



NKBCI The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

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NKBCI New Endeavors

Christmas Activity

All aboard the festive cheer! NKBCI delighted its staff and their families, with a special invitation to a heartwarming Christmas gathering. The highlight of the event was a joyous ride on the papa's train, creating unforgettable moments and eliciting smiles, especially from the excited kids. The celebration continued with a delightful buffet dinner, wrapping up a day filled with the true spirit of Christmas.



Independence Day

On the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of Lebanese Independence Day, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and the Lebanese Army Music Department celebrated Independence Day. Members of the Lebanese Army Music Department visited NKBCI Clinics and Infusion Center saluting the flag and celebrating Independence Day.





Interprofessional Collaboration Cancer Care AUBMC- USJ

The Higher Institute of Public Health's at Saint Joseph University (USJ) organized a conference on "Interprofessional Collaboration in Cancer Care" at the USJ Medical Sciences Campus on November 23, 2023.

The conference drew notable participation from key players in the healthcare sector. Among the distinguished attendees Dr. Tfayli highlighted the importance of building scientific bridges between different healthcare organizations to strengthen our health system and reduce redundancies and promote cost effectiveness on the national health bill as well as on the private sector. NKBCI represented by Ms. Celine Abou Karam, clinical department administrator, showcased its established collaborative model in clinical, tumor boards and research areas and reflected on the outcome that played a major role in advancing cancer care through innovative collaboration. AUBMC's active participation further underscored the international collaboration necessary to address challenges in the field. The conference provided a platform for professionals to exchange insights, fostering connections that promise to contribute to the ongoing progress in interdisciplinary cancer care.









Scientific Events

Dignity in Palliative Care and at End-of-Life

Dr. Rana Yamout, director of the Palliative and Supportive Care Team at NKBCI, AUBMC, led a conference entitled "Dignity in Palliative Care and at End-of-Life" on October 28, 2023.

The conference illuminated the importance of preserving dignity in the final stages of life, focusing on the role of spirituality in palliative care and the challenges encountered by healthcare professionals in Lebanon when addressing this aspect.

AUB President, Dr. Fadlo Khuri attended the official launch of the Lebanese Palliative Care Society and a roundtable discussion entitled 'Different Spiritual and Religious Considerations at End-of-Life,' featuring various religious figures and their related perspectives. The discussion was moderated by Media Professional, Mrs. Rima Karaki.









4th Biennial Middle East Neuro-Oncology Conference

AUBMC hosted the 4th Biennial Middle East Neuro-Oncology Conference at the Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center.

This conference is dedicated to promoting advances in Neuro-Oncology through continuous education and training.

The objective of the conference is to collaborate between all relevant disciplines in the region (Medical Oncology, Neuro-Oncology, Neurosurgery, Radiation Oncology, Pathology and Radiology). During this conference, experts from different subspecialties worldwide met and discussed in-depth new treatment approaches in Neuro-Oncology.



Dr. Hazem Assi-Activity Director | Mr. Chas Haynes- Executive Director of SNO Dr. Ali Taher- Director of NKBCI | H.E. Dr. Firas Abiad-Minister of Public Health Dr. Raymond Sawaya-Dean of Faculty and Medicine



Best of EHA

Dr. Ali Taher (MD, PhD, FRCP) director of NKBCI, president of Best of EHA congress, Lebanese Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (LSHBT), and Lebanese Joint Coalition against Thrombosis (LJCAT) organized a Hybrid Congress entitled "Best of EHA 2023".

During the congress, Prof. Hagop Kantarjian, the esteemed recipient of the 2023 David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award and a renowned expert in Leukemia, participated in a live presentation titled "Leukemias – Progress from mostly incurable to mostly curable within four decades."

The Best of EHA 2023 curated a program specifically tailored to the needs of local hematologists, with a primary focus on education as a key priority.

Dr. Jean El Cheikh and Dr. Nour Moukalled were featured speakers in the Best of EHA 2023 sessions on clinical practice, diagnosis, treatment, and special recommendations.



The First SOHO Meeting for MENA Region

The first SOHO Meeting for the MENA Region was held on September 29th and 30th, 2023, at the National Library in Sanayeh, Beirut, Lebanon. In collaboration with the Lebanese Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (LSHBT) and Societies of Hematology in MENA countries, the event was spearheaded by Dr. Ali Taher, director of NKBCI and president of LSHBT. The Society of Hematologic Oncology (SOHO) has been dedicated to advancing research, education, prevention, clinical studies, and patient care in hematologic malignancies since its establishment in 2012. The meeting's educational program showcased international experts discussing advances in various hematologic malignancies, emphasizing the "SOHO State of the Art and Next Questions." The multidisciplinary speakers, representing the USA and Europe, highlighted the latest developments in the field, making the event a significant success and a testament to ongoing progress in Hematologic Oncology.









The Second Middle Eastern Conference on Immunotherapy and Cell Therapies for Cancer Diseases

We're excited to share highlights from The Second Middle Eastern Conference on Immunotherapy and Cell Therapies for Cancer Diseases, expertly organized by Dr. Jean El Cheikh. With 220 participants from 28 countries, the conference served as a global hub for cutting–edge research and collaboration. Dr. El Cheikh played a crucial role in cultivating an atmosphere conducive to the exchange of knowledge, underscoring the significance of international cooperation in advancing cancer therapies.





Awareness and Fundraising



Blood Cancer Awareness Instruction by Dr. Jean El Cheikh

During the Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Jean El Cheikh (associate professor of Clinical Medicine, and the vice president of the Doctors Syndicate in the North) shared awareness videos with the Cancer Support Fund social media. During the videos, Dr. El Cheikh helped patients to learn more about blood cancers and the necessary prevention measures, in addition to the updates about the latest progress in blood cancer treatments. Dr. El Cheikh keeps on giving hope to those fighting cancer and spreading knowledge and hope to make a difference in the lives of many.

CSF covered 500 mammography for needy patients as part of its cancer prevention mission

As part of its commitment to cancer prevention, the Cancer Support Fund established a new initiative to cover at AUBMC Breast Mammography Unit at the Department of Radiology 500 breast mammograms for adult needy women at the age of 40.

The mammograms were performed while offering patients tips on healthy lifestyle and commitment to yearly screening for early detection.

Lighting of SML in Pink-October 1ST

On the occasion of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, AUBMC, the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation (LBCF) and NKBCI joined forces with LBCI TV, Sabbah Brothers, and Beirut Power Hub to light the Saab Medical Library in pink in order to raise awareness on the importance of screening to detect breast cancer at early stages. The event was broadcasted live on LBCI.

Because of the economic crisis in Lebanon, the number of patients with advanced breast cancer is increasing. Therefore, the LBCF planned to focus their campaign this year on early detection of breast cancer by increasing awareness and launching a new #HUGFORACAUSE campaign to support women in need for screening mammography and diagnostic procedures and improve their chances for cure.

Breast Cancer screening saves lives.







Skin Cancer Awareness and Screening Day

The Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute in collaboration with the Department of Dermatology at the American University of Beirut Medical Center Organized a skin cancer awareness and screening day on November 30. Free examinations were conducted to more than 100 patients, to raise awareness and aid in the early detection of cancer symptoms.



Credit Financier Invest (CFI)

In the event of Blue November, CFI in collaboration with NKBCI and the CSF organized an awareness sessions for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month; a lecture by urology senior fellow, Dr Jad Najdi was offered to the audience and moustache cakes were distributed at the end. The staff also organized a competition for the longest moustache grown during November and were awarded by CFI as a gesture of participation.

Awareness instructions of the Prostate Cancer by Dr. Albert Hajj on CSF

In an effort to raise awareness about prostate cancer, Dr. Albert Hajj has collaborated with the Cancer Support Fund to share an informative video. The purpose of this collaboration is to emphasize the significance of early detection in prostate cancer and assist patients in recognizing the initial symptoms.



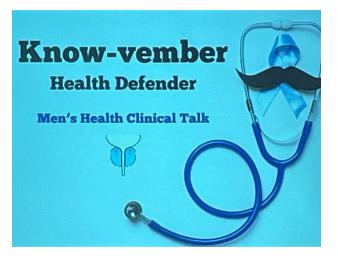




Know-vember Health Defender: Men's Health Clinical Talk

We're thrilled to share the success of the Know-vember Health Defender: Men's Health Clinical Talk, a collaborative effort by the Rotary Club of Beirut Ad Astra, HEAL AUBMCares, LOIG, and NKBCI. Featuring insights from esteemed medical professionals, including Dr. Sally Temraz, Dr. Albert El Hajj, and Dr. Michel Jabbour, the event raised funds for critical initiatives such as the AUBMCares Men's Health Screening Clinic and free diagnostic assessments for male patients. The community's enthusiastic participation reflects our shared commitment to making healthcare a fundamental right for all. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, and we look forward to continuing our collective efforts in promoting health awareness and well-being within our community.









Hair Donation-LOIG

In collaboration with NKBCI and CSF, LOIG organized a hair donation event in the College Jeunesse Antonine Zahle, the event was a huge success, 200+ hair donations were collected and will be donated to the Cancer Support Fund at the Naef K. Bassile Cancer Institute, AUBMC through the Lebanese Oncology Interest Group.





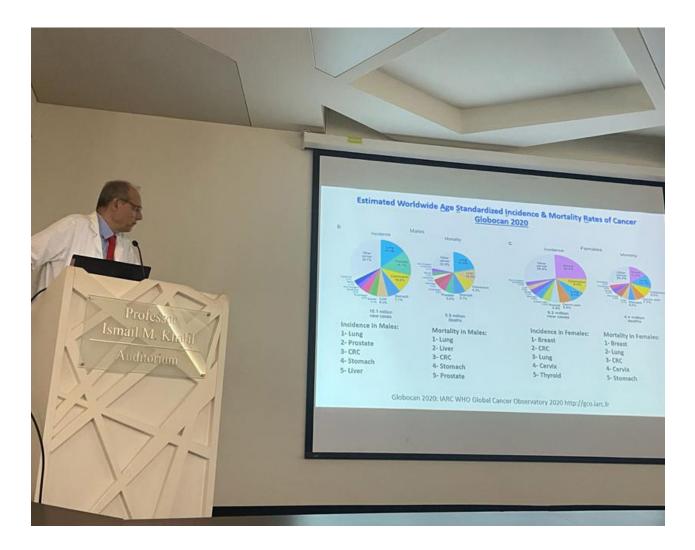
Special Lectures



Advancing Management of Patients with Cancer Nagi El-Saghir, MD Head, Division of Hematology-Oncology

Dr. Nagi El Saghir's Medical Grand Round

Professor Naji El-Saghir delivered the inaugural Medical Grand Round for the academic year 2023-2024, addressing the topic "Advancing Management of Patients with Cancer" on September 12, 2023. The event proved to be highly successful, with the Prof. Ismail Khalil Auditorium filled to capacity. In addition to providing valuable scientific insights, Dr. Saghir skillfully interwove the presentation with a touch of lighthearted humor to the informative session.





Dr. Nour Moukalled's Medical Grand Round

Dr. Nour Moukalled delivered a compelling presentation titled "All you need to know about CAR-T: An Overview for the Internist" during her grand round on October 17, 2023. The session was particularly engaging, introducing a novel treatment approach, CAR-T, which will hopefully be available soon for patients to benefit from at AUBMC. The topic proved to be highly informative, sparking considerable interest among the audience, evidenced by the numerous questions raised during the session.



Dr. Iman Abou Dalle Presentation in the 65th ASH Annual Meeting

Dr. Iman Abou Dalle delivered a presentation at the 65th ASH Annual Meeting, highlighting the impact of DNMT3A mutation on post-transplant outcomes in patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) who underwent allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (allo-HCT) in their first remission. The data presented were sourced from the #EBMT database. Among eight proposed presentations, the hematology team at NKBCI proudly received approval for five, including 3 oral abstracts and 2 posters, all of which were successfully presented during the 65th ASH Annual Meeting.





Awards and Recognitions



Lifetime Achievement Regional Track

Congratulations to Dr. Ali Shamseddine on his award: Lifetime Achievement Regional Track from the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center.

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.

Prof. Shamseddine is currently a professor of Clinical Medicine and director of the Gastrointestinal/ Genitourinary Cancer Program of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), where he has also served as director of the Tumor Registry and Data Management Unit since 2014. He is founder and chair of the Advisory Board of Arab Collaborative Hematology-Oncology Group (ACHOG). He received his training at the American University of Beirut, and he is a fellow of the Royal College of Physician in London.

Prof. Shamseddine's previous positions include head of the Hematology/Oncology Division from 2000-2017 and chair of the hospital committee on cancer 1997-2011. He was appointed to the position of vice president of the National Cancer Registry (NCR) from 2005-2010 and served as WHO advisor in epidemiology during 2013-2016. He also served as president of the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology (LSMO, 2006-2008) and chair of European Arab Society of Oncology Prostatic Group in Lebanon (2010–2013).

He chaired the prostatic cancer session at the European School of Oncology (ESO) in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and was awarded the title of Faculty Member of the College of the ESO, Milano from 2020- present. He is a member of the scientific committee and active faculty of the World Gastrointestinal Cancer Conference (ESMO) from 2017 to 2018. In April 2018 he was nominated by ASCO to serve on an expert panel charged with developing clinical guidelines for treatment of advanced stage colorectal cancer.

Prof. Shamseddine has published more than 250 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and a book reporting the trends in cancer at AUB over 20 years (1983–2003). His research interests include epidemiology of cancer in Lebanon and the region, gastro-intestinal and prostatic cancers. His ongoing clinical research includes studying the outcome of chemo-immunotherapy with radiation therapy in GI cancers.

Palliative Care Award

The Palliative and Supportive Care team in NKBCI has been selected as a winner for the "AUBMC Best Interprofessional Team Award" at the 2023 Awards and Recognition Ceremony, which took place on the 28th of September, at the Issam Fares Lecture Hall.

This award is a recognition and admiration of their efforts, dedication, and their outstanding accomplishments throughout the past year.





Daisy Award

NKBCI proudly congratulates Mrs. Rola Machmouchi (Palliative Care Registered Nurse) and Ms. Houry Kazarian (Registered Nurse) on receiving the DAISY Award, for their exceptional nursing services.

The DAISY Award is a special honor given to extraordinary nurses for the compassionate contributions they make every day going above and beyond expectations in science and sensitivity.



Announcements



Dr. Firas Kreidieh Joins AUBMC

NKBCI is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Firas Kreidieh as Instructor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Hematology–Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Kreidieh will also be an integral part of the medical staff at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC, focusing on practicing hematologist and oncologist with a special emphasis on benign hematology, melanoma, and other skin cancer management, and immunotherapeutics.

Dr. Kreidieh, a distinguished medical professional, brings with him a wealth of experience, having graduated with distinction from AUB in Biology and earned his MD degree. His notable achievements include accolades during his residency in Internal Medicine and a three-year fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at AUB. Dr. Kreidieh furthered his expertise in Melanoma Medical Oncology and Immuno-Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Welcome back to AUB, Dr. Firas Kreidieh! NKBCI wishes you all the success and progress in your new position.



In the Spotlight



Sana Murad

- Q: When did you join the Naef K. Basil Cancer Institute?
- A: I joined the Hematology Oncology Division 11 years ago (exactly on February 18, 2013).

Q: What is your job title?

A: My current job title is Graduate Medical Education Coordinator.

Q: What are your main responsibilities?

A: As a GME (Graduate Medical Education) coordinator, my main responsibilities include: recruitment, onboarding, fellows support, curriculum development, documentation, program management and compliance of ACGME-I accreditation.

Q: Prior to joining this department, where were you working?

- A: I have not worked in any other department. Since joining AUBMC, I have been pleased to be a part of the Hem Onc and the Basile Family.
- Q: Where did you pursue your college studies?
- A: I got my BA degree in Public Relations from the Lebanese University.
- Q: What do you like most about your job?
- A: One of the things that truly brings me joy is seeing our graduates thrive and represent our institution in prestigious institutions all over the world or when they come back to AUBMC as faculty members. It's incredibly rewarding to know that I have played a part in their journey and helped them achieve their goals.
- Q: What would you like to improve in your current job?
- A: I would like to enhance the international reputation of our institution by making every effort to obtain international accreditation.
- Q: Tell us more about your ambition; in what would you like to develop your career?
- A: I am keen on expanding my knowledge and understanding of the GME field. Staying updated with the latest trends, regulations, and best practices will enable me to provide better support to our fellows and program director.

Q: Where is the best trip destination and why?

- A: My favorite trip destination is Tyre, South Lebanon. It is one of the oldest cities with historical significance and still maintains its charm and tranquility.
- Q: What are your hobbies?
- A: One of my main hobbies is gardening. I find great joy in watching plants growing. It's incredible to witness the transformation from a tiny seed to a beautiful flower or a fruitful vegetable.
- Q: What would be your best food choice?
- A: Of course Sea food.
- Q: Tell us more about your character.
- A: I am a people person; I enjoy interacting with others and building connections. In addition to being a people person, I am also a team player. I enjoy brainstorming ideas, sharing knowledge, and supporting my colleagues in any way I can.
- Q: What is your advice to your peers?
- A: We all have our fair share of problems and hurdles to overcome. It can be tough, and I totally get it, but we must be a little bit more patient. We should have a mindset that understands that good things take time.

Q: What is your message to cancer patients?

A: You are incredibly strong and resilient, and you have the power to overcome this obstacle.



Publications

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- Epidemiology of clinically significant forms of alpha- and beta-thalassemia: A global map of evidence and gaps. Musallam KM; Lombard L; Kistler KD; Arregui M; Gilroy KS; Chamberlain C; Zagadailov E; Ruiz K; Taher AT Am J Hematol, 2023 Sep
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