

O B G Y N

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

Our lives are dedicated to yours

THE FERTILITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

On August 17, 2021, the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) at the Department of OBS/GYN at AUBMC, launched the Fertility Preservation Program at the Haifa Idriss Fertility Unit under the directorship of Dr. Ghina Ghazeeri.

The program will be offering various methods for preserving fertility, for both female and male patients who electively wish to preserve their fertility with the aim of achieving ones' biological progeny at a later stage of life. Candidates for fertility preservation include cancer patients prior to chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy, patients with autoimmune and/or genetic disease with predisposition for decreased gamete reserve, and women who opt to delay childbearing for social and/or personal reasons.

This is a collaboration with the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, Children's Cancer Institute, and the Department of Psychiatry. Our multidisciplinary team includes reproductive endocrinology specialists, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, urologists and oncology nurses.

It has been a while since we last issued our newsletter. We have been working hard as faculty and medical and paramedical staff to ensure the smooth running of the department in these difficult times to continue offering the same level of service that we have always strived to provide. Highlighted in this issue are news about the launching of the Fertility Preservation Program at the Haifa Idriss Fertility Unit, about departing residents, and the upcoming departmental symposium on November 13, 2021. We will also share some intriguing facts about AUB in the "Did You Know?" section. Enjoy reading this issue.

Sincerely,
Anwar Nassar, MD
Editor-in-Chief



THE FERTILITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Fertility Preservation Program accepts patient referrals daily during working days from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For patient referrals, kindly contact the Haifa Idriss Fertility Unit at AUBMC on extension: 7951. Mrs. Najwa Hammoud will be assigned to ensure your referral is seen on the same day.

We look forward to serving all eligible patients to benefit from our unique services. For more information about the program, please open the link: <https://aubmc.org.lb/clinical/OBSGYN/Pages/main/news/Fertility-Preservation-Program-at-AUBMC.aspx>

GRADUATING RESIDENTS/ FELLOWS 2021 WHEREABOUTS

This year again, the Department of OBS/GYN graduated five residents and one Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) fellow. Again, this year the celebration was an informal dinner of the graduating residents/fellows with their mentors. Dr. Georges Rameh has joined as an Associate Practitioner at Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal Elbeuf - Louviers - Val de Reuil, France for 2 years following which he will join the French Order of Physicians. Dr. Christian Dagher is training with Professor Golfier at the Maternity Unit of Centre Hospitalier Lyon-Sud, France. Dr. Samer Al Zoghbi is preparing his MRCOG Part 2 to apply for the UK as a specialist. Dr. Nouran Hamed has joined the University of Texas Health Science Center, McGovern Medical Center in Houston, USA as an OBGYN hospitalist fellow for 2 years. Dr. Sara Assaf is planning to practice as an obstetrics specialist in Dubai, UAE. Dr. Lina El-Taha will pursue a career in REI in the Gulf Region.



HYBRID EVENT

2021 SYMPOSIUM: UPDATES IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER

PROFESSOR ISMAIL M. KHALIL AUDITORIUM, AUBMC
AND VIA WEBEX

13 A UNIQUE SYMPOSIUM HOSTING
INTERNATIONAL
SPEAKERS
2021



Organized by the Continuing Medical Education Office (CME)
and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the
American University of Beirut Medical Center



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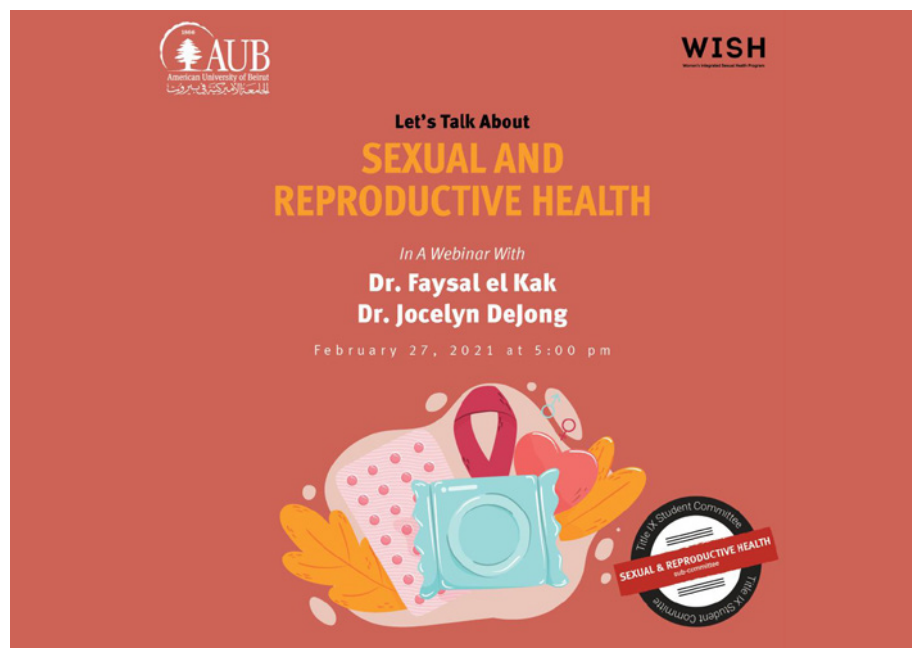
OUR GRADUATES ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR AMERICAN BOARD CERTIFICATION

The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) announced on March 4, 2021 that it received approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to pursue implementation of an Alternate Pathway to achieve OBS/GYN Specialty Certification for physicians who have completed training in OBS/GYN residency programs accredited by organizations other than the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and who have achieved OBS/GYN certification in another country or by another certification organization. The Alternate Pathway to OBS/GYN certification applies to graduates from OBS/GYN residency programs that are accredited by the ACGME-International with Advanced Specialty Accreditation. As such, our graduates since July 1, 2015, our initial date of ACGME-I accreditation, are eligible to pursue this for possible certification and can access the following website for more details: <https://www.abog.org/specialty-certification/alternate-pathway-to-certification>.

WISH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program at the Women's Health Center (WHC) recently conducted a 2-day course on sexual health for health care providers sponsored by an unrestricted grant. It is collaborating with AUB wellness on a series of sexual health awareness webinars 2021-2022. The program also received a grant from UNFPA for a health promotion project covering menstrual hygiene, sexually transmitted infections, sexuality and sexual health, and mental health following the Beirut blast and the project was concluded in April 2021.

Another project on training on menstrual health hygiene and sexual health matters and that is expected to span over 3 months this fall was just funded.



OBGYN INTEREST GROUP: PASSION TO OBS/GYN

The OBGYN Interest Group (OGIG) is a student-led initiative aiming to bring together, inform, and orient AUBMC medical students who share a passion for OBS/GYN, while fostering a solid understanding and appreciation of the field. Since its foundation in November 2020, the OGIG now comprises more than 100 student members and volunteers, creating possibly the first and largest student interest group at AUB - Faculty of Medicine. This large community of students is divided into various teams with curated roles and objectives.

The activities led by OGIG include hosting journal clubs, guest lecturers, and mentoring talks and sharing monthly newsletters, initiating healthcare advocacy and education campaigns, as well as volunteering and coordinating free, bi-monthly, student-run Women's Health Clinics at the OBS/GYN outpatient clinics. Through the previous four such clinics conducted by OGIG, more than 40 patients have received comprehensive care including clinical examinations and assessments, screening tests, imaging, and laboratory studies at nil or significantly reduced prices. Those clinics are run under the supervision of OBS/GYN attending physicians and residents.

If you would like to support or donate to the OGIG-WHC fund, please contact ogig@aub.edu.lb or +961 81593825.



ACADEMIC NEWS

- Dr. Anwar Nassar participated in the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) global webinar "Covid-19 Vaccination for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women" on March 2, 2021. He also participated in a joint university project with the Lebanese International University (LIU) by giving 2 lectures about "Family Planning and Contraception" to university students on May 28-29, 2021. In addition, Dr. Nassar was invited as an external reviewer among the Guideline Development Group (GDG) panel for the review of the World Health Organization (WHO) antenatal care guidelines: "Update of Early Ultrasound Scan Recommendation" in June 2021. The recommendations will be issued later during this year.
- Dr. Sandrine Atallah was elected a "Member at Large" of the Board of the International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) and was recently reappointed as the Chairperson of the ISSM Communication Committee. She was also the moderator of the 3rd ISSM webinar on Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder that was held on August 28, 2020. In addition, she was an invited speaker to talk about "Unconsumed Marriages" during the online "Andrology & Sexual Medicine Days" that were held on September 4-5, 2020 with participants from France, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. Lastly, she participated on July 17, 2020 in the monthly webinar of the Iraqi Urology Association where she discussed "A Psychosocial Approach to Erectile Dysfunction."
- Dr. Faysal El Kak conducted a series of virtual national and international seminars on COVID-19 and pregnancy as well as sexual health issues. Those seminars included conferences in India, UAE, USA, South Africa, Iraq, and Serbia.

PUBLICATIONS

- The EPPPIC Group. Aboulghar MM, Alfirevic Z, Azaroon A, Bagga R, Bahrami E, Beresford L, Blackwell S, Caritis SN, Combs, Jennifer Crowell, Caroline A Crowther, Anita F Das, Kay Dickersin, Kristina C Dietz, Lelia Duley, Elimian AC, Grobman WA, Hodkinson A, Llewellyn A, Maurel KA, McKenna DS, Mol BW, Mollie K, Morrison J, Mueller J, Nassar A, et al. Evaluating Progestogens for Preventing Preterm birth International Collaborative (EPPPIC): Meta-analysis of individual participant data from randomised controlled trials. *Lancet* 2021 March 27;397(10280):1183-94.
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CONGRATULATIONS

- Dr. Karam Karam was selected for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) AUB Chapter in May 2021. The mission of the GHHS is to recognize individuals who are exemplars of humanistic patient care and who will serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. No one exemplifies those values at their best more than Dr. Karam. Congratulations for a very-well-deserved recognition.
- Dr. Ali Khalil was again the recipient of this year's "National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education" presented by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG). This was based on the voting of the OBGYN residents acknowledging his dynamic role in their education. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Khalil for a well-earned award.
- Dr. Dima Salloum, a chief resident this year, was the winner of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG) Basic Training (BT) challenge on Optical Positioning Ultrasound Simulators (OPUS) that followed the course "Highlighting the practical aspect of ISUOG BT course with OPUS simulators" on July 17-18, 2021. Participants from Belgium, Holland, Ghana, Lebanon, and many other countries performed supervised obstetric and gynecological ultrasound simulation practices.
- Dr. Georges Rameh, who graduated on June 14, 2021, won the "FRP Oral Winning Presentation" award in the Department of OBS/GYN for his research entitled "Influenza and Pertussis Vaccination during Pregnancy: Prevalence, Patient's Attitude and Knowledge in a Lebanese Population" at the "8th Annual Clinical Research E-Open House 2020" that was held on May 26-28, 2021. Congratulations.
- Dr. Rima Hajjar won the "Highest CREOG Exam Score" Award and Dr. Christian Dagher won the "Best Resident of the Year" Award for Year 2020/2021. Congratulations.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

REEM ABDALLAH



Q: When did you join the Department of OBS/GYN?

A: I joined the department in July 2015.

Q: What is your title?

A: Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Q: What are your main duties?

A: Most of my duties are clinical; mainly taking care of patients with gynecologic cancers and teaching residents and students in the operating room, on the floor and in the Outpatient Department. I am also the Medical Quality Director of the Department of OBSGYN.

Q: Prior to joining this department, what were you doing?

A: I was finishing my fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center in USA.

Q: If you were not doing this job, what would you have chosen to do?

A: Maybe space science and astrophysics.

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?

A: Challenging surgeries.

Q: What do you find most challenging about your job?

A: Taking care of very sick patients sometimes and long challenging surgeries.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go and why?

A: Europe in general and France in specific. I have family there.

Q: What do you enjoy doing during your free time?

A: Spending time with family and walking.

Q: What is something that most people don't know about you?

A: I can sometimes lose my temper and get angry easily.

Q: What is your point of weakness?

A: Shyness.

Q: Who is your favorite artist?

A: I enjoy classical oriental music in particular Fairuz, Oum Kulthoum, Warda and Sabah.

Q: What is your favorite song these days?

A: Ziad Rahbani songs "Shou Hal Ayyam" and "Esmaa Ya Reda."

Q: What is the movie or book you recently enjoyed watching or reading?

A: "La Parure" by the French writer Guy de Maupassant.

Did you know?

- AUB ranked as the number two university in the Arab world and number 242 worldwide in 2021.
- AUB campus spans over an area of 246,453 square meters.
- The Syrian Protestant College, which was renamed AUB in 1920, opened with its first class of 16 students on December 3, 1866. The school of medicine followed one year later in 1867.
- The cornerstone of College Hall, the first building on the present campus in Ras Beirut, was laid on December 7, 1871.
- In 1890, AUB awarded its first honorary doctorates to Yaqub Sarruf and Faris Nimr, recognizing their pioneering work in journalism.
- In 1921, AUB admitted, for the first-time, women as graduate students in the schools of medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry.
- In December 1922, May Ziadeh became the first woman to lecture at AUB.
- In 1933, Edma Abu-Chedid, became the first woman to receive a medical doctorate from the institution.
- In 1966, AUB awarded its first PhD in Arabic history.
- Estimated at 70,000 living alumni, AUB graduates reside in approximately 115 countries worldwide.
- All presidents of the university have been in residence at Marquand House, which was completed in 1879.
- According to US Attorney General Robert Kennedy, "More world leaders have been educated at 'AUB' than any other institution I can think of – even Harvard."
- There were more graduates of AUB (19 delegates) than from any other institution present at the signing of the UN Charter on June 26. Five of them even signed the UN Charter.

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