



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
MEDICAL CENTER
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت



NAEF K. BASILE
CANCER INSTITUTE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
معهد نائف ك. باسيل للسرطان في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

NKBCI

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

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aubmc.care





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BMT Re-accreditation

The NKBCI Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program received the first JACIE accreditation in Lebanon in 2016 and is now re-accredited until 2027. It is well-recognized nationally and internationally for its cutting-edge basic, clinical, and translational cancer research, particularly in the field of hematological malignancies. Committed to providing high-quality, compassionate, and state-of-the-art care, the BMT Program strives to utilize the transplantation-based therapies and expertise to serve the patients' personalized needs to eliminate cancer. The program expanded to exceed 1,300 transplants with impeccable record in survival exceeding worldwide statistics. It also participates in transplant research as an active member of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT).



To mark this significant milestone, Dr. Ali Bazarbachi, the BMT Program director, organized a special event to celebrate the dedicated efforts of our healthcare professionals. The event was a resounding success, with attendees enjoying a picturesque sunset, delightful dinner, and captivating music.

This achievement and celebration reaffirm our commitment to advancing the fight against cancer and providing the best possible care to our patients. We look forward to continuing our journey of excellence and innovation in the field of bone marrow transplantation. Thank you for your unwavering support.

NKBCI Joins OECI to Advance Cancer Care

NKBCI proudly announces its official membership in the Organization of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). Ms. Celine Abou Karam, representing NKBCI, introduced the institute during the highly successful OECI Oncology Days 45, which took place from June 14th to 16th, 2023, in Paris. This prestigious event drew over 350 participants and was organized in collaboration with Institut Curie, with invaluable support from COMM Santé agency, and enjoyed the auspices of Fondation pour la Recherche sur le cancer-ARC.

The NKBCI's inclusion in the OECI, which presently comprises 123 Members, including some of the most prominent European Comprehensive Cancer Centres, marks a significant stride in the institute's commitment to advancing cancer care and research on a global scale. This collaboration promises to foster innovation, enhance patient outcomes, and contribute to the worldwide fight against cancer.



Lebanese National Cancer Plan

The launch ceremony of the “National Cancer Control Plan” was attended by Minister of Health Firas Al-Abyad, Minister of State for Administrative Development Affairs Najla Riachi, MPs: Bilal Abdullah, Fadi Alama, Samer Al-Toum, Amin Sheri, and Michel Moussa, Ambassador of Italy Nicoletta Bombardieri, Ambassador of Qatar Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz. Al-Sahlawi, Swiss Ambassador Marion Weichelt, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Omran Ziza, Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers Judge Mahmoud Makiya, Secretary-General of the High Relief Commission Major General Muhammad Khair, Head of the Central Inspection George Attia, a number of representatives of diplomatic missions, university presidents, general directors, hospital directors and United nations representatives. The plan extends over five years, and its pillars are monitoring and surveillance, prevention and examination, diagnosis and treatment, access to innovations, supportive care, rehabilitation, and governance.



“Developing a national cancer plan is not an option but an urgent necessity. It is an important step towards establishing a comprehensive system of care for cancer patients in Lebanon that is patient-centered and flexible.” Dr. Firas Abiad



“ This plan should also serve as a roadmap guiding toward a future where cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment are not mere aspirations but tangible realities. ”

Roche Agreement

The NKBCI proudly announce that the American University of Beirut and its Medical Center signed MoU with Roche Lebanon SARL reiterating their commitment to further strengthen their existing partnerships and explore potential alliance opportunities in the areas that remain uncovered. This partnership comes as part of the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine and the American University of Beirut Medical Center’s leading vision in pioneering and transforming medical education, research, and practice, and most importantly, medical care in the region, bringing them to new levels of excellence. And this MoU is a testimony to the many years of successful cooperation between the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine, and the American University of Beirut Medical Center, and Roche Lebanon SARL and to their undeniable potential to pave the way for a better, stronger, and more sustainable healthcare system that can potentially create a meaningful, lasting difference to those who need it most.

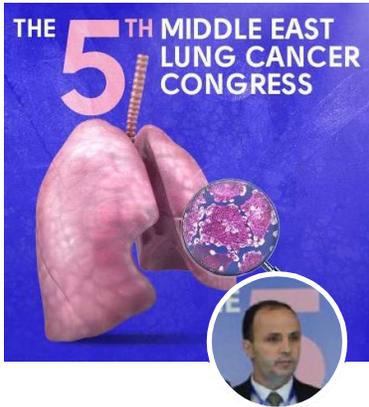




The 5th Middle East Lung Cancer Congress

The clinical and professional Development center (CPDC) in collaboration with the Health Professional Development Center (HPDC) and the Naef K. Basile (NKBCI) presented the 5th Middle East Lung Cancer Congress that was held on June 16–17, 2023.

The congress was directed by Dr. Arafat Tfayli. It discussed recent advances in understanding the pathophysiology of lung cancer: and aimed to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration between various specialties involved in the care of lung cancer patients. Nursing and Pharmacy sessions were held in parallel on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The speakers included a wealth of expertise both on the local, regional and international level. The conference was done hybrid format and in person attendance.



we have structured a wonderful scientific program that spans the areas of tobacco control, smoking cessation, patient experiences, early detection, as well as the most up to date therapeutic advances. Paralleled nursing and pharmacy tracks are scheduled to address these specific fields,”

The 18th Best of ASCO

The Division of Hematology–Oncology at the Department of Internal Medicine and the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) organized the 18th annual Best of ASCO (BOA) Lebanon, under license from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology (LSMO) and the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC) in July 2023 at the Halim and Aida Daniel ACC Building at AUBMC. The meeting was held in a hybrid format where speakers and attendees in Lebanon were present in-person while speakers and attendees from outside Lebanon were online. In addition to speakers and chairpersons, there were 56 attendees in person and 14 online from USA, Europe, Arab countries, and of course Lebanon.

BOA Lebanon Planning Committee included Dr. Nagi S. El Saghier, head of the Division of Hematology–Oncology at AUBMC and chair of ASCO meeting; Dr. Reem Abdallah; Dr. Ghassan Abou–Alfa; Dr. Iman Abou Dalle; Dr. Albert El–Hajj; Dr. Hiba Moukadem; and Dr. Arafat Tfayli. Ample discussions were held to allow structured discussions and opportunities for take-home messages and recommendations.

International BOA meetings were started in Japan, Mexico, and Lebanon in 2006 and are being held in 31 countries in 2023. They are very popular by physicians–in–practice as well as physicians–in–training. Attendees learn how to conduct clinical trials and how to interpret and apply results in clinical practice.





Palliative care Council Decision

After ten years of the Palliative Care specialty's integration into the Lebanese Order of Physicians, the Lebanese Palliative Care Society (LPCS) was established with the aim of building a supportive community that ensures the provision of an outstanding palliative and end-of-life care for patients living with chronic illness in Lebanon. The LPCS is a multidisciplinary society that meets together to accomplish several purposes, including raising community awareness about palliative care and end of life care, increasing access to palliative care for patients suffering from chronic illness, promoting education and training in palliative care through scientific meetings, and encouraging new national research on palliative care.

Led by Dr. Rana Yamout, director of the Palliative and Supportive Care Program at NKBCI/AUBMC.

Mission: Raising awareness about palliative care and end of life care, increasing access for all chronic illness patients, promoting education, and training through scientific meetings, and encouraging new national research. With the aim to build a supportive community ensuring outstanding care in Lebanon.



“
Add life to your days,
not days to your life!”

Movie For a Cause: Can you Hear My Voice

On Friday May 5, 2023, The Palliative and Supportive Care Program at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the American University of Beirut Medical Center organized a fundraiser event, an Avant Premiere Movie for a Cause Featuring an Award-Winning Documentary, By Bill Brummel: “Can You Hear My Voice?” at Beirut Souks Cinemacity. Ticket sale profits went to patients needing Palliative & Supportive Care.

This inspiring film follows an extraordinary choir of cancer survivors who lost their voices due to laryngeal cancer and explores the healing possibilities of communal singing.

The movie was followed by a Q&A session with Mr. Bill Brummel, a Peabodyaward-winning and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker and tonsil cancer survivor and was moderated by Dr Abdul Latif Hamdan, Director of Hamdan Voice Unit at AUBMC, Dr Marc Murad, Assistant Professor at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at AUBMC, and Mrs, Batoul Jaber, President of the Lebanese Association of Speech, and Language Therapists.

CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?
“AN ABSOLUTELY SUBLIME MOVIEGOING EXPERIENCE THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH, CRY, SHOUT, BE GRATEFUL AND BELIEVE”
Friday, May 5, 2023
7:30 PM at Beirut Souks Cinemacity

The Palliative and Supportive Care Program invites you to meet and watch Bill Brummel's moving documentary *Can You Hear My Voice?* in support of patients who need palliative care. The film follows an extraordinary choir of cancer survivors who lost their voices due to laryngeal cancer and explores the healing possibilities of communal singing. The movie screening will be followed by Q&A with the director.

FOR SEAT RESERVATION, CONTACT US BY PHONE AT 01-350 000 EXT. 8432 (WEEKDAYS, FROM 8 AM TILL 4 PM) OR BY EMAIL AT VA14@AUB.EDU.LB

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Play for a cause while beating cancer one *game* at a time!

In a heartwarming initiative, LOIG (Lebanese Organization for International Giving) has joined hands with the AUB UNICEF Club to raise funds for underprivileged cancer patients at the Cancer Support Fund, NKBCI, AUBMC.

This collaborative effort aims to make a significant impact on the lives of those battling cancer by providing them with essential support.

On Saturday, June 24th, 2023, a vibrant and entertaining fundraising event will take place at AUB Campus, Charles Hostler. The day promises an abundance of games, fun, and prizes for all attendees.

The poster features logos for LOIG, Cancer Support Fund, NAEF K. Basile Cancer Institute, and UNICEF at the top. The main title is 'Play for a Cause' in a cursive font, followed by 'BEATING CANCER ONE GAME AT A TIME' in bold block letters. A central graphic shows a signpost with three directions: 'Kids activities day from 10 AM till 2 PM', 'High school & University students from 2 till 5 PM Sports tournament', and 'Have the fun of your lives and donate to save lives!'. To the right, event details are listed: 'Saturday, June 24th', 'AUB Charles Hostler', and 'Ticket price: 4\$'. A large trophy is positioned below the details. The bottom of the poster is a banner with logos for sponsors including Aquafina, Pepsi, The Bros, Stories, LOTS, y au carré, The German Outlet, TOTELLY, CHAMPS, BONELESS 20, Coding, Chris & Heidi, Lebanon Networking Hub, The Medical Campaign, and LOKMA.



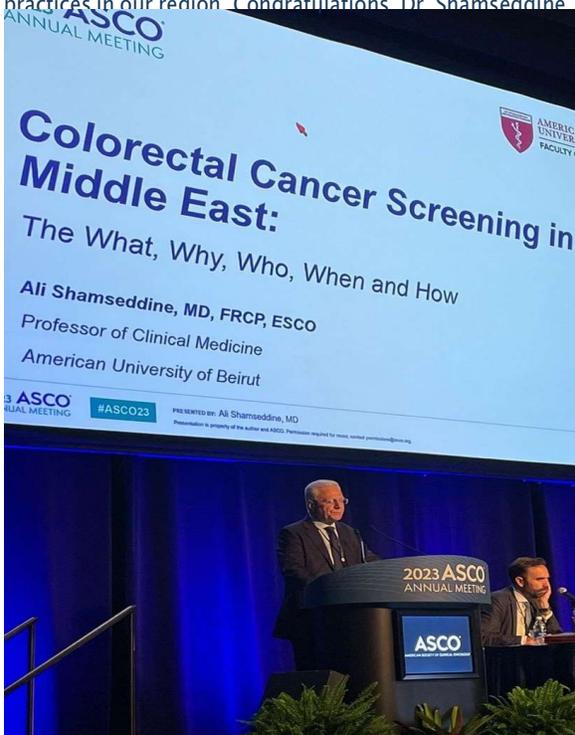
Dr. Tfayli’s Grand Round in KHCC

NKBCI proudly announces its educational collaboration with KHCC. On August 28, 2023, Dr. Arafat Tfayli, the first speaker from AUBMC at KHCC, delivered a successful grand round presentation about lung cancer, titled ‘Adjuvant/Neoadjuvant Therapy for Early-Stage NSCLC



Dr. Ali Shamseddine presentation in ASCO Annual Meeting 2023

NKBCI is delighted to share the recent achievement of Dr. Ali Shamseddine, who presented at the ASCO 2023 Annual Meeting held in Chicago. His insightful presentation was centered on the topic of colon cancer screening in the Middle East and was aptly titled: “Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Middle East.” Dr. Shamseddine’s participation in this prestigious event further underscores our commitment to advancing medical knowledge and improving healthcare practices in our region. Congratulations, Dr. Shamseddine, on this noteworthy contribution to the field!





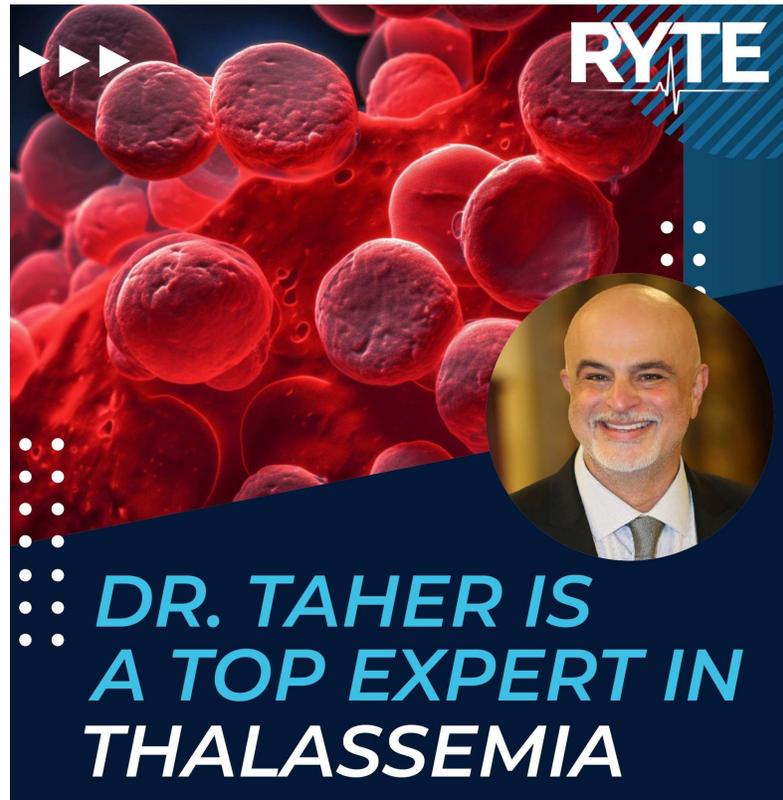
Dr. Ali Taher is a Top Expert in Thalassemia

NKBCI is thrilled to announce a significant recognition in the field of Hematology and Oncology.

RYTE, a cutting-edge platform for healthcare innovation, proudly acknowledges

Dr. Ali Taher as the top expert in Thalassemia. Dr. Taher serves as the Professor of Hematology & Oncology and is the Director of The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC (American University of Beirut Medical Center) in Beirut, Lebanon.

Congratulations to Dr. Ali Taher for this well-deserved recognition, and for his outstanding contributions to the field of Thalassemia.



2023 Gold Humanism Honour Society

The NKBCI congratulates Dr. Nour Moukalled and Dr. Ali Atoui on this well-deserved recognition!

Dr. Moukalled and Dr. Atoui are exemplars of humanistic and professional patient care and can serve as role models and mentors throughout their medical careers.

Congratulations!

THE ARNOLD P.
GOLD
FOUNDATION
Gold Humanism
Honor Society



Faculty
Dr. Nour
Moukalled



Resident
Dr. Ali Atoui

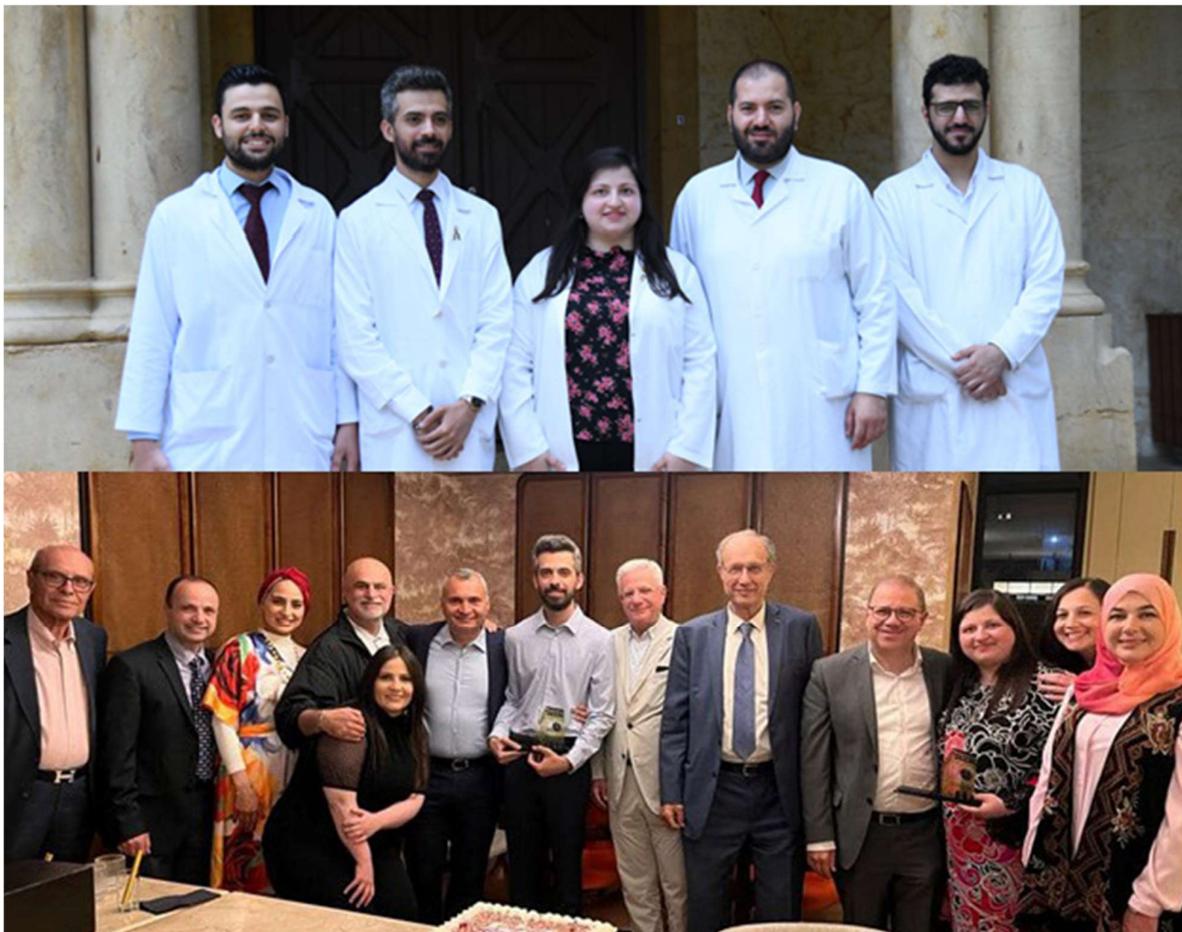


NKBCI Celebrates the Graduation of the HemOnc Fellows

The NKBCI recently came together in a heartwarming dinner to celebrate the graduation of two exceptional fellows, Dr. Ali Atoui and Dr. Loyal Mahmasani. The event brought together faculty and staff in a show of support and appreciation for the remarkable achievements of these graduates.

The celebratory evening was filled with touching talks that resonated with the spirit of success and determination. These heartwarming speeches added a special touch to the already joyous occasion.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Ali Atoui and Dr. Loyal Mahmasani on their well-deserved accomplishments. Their journey is a testament to their dedication and the unwavering support of the NKBCI community.



Announcements

New Service Program: Lymphatic care program

The Naef K. Basile Institute is pleased to offer Lymphatic Drainage treatment to cancer patients suffering from Lymphedema during their cancer journey.

To prevent and treat lymphedema, from diagnosis to treatment and survivorship, our experts in lymphedema therapy provide the care and support you need, when you need it. We welcome outside patients seeking consultation.



Our comprehensive approach to medicine weaves into a cancer patient's overall care plan, based on the latest scientific evidence. “



التصريف اللمفاوي هل تعلم؟

عليك أخذ كل المعلومات قبل عملية الثدي أو بعدها وأية تمارين عليك القيام بها بعد العملية

عليك مباشرة العلاج الفيزيائي الخاص بالأورام حسب تعليمات الطبيب والمعالج الفيزيائي





In the Spotlight

Nada Kashmar

Q: When did you join the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute?

A: In March 2023

Q: What is your job title?

A: Senior Office Assistant

Q: What are your main responsibilities?

A: I handle the day-to-day administrative tasks.

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

A: At the Haifa Idriss Fertility Unit in AUBMC.

Q: Where did you pursue your college studies?

A: BS in social sciences from the Lebanese University and MBA in Management from the Lebanese International University.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: I appreciate the daily opportunities for learning, growth, and expanding my knowledge to new limits.

Q: What would you like to improve in your current job?

A: I am currently focused on refining my skills and contributing effectively to the team.

Q: Tell us more about your ambition; in what would you like to develop your career?

A: I aspire to grow within the organization and take on roles that allow me to make a more significant impact.

Q: Where is the best trip destination and why?

A: For me, Georgia stands out as a top destination due to its beautiful nature, rich history, and delicious cuisine.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Reading, Cooking, and Gardening.

Q: What would be your best food choice?

A: Pasta.

Q: Tell us more about your character.

A: I would describe myself as calm and someone who actively seeks out challenges.

Q: What is your advice to your peers?

A: Love your work and let your passion drive you.

Q: What is your message to cancer patients?

A: Remember, hope is a powerful medicine.



Publications

1. Frequency and mutational spectrum of PIK3CA gene mutations in breast cancer patients: Largest and first report from Lebanon. Hamadeh LN, Farhat L, Hilal L, Assi H, Nasr F, Chahine G, Kattan J, Farhat F, Kourie H, El Hachem G, Ghosn M, El Saghir N, Chamseddine N, Finianos A, Ghanem H, Younes A, Gerges DA, Temraz S, Haidar M, Nabhan T, Chamseddine A, Tfayli A, Zaatari G, Mahfouz R. *Gene*. April 2023.
2. Improved Survival of Young Patients with Breast Cancer 40 Years and Younger at Diagnosis. El Saghir NS, Khalil LE, El Dick J, Atwani RW, Safi N, Charafeddine M, Al-Masri A, El Saghir BN, Chaccour M, Tfayli A, Assi H, Abbas J, Ayoub Z, Sbaity E, Moukadem HA. *JCO global oncology*. May 2023.
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8. Fludarabine/TBI 8 Gy versus fludarabine/treosulfan conditioning in patients with AML in first complete remission: a study from the Acute Leukemia Working Party of the EBMT. Bug G, Labopin M, Niittyvuopio R, Stelljes M, Reinhardt HC, Hilgendorf I, Kröger N, Kaare A, Bethge W, Schäfer-Eckart K, Verbeek M, Mielke S, Carlson K, Bazarbachi A, Spyridonidis A, Savani BN, Nagler A, Mohty M. *Bone marrow transplantation*. Jun 2023.
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