

THROUGH THE LENS

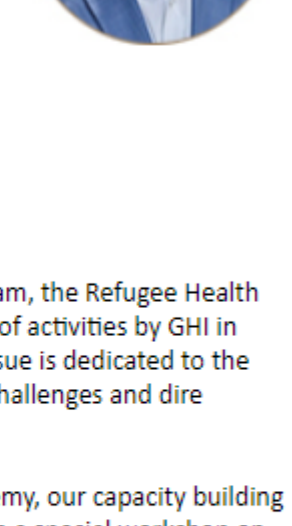
- Special Announcement
- Global Health in Arts
- GHI News
- GHI Academy
- Expert in the LENS
- GHI Welcomes New Staff
- Global Health in Words
- About GHI

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dear LENS readers,

Much has happened with the Global Health Institute (GHI) since the release of our first LENS issue three months ago.

As many of you are aware, GHI is envisioned as an integral component of AUB's new vision on health, HEALTH 2025. During the past fourteen months, we focused on establishing the foundational phase for GHI. It is with pleasure that we share the news that AUB has formally launched GHI as the first such Institute in the region in July 2017. The launch was announced in a message sent by AUB president, Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, to the AUB community. The formal establishment of GHI is a culmination of the efforts of a talented, dedicated, and hardworking team. It was also greatly facilitated by a generous donation and a core foundational grant from the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC).



June 2017 also marked the formal launch of our third program, the Refugee Health Program (RHP). The launch was part of a month-long series of activities by GHI in recognition of the World Refugee Awareness Month. This issue is dedicated to the world's refugees, who are constantly faced with mounting challenges and dire conditions in their search for a safe haven.

Another upcoming exciting event is the launch of GHI Academy, our capacity building arm, in November 2017. The launch will commensurate with a special workshop on Global Health Diplomacy, co-organized with the Graduate Institute of Geneva.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the LENS and look forward to your engagement and support.

Best Regards,  
 Shadi Saleh

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

GHI RECEIVES CATALYTIC SUPPORT FROM CANADA'S IDRC

July 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon



Building on decades of collaboration between AUB and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the latter's support, in the form of a foundational grant, represents a joint desire to foster a new generation of health leaders in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). The ultimate aim is to raise the profile and quality of global health research that is grounded in regional realities.

GHI's initial focus on refugee health, conflict medicine, and nutrition and obesity related diseases is strongly aligned with IDRC's mandate of supporting innovative and locally relevant evidence-based solutions that reach the most vulnerable population groups. With IDRC's foundational support and a strong footprint in the MENA, GHI aspires to advance the state of knowledge and influence policies and practices in the region, as well as engage with and inform discourses and actions in other low and middle income countries facing similar challenges. [Read more](#)



GLOBAL HEALTH IN ARTS



Nazir Ismail (1948-2016) a Syrian painter, best known for his particular use of the face as a representation of the human condition in its deepest state of depression and despair. Ismail has been influenced by his local heritage and has extensively experimented with creative processes using recycled materials and painting mediums and techniques. (Courtesy of the owner)

GHI NEWS

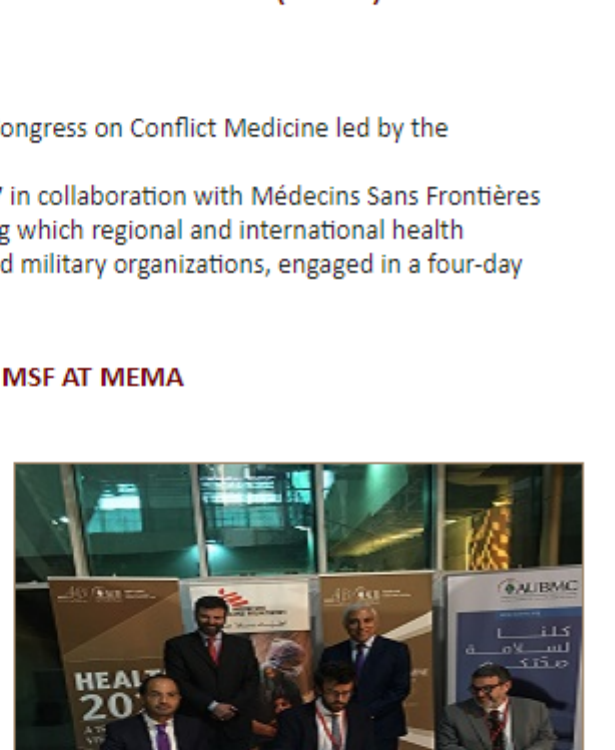
CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM | CMP

GOALS OF CMP

CMP CO-DIRECTOR RELEASES A BOOK ON IRAQ'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

July 2017 | Stanford, USA

Dr. Omar Dewachi discusses in his book, 'Ungovernable Life: Mandatory Medicine and Statecraft in Iraq', the story of the making and un-making of Iraq's healthcare system over decades of colonialism, war, sanctions, and military intervention. Dr. Dewachi's medical history of Iraq explores how different forms of governance over the last century have placed doctors and medical institutions at the center of state-making practices, and how these institutions have subsequently unraveled with the systematic dismantling of the Iraqi state. The book was published with Stanford University Press in July 2017.



CMP CO-CHAIRS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 48TH MIDDLE EAST MEDICAL ASSEMBLY (MEMA): FIRST GLOBAL CONGRESS ON CONFLICT MEDICINE AT AUB

May 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta coordinated the organization of the First Global Congress on Conflict Medicine led by the Channing Medical Education Office. The 48th Middle East Medical Assembly was held on May 11-14, 2017 in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), during which regional and international health practitioners from various specialties across the civilian, academic, and military organizations, engaged in a four-day discussion on health and medicine in conflict. [Read more](#)



GHI INKS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION WITH MSF AT MEMA

May 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

The Conflict Medicine Program and MSF signed a strategic framework for collaboration on May 16, 2017, a move described as historic by partners from both the GHI and MSF. The framework is the beginning of a ground breaking and much needed partnership between the humanitarian and academic institutions to bridge research with practice when addressing the health burdens of war. Dr. Shadi Saleh, Founding Director of the GHI, elaborated on the significance and timeliness of this partnership: "This partnership, led by GHI's Conflict Medicine Program, will serve as a model for strengthening collaborations between academic institutions and humanitarian organizations." [Read more](#)



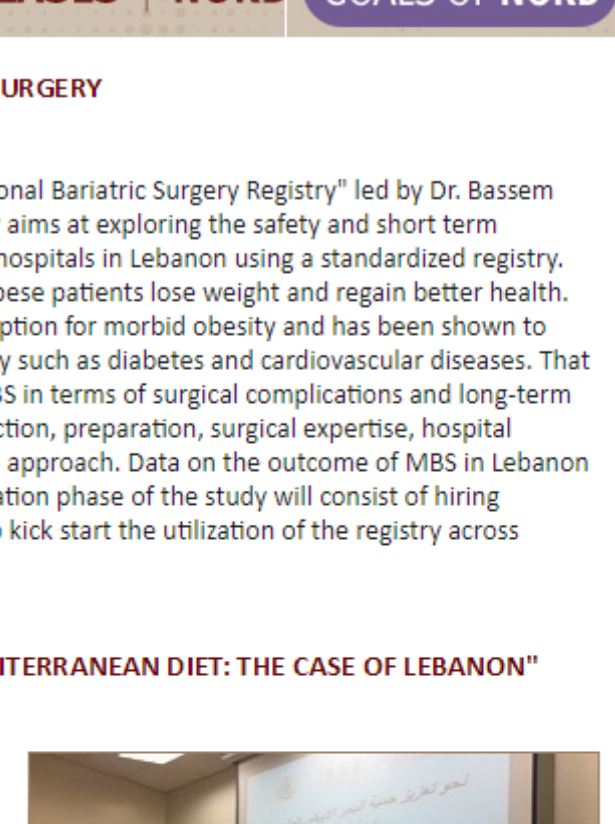
REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM | RHP

GOALS OF RHP

THE GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE LAUNCHES RHP IN THE BEKAA

June 2017 | Bekaa, Lebanon

A Refugee Health Day was organized by GHI in collaboration with Beyond Association in al-Dahamieh Camp on the 28th of June, marking the launch of the Refugee Health Program (RHP). A series of activities took place during the day as the AUB team set up health booths that men, women, and children approached for free medical consultations during which they had their anthropometry, blood pressure, and glucose level measured. Furthermore, training was provided on how to maintain a healthy body and hand hygiene to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. As a way to help promote physical activity, children and adolescents participated in the organized entertaining health games and physical activities. [Read more](#)



RHP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD REFUGEE AWARENESS MONTH

June 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

The GHI dedicated the month of June 2017 to raise awareness on the global refugee crisis and the challenges refugees face through daily health facts. The campaign touched on the health challenges faced by refugees, such as malnutrition, trauma, non-communicable, and re-emerging communicable diseases. As a way to help promote physical activity, children and adolescents participated in the organized entertaining health games and physical activities. [Read more](#)



RHP CO-DIRECTOR TACKLES FINDINGS ON NUTRITION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN

June 2017 | Toronto, Canada

Dr. Lamis Jomaa presented findings from her study on nutrition security of refugee children as part of a session at the North America Refugee Health Conference, which included a panel discussion with other presenters and attendees to discuss the nutritional outcomes, challenges and opportunities faced with federal and community-based interventions serving refugee women and children in the US, Canada, and Lebanon. The presentation, from the study titled "The Impact of a School Nutrition Intervention on the Nutrition Security of Refugee Children in Lebanon: Findings from a Pilot Study", was held in Toronto, Canada between June 16 and 18, 2017.

NUTRITION, OBESITY AND RELATED DISEASES | NORD

GOALS OF NORD

NORD CO-DIRECTOR LEADS STUDY ON SAFETY OF BARIATRIC SURGERY

May, 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

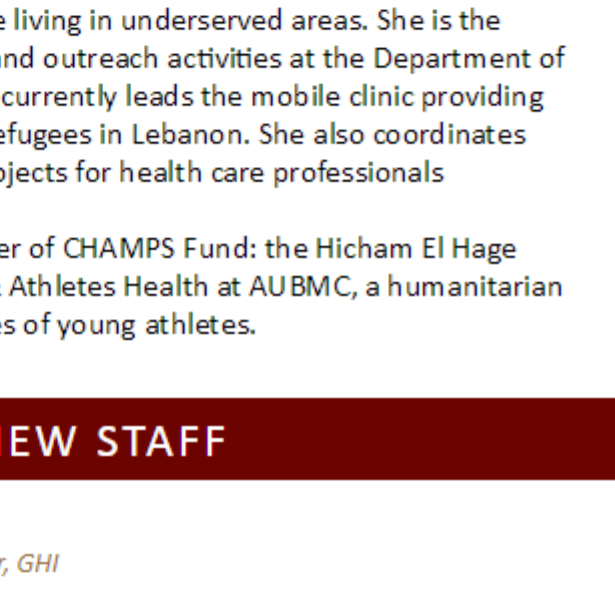
The "Safety of Bariatric Surgery in Lebanon: A Pilot Study Using National Bariatric Surgery Registry" led by Dr. Bassem Safadi in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of General Surgery aims at exploring the safety and short term outcomes of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (MBS) across multiple hospitals in Lebanon using a standardized registry. Bariatric surgery is surgery on the digestive system aiming to help obese patients lose weight and regain better health. To date, bariatric surgery is the only effective long-term treatment option for morbid obesity and has been shown to eliminate or reduce many metabolic diseases associated with obesity such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. That is why this field of surgery is referred to as MBS. The outcome of MBS in terms of surgical complications and long-term weight reduction and clinical benefits vary according to patient selection, preparation, surgical expertise, hospital credentials and many other factors including multi-disciplinary team approach. Data on the outcome of MBS in Lebanon is scarce and limited to single institutions reporting. The implementation phase of the study will consist of hiring personnel to train surgeons and follow up with the programs to help kick start the utilization of the registry across different hospitals.



NORD INITIATES "TOWARDS THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET: THE CASE OF LEBANON"

May 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

(FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon, and NORD held an inception workshop to launch a regional project: Towards the Enhancement of the Mediterranean Diet: The Case of Lebanon, on May 24 at AUB. Mediterranean diets have been associated with reduced incidence of diet-related chronic diseases and have been identified as an example of sustainable diets. Funded by Italy, this project aims to generate evidence documenting whether and how Lebanese dietary consumption patterns have moved away from the traditional Mediterranean diet, in order to develop policies and interventions that guarantee a healthy diet for all. The results of this project will make an essential contribution to improve our understanding of the production, availability, access to, and consumption of foods that are part of the traditional Mediterranean diet within a country-specific context, and will provide basis of interventions in Lebanon.



CO-DIRECTOR RECOMMENDS MEDITERRANEAN DIET FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD CONSUMPTION

April 2017 | Chicago, USA

Dr. Nahla Houalla discussed "The Mediterranean Diet as a Sustainable and Healthy Diet for Food Security" during the Experimental Biology Conference that took place on April 22-26, 2017 in Chicago, USA. Dr. Houalla recommended the use of developing national sustainable food-based dietary guidelines, based on the traditional Mediterranean diet, as an important step towards sustainable food consumption and delivering to the promise made to the international community on the Sustainable Development Goals.

GHI ACADEMY

SAVE THE DATE

HEALTH 2025 Global Health Institute | GHI

GHI Academy

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

Global Health Diplomacy Workshop

November 8-10, 2017

DETAILS

- Duration: 3 Days
- Registration Fees: \$200 Early Birds | \$250 Regular
- Audience: Health and international relations professionals
- Decision makers and diplomats with a portfolio related to Health
- Representatives from international, regional and non-governmental organizations, and global health initiatives
- Stakeholders working in global health such as networks and alliances

EXPERT IN THE LENS

CORE EXPERT PROFILE: MONA OSMAN, RHP CO-DIRECTOR



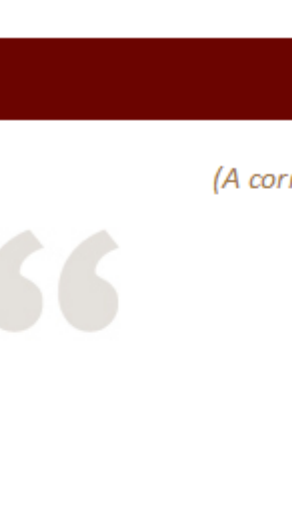
Dr. Mona Osman is an Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and Co-Director of the Refugee Health Program at GHI.

Dr. Osman earned her Medical Degree from AUB, and completed a residency in the specialty of Family Medicine at AUBMC in 1998. She pursued afterwards a Master in Public Health degree from AUB followed by a Master in Business Administration/Health Care Management degree from the University of Phoenix. She pursued afterwards a Master in Public Health degree from AUB followed by a Master in Business Administration/Health Care Management degree from the University of Phoenix. She has 19 years of experience in family medicine, community health, primary health care, public health and health care management. She worked with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private companies, public institutions, international organizations, and United Nation agencies.

Dr. Osman is interested in working with vulnerable populations such as elderly, refugees and people living in underserved areas. She is the coordinator of community and outreach activities at the Department of Family Medicine where she currently leads the mobile clinic providing medical services to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. She also coordinates several capacity building projects for health care professionals nationally and regionally.

Dr. Osman is also the founder of CHAMPS Fund: the Hicham El Hage Program for Young Hearts & Athletes Health at AUBMC, a humanitarian fund that helps save the lives of young athletes.

GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Nour El Arnaout, MPH  
 Global Health Research Officer, GHI

Nour earned her Bachelors of Science in Biology with a minor in Public Health from AUB in 2015 and a Master in Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Health Management and Policy from the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB in 2017. In June 2017, Nour was appointed as the Global Health Research Officer at the GHI, overseeing the generation of new research projects at the Institute, working closely with the Programs and Initiatives Officer. Currently, Nour also serves as the GHI Academy Coordinator. In this capacity, she ensures effective coordination, management, and delivery of the training and capacity building components of the GHI Academy.

Nour was inducted in the Gamma Delta chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society of Public Health upon her graduation from the MPH program, in recognition of her academic achievement and leadership in public health. During her MPH, Nour developed extensive experience in research where she worked on and co-authored several projects, most recently a paper published in the Lancet on health workers and the weaponization of healthcare in Syria. She also worked in project management where she served as Assistant Program Coordinator for the Healthcare Leadership Academy 2016 at the Department of Health Management and Policy.



Spencer Rutherford, MSc in Global Health Candidate, McMaster University, Canada  
 Consultant, GHI

After completing his BSc in Psychology and working in neuroscience research laboratories in Montreal, Spencer decided to further explore his interest in concepts of health outside of the biomedical model. This motivated him to apply to the MSc Global Health at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada.

As a multidisciplinary program, it broadened his perspective on health and healthcare, and gave him the opportunity to travel and study at institutions in the Netherlands, India, and now, Lebanon. As the Global Health Institute's first visiting student, Spencer is currently completing his research paper under the supervision of Dr. Saleh on health systems in post-conflict situations. Additionally, he is assisting with research projects pertaining to health services and needs among the refugee population in Lebanon. Upon completion of his internship, Spencer will join GHI as a consultant in the initiated global health research projects.

GLOBAL HEALTH IN WORDS

The Corridor

(A corridor that leads to the operating theater of a hospital in Aleppo)

“ The wolf in the corridor – like a stray soul in the recovery room where antiseptics don't work and passers-by only pass by with heads bowed

Let bandages unroll in the waiting room Follow the drops of blood

They are sick with cruelty Rancid fat on the bed

The wolf in the corridor – its shadow on the wall wounds the little girl and the grandmother

Don't rest your head on a dirty shirt Don't ask why the woman is crying behind the door

The wolf in the corridor – Stop the music He is dying

Fouad M. Fouad  
 Baidaba Said Poetry Collection 2004

ABOUT GHI

MISSION

The Global Health Institute at AUB addresses global health challenges with a focus on context and sustainable impact by employing an interdisciplinary approach. The primary focus of GHI are challenges that are affecting the MENA region, but have relevance to and impact on other regions in the Global South. GHI fosters interdisciplinary dialogue, engaged capacity building, committed service and innovative research, as well as strategic partnerships to enhance health in local communities and globally.

VISION

GHI is the regional leader and a key partner in defining and addressing the global health agenda, especially components relevant to the MENA region and other regions in the Global South. GHI will transform the global health dialogue to focus on contextualized solutions that are sustainable and proportionally dependent on local and regional capacity.