



NAEF K. BASILE
CANCER INSTITUTE

NKBCI

The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

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NKBCI New Endeavors

Genomic Profiling

NKBCI and AUBMC proudly announce the arrival of a groundbreaking advancement in cancer care: genomic profiling. This cutting-edge testing method examines all your genes, not just one, enabling doctors to predict your cancer's evolution and determine the most effective treatments. Available exclusively at AUBMC in the region, genomic profiling identifies risk markers for cancer screening, prognostic markers for progression and recurrence prediction, predictive markers for treatment guidance, and response markers for treatment efficacy assessment. Join us in embracing the future of personalized medicine and accessing tailored solutions for your cancer journey.

 Pioneering
Healthcare

PRECISION MEDICINE

The new era of cancer
diagnosis and treatment
in the region.

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region only at AUBMC

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Scientific Events



12th Annual Beirut Breast Cancer Conference (BBCC)

For the 12th consecutive year, despite challenges in Lebanon and the Middle East, NKBCI at AUBMC organized BBCC-12, a hybrid conference at ACC, AUBMC.

The opening ceremony was attended by Caretaker Minister of Public Health Firass Abiad, AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri, President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians Youssef Bakhach, President of Lebanese Society of General Surgery Joseph Maroun, Director of NKBCI Ali Taher, and Director of Breast Cancer Center of Excellence at AUBMC and President of BBCC-12 Nagi El Saghir.



During the ceremony, H.E. Firass Abiad gave a presentation on his new National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) for Lebanon and was followed by an open debate led by TV Anchor Nesrine Zawahra. Dr. Firass Abiad also addressed issues related to guidelines and use of WHO essential medication lists (EML) during current economic crisis. Dr. El Saghir informed the panel and audience that excellent treatment results and survival rates more than 80–90 percent are obtained in young patients with breast cancer at AUBMC as published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology – Global Oncology* in 2023 and that “we will continue all our clinical, educational, and research efforts to maintain high levels of medical practice at AUBMC and in Lebanon despite of all difficulties.

The conference featured over 300 attendees, 40 speakers from 14 countries, and sessions covering advancements in breast cancer management. It highlighted the significance of screening, early detection, and oncoplastic surgery. Best Abstract Awards were given, reinforcing AUBMC's commitment to breast cancer treatment and its leadership in healthcare.



Middle East and North Africa Immuno-Oncology Forum-MIOF

On March 8, the Immuno-Oncology Forum (MIOF) took place, led by Dr. Hazem Assi (Activity Director). The forum was meticulously designed to cover all aspects of Immuno-oncology practices, with a specific focus on both solid tumors and hematological malignancies. This dynamic virtual event featured leaders in the Oncology field, along with certified healthcare professionals, pharmacists, and nurses. Through engaging and interactive scientific sessions, these experts delved into a diverse array of diagnostic and therapeutic advancements within the scope of immune-oncology. This visionary initiative aimed to bring together the diverse research and business communities in the field, providing a unified platform for oncologists, hematologists, research scholars, and students to exchange their knowledge. The program focused on the most effective initiatives and best practices in treating both solid and liquid tumors.

MIOF V

**THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY FORUM MIOF V**

Friday, March 8, 2024
Beirut, Lebanon



Suresh Ramalingam



Dr. Hazem Assi



Hussein Tawbi

MIOF V



Towards a Future Free of Cervical Cancer

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and the Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program, in collaboration with the NKBCI, are leading a 3-year project titled "Towards a Future Free of Cervical Cancer." This initiative focuses on increasing HPV vaccine uptake among the AUB community to prevent cervical cancer. It aligns with global efforts to eliminate cervical cancer and aims for at least 80% vaccine uptake by 2027. The project seeks to set a model for other institutions and engage all medical schools in Lebanon.

Middle East Master Class in Hematology

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and the Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program, in collaboration with the NKBCI, are leading a 3-year project titled "Towards a Future Free of Cervical Cancer." This initiative focuses on increasing HPV vaccine uptake among the AUB community to prevent cervical cancer. It aligns with global efforts to eliminate cervical cancer and aims for at least 80% vaccine uptake by 2027. The project seeks to set a model for other institutions and engage all medical schools in Lebanon.



Awareness and Fundraising

World Cancer Day

The Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute hosted World Cancer Day Event, where the crucial topic was 'Screening for Cancer as a Strategy.'

AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri stated: "we continue to work through a multidisciplinary, collaborative, and holistic approach towards the diagnosis, prevention, research and treatment of cancer"

Among the guest list was Dr. Firas Abiad, Minister of Public Health, Dr. Pierre Anhoury, Dr. Arafat Tfayli, Dr. Rana Yamout, Dr. Maya Roumani, Dr. Abdul Rahman EL Bizri and Ms Hala Dahdah Abou Jaber.

The event discussed with 3rd party payers the current situation of cancer incidence as well as the current condition of coverage of screening tests and shared a request of screening test coverage for the 5 most common types of cancers with 3rd party payers as this can be a game changer for early detection of cancer and better patient outcome.



Ali Taher, MD, PhD, FRCP
Director, Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

"Igniting hope, one heartbeat at a time. On World Cancer Day, let's stand together in unity against cancer, supporting those in the fight and honoring the survivors"



Hiba Moukadem, MD
Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Program

"United against cancer: Embracing hope, fostering awareness, and empowering lives. Together, we can make a difference on World Cancer Day and close the care gap."



Multiple Myeloma Awareness Activity

On the Occasion of the International Multiple Myeloma Action Day, A journey of Hope and Strength for Multiple Myeloma special patient workshop, dedicated to spread Hope among the Multiple Myeloma Patients at AUBMC.

The activity was full of emotions, where patients shared their Multiple Myeloma journey and testimonial, patients were really grateful to the Hematologists guidance and follow ups which affected them positively.

The audience enjoyed the patient stories, physicians' explanations about the Multiple Myeloma, and a Violin Performance that aimed to boost the ambiance and the daring spirit of the champion patients.

Multiple Myeloma is a chronic disease with promising current and future therapies.



Palliative Care Fundraising Iftar

On the occasion of the holy Month of Ramadan, The Palliative and Supportive Care Program at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the American University of Beirut Medical Center organized a special fundraising iftar Dinner dedicated to seriously ill patients.

The Iftar was filled with compassion, unity, and the spirit of giving, and the support served as a source of comfort and hope for the patients' families.

Thanks to all who contributed to this collective effort in raising funds for palliative and supportive care which is much needed to alleviate the burden of their diseases.







CSF Colon Cancer Awareness

During the Colon Cancer awareness month, and as a part of raising awareness by the Cancer Support Fund, an educational video was shared by Dr. Sally Temraz who explained new details about the colon cancer, additional to awareness tips, that highlighted the importance of early detection and prevention.

Revive Tour on Mother's Day

On the occasion of the Mother's Day, Revive in collaboration with Cancercom distributed flowers to mothers battling cancer with strength at NKBCI, to spread love with the heroes of the day!

"Let's cherish every moment with our beloved mothers! Or Motherhood.. All love begins and ends there.."





Anti-tobacco campaign

Dr. Arafat Tfayli, Director of the National Cancer Implementation Plan Team, launched the anti-tobacco campaign “Turn it off before it turns you off,” at International College (IC) in Beirut.

The launch event, held at IC, was organized by the Elementary School team headed by the Director Kathy Khayatt and was attended by distinguished guests including Minister of Education, Dr. Abbas Al Halabi, Minister of Public Health, Dr. Firas Abiad '86, Mrs. Leila El Solh Hemade, Mrs. May Mikati, Dr. Abdinasir Abubakar representing the WHO, Dr. Arafat Tfayli, Director of the National Cancer Implementation Plan Team, Dr. Fadlo Khouri '81, President of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Mrs. May El Khalil, President of the Beirut Marathon Association, Mr. George Khabbaz, Lebanese Actor, Mr. Joel Peinado, President of IC, and Mrs. Nawal El Haddad, Vice President for Academics.

The event aimed at spreading awareness among school students about smoking effects on health and cancer incidence.



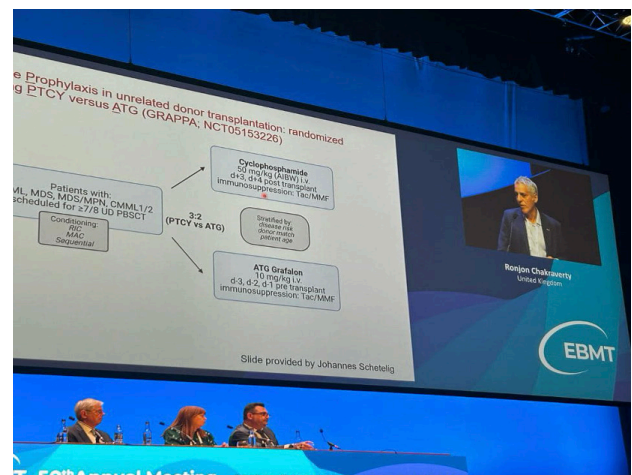
Special Lectures



EBMT 50th Annual Meeting

Dr. Jean El Cheikh chaired the 50th EBMT Annual Meeting in the GVHD Plenary session, Additional to being a speaker in acute leukemia session.

NKBCI takes immense pride in Dr. El Cheikh's accomplishments, reflecting our organization's dedication to supporting and recognizing excellence in medical research and practice.



Dr. Ghasan Abu Alfa- Grand Round

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged. It was popularised in the 1960s with the release of Letraset sheets containing Lorem Ipsum passages, and more recently with desktop publishing software like Aldus PageMaker including versions of Lorem Ipsum.

Awards and Recognitions

AUBMC Receives 6th Reaccreditation from Joint Commission International (JCI)

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) Awarded its 6th Reaccreditation from the Joint Commission International (JCI) in March 2024. The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, which is the highest award an organization can receive, was earned by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire NKBCI team for their outstanding dedication, their hard work and commitment have undoubtedly contributed to the success and impact of our organization.





Dr. Ali Taher Leads Research in treatment of Thalassemia–ENERGIZE

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) achieved a breakthrough in thalassemia research, led by Dr. Ali Taher, a distinguished expert in the field. Through collaboration with Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc., AUBMC completed the Phase 3 ENERGIZE study on mitapivat, a novel oral medication. This study, conducted in partnership with the Chronic Care Center, demonstrated promising results in non-transfusion dependent (NTD) thalassemia patients, enhancing hemoglobin levels and quality of life. Mitapivat has the potential to become the first approved oral therapy for NTD thalassemia, addressing a significant unmet medical need. Dr. Taher's leadership has been pivotal in advancing thalassemia treatment, showcasing AUBMC's commitment to cutting-edge research. The collaboration between AUBMC and Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc. signifies a significant stride forward in improving outcomes for thalassemia patients worldwide.



AD Scientific Index

NKBCI is very proud to share with you that Dr. Fadlo Khuri (1st), Dr. Ali Taher (6th), Dr. Ali Bazarbachi (9th), Dr. Ali Shamseddine (19th), Dr. Nagi El Saghir (26th), and Dr. Jean El Cheikh (38th) were featured in the Top 50 of the AD Scientific Index.

Congratulations!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-------|--------|--|----|----|--------|---------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 237 | 2,763 |  Fadlo R Khuri | 19 | 25 | 11,268 | 80,108 |  Ali Shamseddine |
| 6 | 6 | 2,242 | 20,121 |  Ali T Taher | 26 | 34 | 14,428 | 98,356 |  Nagi El Saghir |
| 9 | 13 | 4,888 | 39,647 |  Ali Bazarbachi | 38 | 50 | 18,858 | 123,537 |  Jean Elcheikh |



Dr. Bazarbachi elected Head of lymphoma working party at the EBMT

Congratulations to Dr. Bazarbachi for being elected as the Head of the Lymphoma Working Party at EBMT 2024. Dr. Bazarbachi was elected with 99.35% of the votes for the position of the Lymphoma Working Party in 2024.

We are proud of you, Dr. Bazarbachi!



Dr. Firas Kreidieh serves as Associate Director for the Internal Medicine residency program

Dr. Firas Kreidieh has been appointed as the Associate Director for the Internal Medicine Residency program in the Department of Internal Medicine at AUBMC.

Well-deserved, Dr. Kreidieh!



In the Spotlight



Monita Al Darazi

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

A: February 2011

Q: What is your job title?

A: Clinical Trial Coordinator

Q: What are your main responsibilities?

A: Managing clinical research studies at NKBCI-DMCRU

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

A: NICU and Pediatric cardiology unit

Q: Where did you pursue your college studies?

A: AUB

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: It's challenging, innovative, and dynamic.

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

A: Improve the visibility on the importance of clinical research and clinical trial work.

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

A: I aspire to pursue a doctoral degree.

Q: Where is the best trip destination and why?

A: Greece, because of its stunning natural beauty.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Volley ball and music.

Q: What would be your best food choice?

A: Sea food.

Q: Tell us more about your character.

A: I would describe myself as an open book.

Q: What is your advice to your peers?

A: Be transparent.

Q: What is your message to cancer patients?

A: Believe in medicine and science.

Publications

1. Improvements in Posttransplant Outcomes Over Two Decades in Older Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in the EBMT ALWP Study.

Bazarbachi A, Labopin M, Moukalled N, Kröger N, Rautenberg C, Schetelig J, Finke J, Blau IW, Blaise D, Stelljes M, Eder M, Platzbecker U, Dreger P, Bethge W, Tischer J, Burns D, Sengeloev H, Brissot E, Giebel S, Nagler A, Ciceri F, Mohty M.

Clinical cancer research: an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, May 2024

2. In the era of Bortezomib-based Induction, intensification of Melphalan-based conditioning with Bortezomib does not improve Survival Outcomes in newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma: a study from the Chronic Malignancies Working Party of the EBMT.

Beksac M, Eikema DJ, Koster L, Hulin C, Poiré X, Hamladji RM, Gromek T, Bazarbachi A, Ozkurt ZN, Pabst T, Ben Othman T, Finke J, Pirogova O, Wu D, Hayat A, Hilgendorf I, Tholouli E, de Wreede LC, Schönland S, Garderet L, Drozd-Sokolowska J, Raj K, Hayden PJ, Yakoub-Agha I, McLornan DP

Bone marrow transplantation, Apr 2024

3. Lower relapse incidence with haploidentical versus matched sibling or unrelated donor hematopoietic cell transplantation for core-binding factor AML patients in CR2: A study from the Global Committee and the Acute Leukemia Working Party of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.

Ye Y, Labopin M, Gérard S, Yakoub-Agha I, Blau IW, Aljurf M, Forcade E, Gedde-Dahl T, Burns D, Vydra J, Halahleh K, Hamladji RM, Bazarbachi A, Nagler A, Brissot E, Li L, Luo Y, Zhao Y, Ciceri F, Huang H, Mohty M, Gorin NC

American journal of hematology, Apr 2024

4. Haploidentical stem cell donor choice for patients with acute myeloid leukemia: A study from the ALWP of the EBMT.

Sanz J, Labopin M, Blaise D, Raiola AM, Busca A, Vydra J, Tischer J, Chevallier P, Bramanti S, Fanin R, Socié G, Forcade E, Kröger N, Koc Y, Itälä-Remes M, Zecca M, Nagler A, Brissot E, Spyridonidis A, Bazarbachi A, Giebel S, Piemontese S, Mohty M, Ciceri F

Blood advances, Mar 2024

5. Bi- and Tri-specific antibodies in non-Hodgkin lymphoma: current data and perspectives.

Abou Dalle I, Dulery R, Moukalled N, Ricard L, Stocker N, El-Cheikh J, Mohty M, Bazarbachi A

Blood cancer journal, Jan 2024

6. Complex karyotype but not other cytogenetic abnormalities is associated with worse posttransplant survival of patients with nucleophosmin 1-mutated acute myeloid leukemia: A study from the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Acute Leukemia Working Party.

Moukalled N, Labopin M, Versluis J, Socié G, Blaise D, Salmenniemi U, Rambaldi A, Gedde-Dahl T, Tholouli E, Kröger N, Bourhis JH, Von Dem Borne P, Daguindau E, Forcade E, Nagler A, Esteve J, Ciceri F, Bazarbachi A, Mohty M

American journal of hematology, Jan 2024

7. Esophageal cancer: a twenty-four-year experience at a tertiary care center with an evaluation of the prognostic significance of the neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio.

Mahmoud W, Hassoun L, Kerbage A, Mukherji D, Shamseddine A, Tamraz S, Hakim A, Barada K

BMC gastroenterology, Jan 2024

8. Genomic profiling of bladder cancer in waterpipe and cigarette smokers: Implications for carcinogenicity and genetic landscape.

Shamseddine A, Abbas N, Chatila W, Walch H, Eichholz J, Schultz N, Solit D, Charafeddine M, Al Darazi M, Abou-Alfa G, Al-Ahmadie H

Gastrointestinal ASCO, 2024

9. International real-world study of total neoadjuvant therapy (tnt) for locally advanced rectal cancer (LARC).

Alessandro A, Velenik V, Meillat H, Ruiz-Gracia E, Riesco M, J Dekervel J, Carvalho C, Alecha J, Kirac I, Capdevila J, Artac M, O J, Braam P, Shamseddine A, Moretto R, Paez D, Dulskas A, De Felice F, Vanden Bulcke, Sclafani F

Gastrointestinal ASCO, January 2024

10. Quality of life, mood disorders, and cognitive impairment in adults with B-thalassemia.

Authors: Bizri M, Koleilat R, Akiki N, Dergham R, Mihailescu AM, Bou-Fakhredin R, Musallam KM, Taher AT

Blood reviews, Feb 2024

11. Unmet needs in B-thalassemia and the evolving treatment landscape.

Njeim R, Naouss B, Bou-Fakhredin R, Haddad A, Taher A

Transfusion clinique et biologique: journal de la Societe francaise de transfusion sanguine, Feb 2024



12. Alpha-thalassemia: A practical overview.

Musallam KM, Cappellini MD, Coates TD, Kuo KHM, Al-Samkari H, Sheth S, Viprakasit V, Taher AT
Blood reviews, Jan 2024

13. Novel insights into cardiovascular toxicity of cancer targeted and immune therapies: Beyond ischemia with non-obstructive coronary arteries (INOCA).

Kreidieh F, McQuade J

American heart journal plus: cardiology research and practice, Apr 2024

14. Novel Insights into Cardiovascular Toxicity of Cancer Targeted and Immune Therapies: Beyond Ischemia with Non-Obstructive Coronary Arteries (INOCA)

Kreidieh F, McQuade J

American Heart Journal, February 2024

15. Primary alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma of the brain: a case report.

Al Mahmasani L, Najjar M, Hourany R, Tabbarah A, Sinno S, Chamseddine N, Abou Zeidane R, Amhaz G, Youssef B, Assi HI
Journal of medical case reports, Mar 2024

16. Editorial: 50 years of BMT: conditioning regimens and early complications after transplantation.

Malagola M, Greco R, El Cheikh J

Frontiers in oncology, 2024

17. Systemic Treatment of Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer: ASCO Resource-Stratified Guideline.

Al Sukhun S, Temin S, Barrios CH, Antone NZ, Guerra YC, Chavez-MacGregor M, Chopra R, Danso MA, Gomez HL, Homian NM, Kandil A, Kithaka B, Koczwara B, Moy B, Nakigudde G, Petracci FE, Rugo HS, El Saghir NS, Arun BK

JCO global oncology, Jan 2024

