

O B G Y N

Issue N° 42 Winter Newsletter 2023



Our lives are dedicated to yours

RECOGNIZING A SPECIAL NURSE

When you believe that you belong to the place where you have worked for so long, it is no surprise that you continue to visit your workplace even after you retire. Miss Vicky Felfli, a practical nurse who served the Department of OBS/GYN for 44 consecutive years (1978-2022), still pays visits to the Women's Health Center. During one of those visits, she was given a small token of appreciation from the physicians, most of whom worked with her since they joined the department.



Winter has been described as a season of recovery and inspiration. During this winter; however, we have experienced a deadly natural disaster in neighboring countries which has affected all of us. At a personal level, the Department of OBS/GYN has lost a dear colleague and a special alumnus, Dr. Roland Tannous whose biography is summarized in this issue. Also highlighted are some departmental news, Special Grand Rounds for the three upcoming months and a recognition of one of our retired nurses. We will also share some captivating random facts in the "Did You Know?" section. Enjoy reading this issue.

Sincerely,
Anwar Nassar, MD
Editor-in-Chief



A SIMULATION WORKSHOP ... MANY TO FOLLOW

The Department of OBS/GYN at AUBMC, in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of OBS/GYN (LSOG), organized a hybrid simulation workshop on highly important subjects in obstetrics, covering maternal sepsis and cardiac arrest management. The activity that was held on November 8, 2022, started with a welcome note by Dr. Anwar Nassar, followed by didactic lectures by Drs. Nabil El Khoury and Abdallah Adra.



Subsequently, the residents and some faculty members from AUBMC, Lebanese American University and Beirut Arab University, were able to practice on both clinical scenarios, and work on improving their intubation skills.

The workshop was a success and a great learning experience in developing a team approach and enhancing preparedness to such rare, challenging, yet devastating events.

At the end, the participants were awarded certificates of attendance and participation, by the LSOG. Collective photos were taken, and an on-site analysis of the workshop was performed by the simulation team, and the day was concluded.



ACADEMIC NEWS

- Dr. Anwar Nassar was invited as a speaker to the 6th European Congress on Intrapartum Care, which will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from March 9-11, 2023. He will also be the moderator and one of the two speakers in the pre-congress course "PPH - practical management."
- Dr. Tony Bazi was recently invited to assume the role of editor of the International Urogynecology Journal, the official journal of the International Urogynecological Association.
- Dr. Faysal El Kak presented on "Elimination of cervical cancer in the Arab world" in the national meeting of the Tunisian Society of OBS/GYN from November 12-15, 2022. He also presented in KSA on updates in "Menopause management 2022", and "Genito-pelvic pain" on November 25, 2022.
- Dr. Sandrine Atallah was an invited speaker to the 23rd International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) scientific meeting that was held in Miami, Florida on October 27-30, 2022 and to the 7th Congress of the Tunisian Society of Clinical Sexology that was held in Tunis, Tunisia on November 11-12, 2022. She talked about "Social media to promote your practice" and "Hypnosis for the management of vaginismus."

WISH PROGRAM WINTER ACTIVITIES

The Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program implemented a joint UNFPA and Ministry of Public Health project on capacity building in reproductive sexual health to around 400 health care providers across Lebanon in collaboration with the Department of OBS/GYN during November and December 2022.

UPCOMING SPECIAL GRAND ROUNDS

Sireesha Y. Reddy, MD, MS – February 22, 2023 @ 5 pm – Navigating and Managing PCOS Symptoms: More than Just Irregular Menses.

Dr. Reddy is a professor and chair at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She trained at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and at the University of Rochester. With a career focus in translational work, her interests have always focused on how basic science application can lead to clinical advancement with the goal of improving chronic conditions that affect adolescents, which continue to manifest into their adulthood. She has received the NIH Career Development Awards through Women's Reproductive Health Research Program and Howard Hughes Biomedical Research Program which laid the foundation for a career in academic medicine. Her focus is to mentor faculty to be successful in their research careers by serving as a role model, but also to encourage and provide opportunities that will allow them to succeed.

Adam V. Levy, MD – March 22, 2023 @ 5 pm – Family Planning: New Frontiers.

Dr. Levy is an associate professor of OBS/GYN and the director of the Division of Family Planning at University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Medicine. He is also the chief of OB/GYN at University Medical Center. Dr. Levy was deployed to Saudi Arabia and stationed at Riyadh International Airport during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His tour earned him decoration, and he was granted an Honorable Discharge as a United States Air Force Major. Clerkship coordinator, community liaison OBS/GYN, lecturer, and director of community OBS/GYN services are a few of the roles Dr. Levy has held during his 30 years of practicing medicine in the Las Vegas valley.

Ruben Quintero, MD – April 26, 2023 @ 5 pm – An Overview of Fetal Therapy/Fetal/Surgery

Dr. Quintero is currently a professor of OBS/GYN at the Fetal Institute Miami, Florida. He trained at Yale University for OBS/GYN residency and Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship. He is internationally known for his pioneering work in fetal therapy. Dr. Quintero has over 20 years of experience in the management of complicated pregnancies and has performed more than 1000 fetal surgeries. Dr. Quintero has had a productive academic career, including the publication of the Quintero Staging System which is used in the assessment of patients affected with Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. He is the editor of the first book on Twin-Transfusion syndrome, as well as the book on Diagnostic and Operative Fetoscopy. Dr. Quintero has had hundreds of international presentations and has been featured in the media, including The New York Times, Washington Post, Der Spiegel, El Pais, ABC News, CBS News, Good Morning America and other media outlets. Dr. Quintero has trained fetal surgeons around the world, including South America, Australia and Europe.

PUBLICATIONS

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- Abdallah R, Chamsy D, Dagher C, Hajjar R, El Housheimi A, Seoud M, Khalil A. Borderline ovarian tumors: A retrospective cohort study on single institution experience, practice patterns and outcomes. *J Obstet Gynaecol* 2022 Oct 17. [Ahead of print].
- Seoud M, Jaafar I, Hamadeh R, Ammar W, Atallah D, El-Kak F. Feasibility of implementing cytology-based cervical cancer screening national program in Lebanon: A pilot study. *Int J Gynecol Obstet* 2022 Oct 2;00:1-7. [Ahead of print].
- Seoud M, Jaafar I, Ghanem R, Sobhie C, Adra A, Nassar AH, Khalil A. Outcomes of human papilloma virus vaccination in a private women health clinic in Lebanon. *Obstet Gynecol Int* 2022 Oct 12. [Ahead of print].
- Jaafar I, Atallah D, Mirza F, Abu Musa A, Faysal El-Kak F, Seoud M. Determinants of human papillomavirus vaccine recommendation among Middle Eastern and Lebanese healthcare providers. *Clin Epidemiol Glob Health* 2022 Oct. [Ahead of print].

DR. ROLAND TANNOUS: YOU ARE ALREADY MISSED

On January 28, 2023, the Department of OBS/GYN and the OBS/GYN community lost Dr. Roland Tannous, an AUB graduate, colleague, and friend. Dr. Tannous graduated from AUB in 1992 as a medical doctor. He then completed his residency in OBS/GYN at AUBMC 1996, followed by a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School at Norfolk, Virginia. He started his private practice at "Tripoli Perinatal Clinic" in 1999. He was a reference in high-risk pregnancy and advanced fetal ultrasonography. Dr. Tannous was very active at the OBS/GYN scene. He was a member of several international scientific associations including Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine, International Society of Ultrasound in OBS/GYN, and Societe Francaise pour l'amelioration des pratiques echographiques. He was the president of the Scientific Committee of the Lebanese Order of Physicians - Tripoli for several years, the president of the Surgical Society of North Lebanon 2009-2011, and the founding president of North Lebanon Society of OBS/GYN. He was also the ex-president of Tripoli Lions Club, a member of AUB Alumni Association, and an elected member of the Worldwide AUB Alumni Association. Dr. Tannous will always be remembered for his humility, loving nature, easy-going personality and foremost, his smile that never left his face. Roland you will be dearly missed.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT LUBNA HAWILA



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

A: I joined the department in June 2010.

Q: What is your title?

A: I am a teller at the Women's Health Center.

Q: What are your main duties?

A: To perform basic administrative clinical tasks, identify patients' needs, and ensure that patients get high-quality service by tracking and managing their cash flows and processing their transactions.

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

A: I was living in Italy where I worked as a hostess at the "Open Care Atelier" that is specialized in restoration of art work.

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

A: I would have chosen to be an auditor, a social worker or an event planner.

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?

A: The most enjoyable thing is to stamp a smile on a patient's face while respecting the professional standards of AUBMC and to feel appreciated for my hard work.

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

A: The most challenging is having to multi-task and be confident in my own ability. I firmly believe that many challenges present unique opportunities.

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

A: Seychelles, where serenity is guaranteed.

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

A: Shopping and family outings.

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

A: My spontaneity.

Q: What is your point of weakness?

A: My children.

Q: Who is your favorite artist?

A: I love the songs of Luciano Pavarotti, Laura Pausini and Kazem Al-Saher.

Q: What is your favorite song these days?

A: "Ikhtari" by Kazem Al-Saher.

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

A: The American drama television series "Manifest."

Did you know?

- The deadliest recorded earthquake in the history occurred in the province of Shaanxi in China on January 23, 1556, claiming the lives of an estimated 830,000 people (including direct deaths and those who died from famine and plagues).
- The most powerful earthquake recorded on the Richter scale was the 9.5-magnitude Valdivia earthquake that struck Chile in 1960 and lasted 10 minutes.
- Just like earth, the moon can have quakes (moonquakes) that are usually not as severe as those of the earth, and can last for up to one hour.
- The human circulatory system of blood vessels is over 100,000 kilometers long. That's long enough to go around the world more than twice!
- Sudan has far more pyramids than Egypt – 255 compared to 138 pyramids that have been discovered in Egypt.
- The world's first animated feature film was "El Apóstol." It was made in Argentina, included 58,000 drawings, and had a running time of 70 minutes.
- The Philippines is an archipelago, which means it is made up of an extensive group of islands - 7,641 islands, to be exact.
- The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railroad in the world. The journey lasts seven days, during which time the passenger passes through eight different time zones and crosses 3,901 bridges.
- Because they are denser, limes drop to the bottom of a glass, while lemons float at the top.
- Wearing headphones for just 60 minutes could increase the bacteria in the ear by 700 times.
- Only four words in the English language end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

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