

OBGYN

Issue N° 36 Spring/Summer Newsletter 2020



Our lives are dedicated to yours

AUB: HERE TO STAY

These are challenging times for AUB – and for many members of our AUB family. Universities and medical centers all over the world have been affected by COVID-19. AUB is facing additional challenges because of the economic situation in Lebanon. Our university has overcome challenges before – and will again this time. There is no doubt.

Many people are contributing to the [FM Education Hardship Fund](#), providing scholarships for medical and graduate students or to the [AUBMC Emergency Fund](#) to help our most vulnerable employees. If you can give, please do.

Thank you.



Many events have occurred since we published our last newsletter. Surviving in this era of COVID-19 and economic turmoil is already an achievement. These are difficult times for all of us and for our Alma Mater. We owe AUB a lot, and this is the time when we all should show solidarity. In this issue, we pay tribute to a teacher and mentor who has touched us all with his humility and refinement, Dr. Fayez Suidan. Also highlighted in this issue are some fetal surgery procedures that were performed at AUBMC for the first time, news about departing residents, and the active involvement of our faculty members in educational activities about COVID-19. We also share some intriguing facts about WhatsApp in the “Did you know?” section. Enjoy reading this issue.

Sincerely,
Anwar Nassar, MD
Editor-in-Chief

DR. FAYEZ SUIDAN: WE MISS YOU ALREADY

Dr. Fayez Suidan (1931-2020) left us on March 28. This sad event had tremendous weight on all of us at the Department of OBS/GYN and on all those who had the chance and privilege to know Dr. Suidan. Dr. Suidan received his MD from AUB, Faculty of Medicine in 1955. He then completed a four-year residency training in surgery (1955-1959) at AUB, following which he joined the University of Chicago where he completed three years of residency training in OBS/GYN (1959-1962). He returned to AUB as an Assistant Professor in 1962 and was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor in 1982. He served as the acting Chair of the Department of OBS/GYN from 1998-2000 and remained an active faculty and physician until June 2018. His contributions to the specialty of OBS/GYN were recognized nationally and internationally. He was the recipient of the Cedar Medal - Commander Rank, the Medal of Appreciation from the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Order of Merit from the American College of Surgeons.

Apart from his excellent record throughout his professional career, he was loved and respected by all medical students, residents, colleagues, and paramedical staff for his high moral values, compassion, and loving character. He was an inspiration to all of us as a teacher, mentor, talented surgeon, and a role model.



According to Dr. Suidan, "I spent more time at AUB and its facilities than I spent with my family. My love for AUB is inherited since my brother, cousins, and nephew graduated from this marvelous institution. As a sophomore student, I received a grant to continue my studies because it was not possible to bring money from Palestine in 1948. After finishing my residency in surgery, Dr. McDonald arranged for me to go to the University of Chicago for a residency in OBS/GYN. As you see, I owe AUB a lot and hope to pay some of it back one day."

Dr. Suidan was a classical music lover and often shared with me a selection of CDs that I am keeping as a memory from him. In celebration of his legacy, we have prepared a CD that contains some of the pieces he loved. This will be played at the Women's Health Center and copies will be shared with his family. Dr. Suidan, you will always be remembered for your kindness, wit, and refined taste.



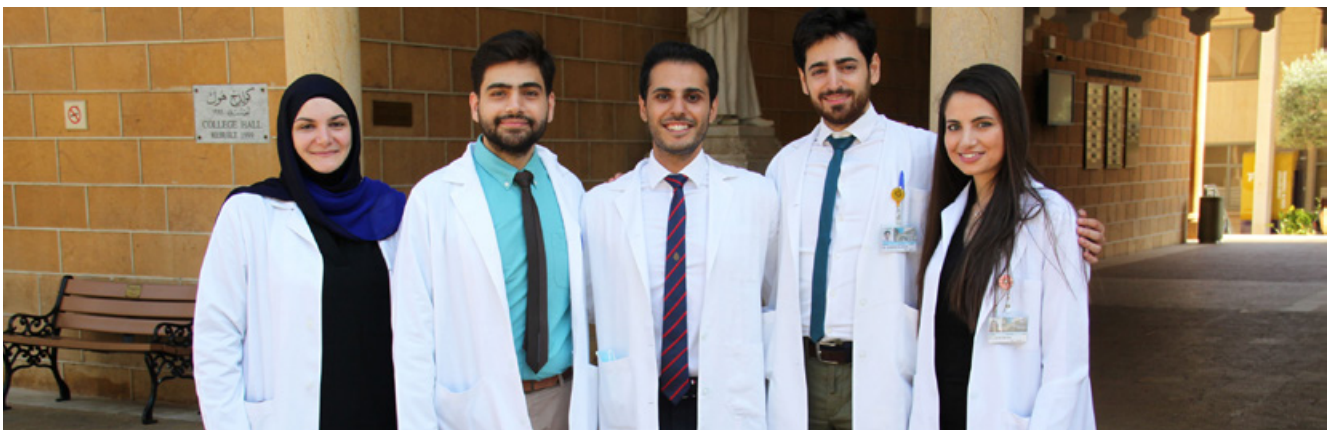
FETAL SURGERIES FOR THE FIRST TIME AT AUBMC

With the recruitment of Dr. Gihad Chalouhi in November 2019, the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Department of OBS/GYN was aiming to expand the scope of its activities to meet international standards. After the acquisition of the equipment in February 2020 and despite the current situation, we are happy to announce that more than 10 fetal surgeries were successfully completed by Dr. Chalouhi in our newly equipped Fetal Surgery Unit. On February 11, the first fetoscopy for laser photocoagulation of placental anastomoses in a twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome was successfully performed. On June 4, the first fetoscopy for plug tracheal occlusion was performed for a patient whose baby had a severe form of congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Cases of compressive pleural effusion, megacystis, and lower urinary tract obstructions were also managed with shunt placement. The Fetal Surgery Unit has been attracting patients from all around the country and the region, with patients travelling from Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates to seek our unique expertise.



GRADUATING RESIDENTS 2020

This year the Department of OBS/GYN graduated five residents and one Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) fellow. Although we could not celebrate their graduation given all what is going around, a group of attendings joined for an informal dinner with four of the graduating residents. We share with you the plans of the Class of 2020. Dr. Suleiman Ghunaim (REI fellow) will have a private practice in Jordan, his country or the UK. Dr. Dalal Kojok started an REI fellowship at AUBMC. Dr. Mohammad Saaed El Farran will be practicing in his country Syria. Dr. Carole Barake will be doing a research fellowship at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Virginia, USA. Dr. Karam Hamed will be doing a MFM fellowship at the Fetal Medicine Foundation, London, UK. Dr. Marco Mouanness will be doing a one-year training in REI at New Hope Fertility Center in New York, USA then a two-year fellowship in REI and laparoscopy at "Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Montreal" in Montreal, Canada.



ACADEMIC NEWS IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

- Dr. Anwar Nassar participated in a webinar organized by the International Pediatric Association (IPA) and the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) and supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 21, 2020.



**1ST IPA & FIGO WEBINAR ON
MOTHER AND NEWBORN- ESSENTIALS FOR COVID-19**

**21ST APRIL 2020 1230-1330 HRS. UTC/GMT
SUPPORTED BY :UNICEF & WHO**

**Subscribe on YouTube International Pediatric Association (IPAWorldorg) to watch live streaming
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdILbIZMM7LvMkXbTJwjRtQ>**

Send your questions to adminoffice@ipa-world.org latest by 20th April 2020, 1200hrs UTC



**Dr Jeanne Conry
FIGO**



**Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta
IPA**



**Dr Anwar Nassar
FIGO**



**Dr Luwei Pearson
UNICEF**



**Dr Bernadette Daelmans
WHO**

- Dr. Faysal El Kak was appointed as Chair of the National Technical Committee on Corona and Pregnancy by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. He also conducted four local and regional online seminars on "Emergency contraception," "Maternal health during COVID-19," "OBS/GYN readiness during COVID-19 pandemic", and "Management of threatened abortion." In addition, he participated in two international FIGO seminars on "Pregnancy and COVID-19" and "Essential core services in sexual reproductive health during COVID-19."
- Drs. Anwar Nassar, Faysal El Kak, and Rabih Chahine conducted a series of online national seminars on COVID-19 and pregnancy, organized by the National Technical Committee on Corona and Pregnancy, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Continuing Medical Education (CME) office at AUBMC.

PUBLICATIONS

- Wright A, Nassar AH; FIGO Safe Motherhood, Newborn Health Committee. Adverse effect of delayed pushing on postpartum blood loss in nulliparous women with epidural analgesia. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 2020 Jul;150(1):134.
- Ghulmiyyah L, Sinno S, Mirza F, Finianos E, Nassar AH. Episiotomy: History, present and future—a review. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med* 2020 Apr;24:1-6.
- Khalife D, Nassar A, Khalil A, Awwad J, Musa AA, Hannun A, El Taha L, Khalifeh F, Abiad M, Ghazeeri G. Cumulative live-birth rates by maternal age after one or multiple in vitro fertilization cycles: An institutional experience. *Int J Fertil Steril* 2020 Apr;14(1):34-40.
- Endler M, Al Haidari T, Chowdhury S, Christilaw J, El Kak F, et al. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of refugee and migrant women: Gynecologists' and obstetricians' responsibilities. *Int J Gynecol Obstet* 2020;149:113–119.
- WHO Global Maternal Sepsis Study (GLOSS) Research Group (Lebanon: El Kak F, Itani S, Abou Malham S). Frequency and management of maternal infection in health facilities in 52 countries (GLOSS): A 1-week inception cohort study, *Lancet Glob Health* 2020; 8(5):e661–e671.
- Ghunaim S, Ghazeeri G, Khalife D, Azim HA Jr. Fertility preservation in patients with BRCA mutation. *Ecancermedicallscience* 2020 May 6;14:1033.
- Hajjar R, Telvzian T, Constantinos F, Baba O, Bazi T. Pelvic examination: An iatrogenic cause of microscopic hematuria in women? *Int Urogynecol J* 2020 May;31(5):947-950.
- Abu-Musa A, Haahr T, Humaidan P. Novel physiology and definition of poor ovarian response; clinical recommendations. *Int J Mol Sci* 2020 Mar 19;21(6):2110.
- Seoud MA, Husheimi A, Jaafar I, Jamali F, Hamed K, Khalil A, Abdallah R. Impact of the timing and extent of debulking surgery on progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) in advanced epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC): Single-center experience. *J Clin Oncol* 2020 May 25. [ahead of print].

WINNING ORAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Carole Barake, who graduated on June 14, 2020, won the "FRFP Oral Winning Presentation" award in the Department of OBS/GYN for her research entitled "Appropriateness of hysterectomies at the time of surgical removal of presumed benign adnexal masses" at the "7th Annual Clinical Research E-Open House 2020" that was held on May 28, 2020. The principal investigator of the study is Dr. Dina Chamsy and co-investigators are Drs. Rula Atwani, Narjes Jaafar, and Hani Tamim.

CONGRATULATIONS

- Dr. Georges Rameh who is currently a PGYIV, passed the French exam "Épreuves de vérification des connaissances en Gynécologie Obstétrique" that will allow him to practice in France similar to physicians graduating through the French system. Of note, out of close to 500 OBS/GYN specialists who do this exam annually, only 20 applicants with the highest grades are accepted. Congratulations!
- Dr. Ali Khalil was 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 voting of residents in our department acknowledging his vital role in their education. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Khalil for a very well-deserved award.
- Dr. Karam Hamed, PGYIV, was the recipient of this year's "Residency Program Award for Excellence in Obstetrics" presented by the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) just before he graduated on June 14, 2020. This award has been given to Dr. Hamed as he best exemplified the qualities of the vision of the Society to improve pregnancy and perinatal outcomes. Congratulations!



MEET THE ALUMNI

Dr. Rouba Obeid joined AUB in 2002 and graduated with BS in biology in 2006, MD in 2010 and joined the OBS/GYN residency program at AUBMC and graduated in 2014. Shortly after graduation, she moved back to Abu Dhabi to join Fakhri IVF group, where she is practicing since then as a specialist of OBS/GYN and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. On a personal level, she is married with three girls.

Dr. Elie Moubarak received his MD in 2011 from the Lebanese University. He then completed a 4-year residency in the Department of OBS/GYN at AUBMC and graduated in 2015. This was followed by a 2-year fellowship in REI at AUBMC. Since 2017, he has been in practice and is currently working at Mount Lebanon Hospital where he is involved in teaching students. He pursued some further training in Paris and London. His focus is on counseling and treatment implications for infertile couples by providing them with emotional support through the development of patient-centered approaches and couple-based interventions that improve their quality of life. He has special interest in recurrent implantation failure and has several publications in that field. On a personal level, he remains single.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RUBA ABDEL KARIM



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

A: I joined the department in May 2017.

Q: What is your title?

A: Research Assistant.

Q: What are your main duties?

A: I am responsible for the collection of data, including those from Epic, to generate statistical reports for the department. I also audit charts and regularly generate reports of key indicators and performance measures.

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

A: I was pursuing my master's degree in Healthcare Management and Quality.

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

A: I would be working in a top consulting firm specialized in the healthcare industry.

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?

A: The most interesting part of my job is that I continuously monitor the improvement of the department's indicators. Not to mention that my easygoing co-workers always make it easier for me to get through the day.

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

A: Informing the residents about their deficiencies and relaying the message without making them feel threatened or blamed.

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

A: I would choose Northern Norway to experience the northern lights and see the aurora borealis.

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

A: The company of my friends and family.

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

A: I used to be a runner in high school, and I have won many medals.

Q: What is your point of weakness?

A: I am a very spontaneous person, which makes me blurt out words that should not be said.

Q: Who is your favorite artist?

A: Matthew Perry who portrayed the fictional character 'Chandler Bing' in the TV show 'Friends.'

Q: What is your favorite song these days?

A: "It's you" by Ali Gatie.

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

A: "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne.

Did you know?

- WhatsApp was launched in May 2009.
- Photo messages first became possible to send on WhatsApp in December 2009.
- Facebook's ownership of WhatsApp has led to its complete ban in China. There are 11 other countries where WhatsApp is banned.
- In December 2019, WhatsApp was announced to be the 3rd most downloaded mobile app of the decade from 2010 to 2019.
- WhatsApp has over 2 billion users worldwide, with 400 million WhatsApp users in India alone.
- The amount of time spent by WhatsApp users making calls each day is 2 billion minutes.
- On New Year's Eve 2019, WhatsApp users sent over 100 billion messages.
- WhatsApp has close to only 55 employees.
- Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos, suffered a cyberattack through WhatsApp in January 2020.
- WhatsApp has several competitors on the world stage. The biggest of them is iMessage, with 1.3 billion users worldwide. In second place is WeChat, with 1 billion users.
- WhatsApp wasn't always free. Originally, WhatsApp charged a \$1 annual subscription fee. It wasn't until 2016 that WhatsApp stopped charging the fee.
- Italians have an unusual use for WhatsApp. They use it to provide evidence in divorce cases.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
American University of Beirut Medical Center
Office W-833, Phase I

Newsletter Editor
Anwar Nassar, MD
To submit news,
comments, or queries:
Email: rb01@aub.edu.lb
Phone: 01-340460 ext. 5610

Departmental Leadership
Chairperson
Anwar Nassar, MD

Vice-Chair
Antoine Abu-Musa, MD

OB/GYN Wire is published quarterly
by the Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology at AUBMC.

