications

Upon running out of Morphine medication in Lebanon, the Palliative and Supportive Care program at AUBMC-NKBCI headed by Dr. Rana Yamout partnered with the Cancer Support Fund at NKBCI, the Oncology department at LAU medical Center- Rizk Hospital, the Pain division at the Hospital Hotel Dieu de France, the Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain, Balsam- The Lebanese Center for Palliative Care in pursuit of raising accessibility barriers. The partners signed a letter addressed to the Lebanese Minister of Public Health, urging him to swiftly remove the subsidies on opioids despite the economic crisis that the country is going through. The letter explained that while people had been witnessing shortage in many medications, they were managing to secure them from nearby countries. However, opioids being part of the controlled substances in Lebanon, cannot be shipped without prior agreement between countries.

In follow-up to this effort, audio-visual media magnified the cry of cancer patients joined by Dr. Naji el Saghir's voice who echoed the unacceptability of running out of Morphine and leaving patients to endure pain on top of all other sufferings they pass through.

As a result, the Minister approved to lift the subsidy on several opioids.



June 17, 2022

To: Dr Firas Abiad,  
Minister of Public Health  
Beirut, Lebanon



Dear Dr. Abiad,

On behalf of the **Palliative and Supportive Care Program at AUBMC, the Cancer Support Fund, the Oncology department at LAU medical Center- Rizk Hospital, the Pain division at the Hospital Hotel Dieu de France, The Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain, Balsam- The Lebanese Center for Palliative Care**, we urge you to swiftly lift the subsidies on opioids despite the economic crisis that the country is going through.







A CALL TO ACCESS  
OPIOID MEDICATIONS

النهار



# PUBLICATIONS





## Publications: April - June 2022

- Mantle cell lymphoma negative for t(11,14) involving the kidneys: a case report. Nassereldine H; Mohty R; Awada H; Abou Dalle I; El-Cheikh J; Bazarbachi A. *J Med Case Rep.* 2022 Jun 30
- Augmented FLAMSA-Bu versus FluBu2 reduced-intensity conditioning in patients with active relapsed/refractory acute myeloid leukemia: an EBMT analysis. Rodríguez-Arbolí E; Labopin M; Eder M; Brecht A; Blau IW; Huynh A; Forcade E; Tischer J; Bethge W; Bondarenko S; Verbeek M; Bulabois CE; Einsele H; Stölzel F; Savani B; Spyridonidis A; Bazarbachi A; Giebel S; Brissot E; Schmid C; Nagler A; Mohty M. *Bone Marrow Transplant.* 2022 Jun
- The outcome of patients with Hodgkin lymphoma and early relapse after autologous stem cell transplant has improved in recent years. Bazarbachi A; Boumendil A; Finel H; Khvedelidze I; Romejko-Jarosinska J; Tanase A; Akhtar S; Ben Othman T; Ma'koseh M; Afanasyev B; Cheikh J; Briones J; Gülbas Z; Hamladji RM; Elverdi T; Blaise D; Martinez C; Alma E; Halaburda K; Sousa AB; Glass B; Robinson S; Montoto S; Sureda A. *Leukemia.* 2022 Jun
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- From Tumor Cells to Endothelium and Gut Microbiome: A Complex Interaction Favoring the Metastasis Cascade. Abdel Sater AH; Bouferraa Y; Amhaz G; Haibe Y; Lakkiss AE; Shamseddine A. *Front Oncol.* 2022
- Liquid biopsy derived circulating tumor cells and circulating tumor DNA as novel biomarkers in hepatocellular carcinoma. Temraz S; Nasr R; Mukherji D; Kreidieh F; Shamseddine A. *Expert Rev Mol Diagn.* 2022 May
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- Clinical burden of hemophilia in older adults: Beyond bleeding risk. Hodroj MH; El Hasbani G; Al-Shamsi HO; Samaha H; Musallam KM; Taher AT. *Blood Rev.* 2022 May
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- Primary Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Liver: Case Report and Review of Literature. Fakhreddine O; Fadlallah Y; Turfa J; Hassan MA; Chamseddine N; Assi HI. *Case Rep Oncol.* 2022 May-Aug
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