

LENS

GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE E-NEWSLETTER
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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dear Lens Readers,

This last quarter has marked the completion of the inaugural year of the Global Health Institute (GHI); a rewarding year that witnessed strategic initiatives and partnerships. Looking back to when we started, our vision was to be at the forefront of the global health dialogue in the Middle East and North African region & the Global South, defining and addressing the global health agenda. Through the hard work of the GHI team, much has been accomplished but we are still at the beginning of a long, yet rewarding, path.

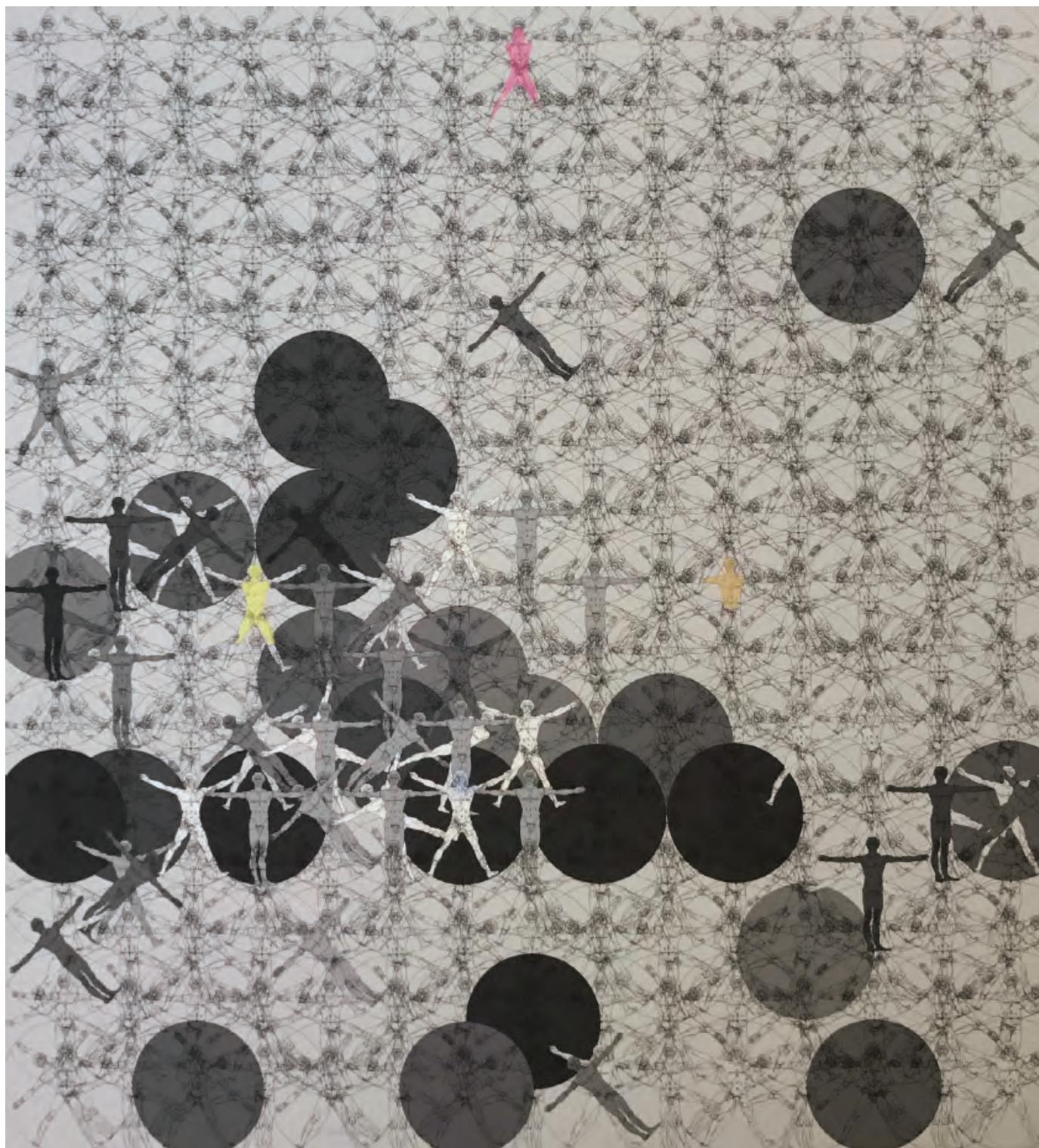
The theme of this issue of our newsletter is innovations in global health. In the past few years, interest in health care innovations has grown tremendously, and there has been an increasing acknowledgement of the importance of its application in global health. To showcase the importance of innovation, GHI is organizing, in partnership with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), the "Global Health Forum: Innovative Approaches to Global Health Challenges in Low and Middle-Income Countries." This first of its kind conference in the region, held in early November, will highlight contextualized uses of innovations in global health in low-resource settings. We hope that many of you can join us in November. This issue also features a new section titled "Global Health Insights"; this section will take an in-depth look at timely global health topics.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of the lens. We look forward to your continuous engagement as we embark on a new year for the Global Health Institute.

Shadi Saleh

THROUGH THE LENS

- GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS
- GHI HIGHLIGHTS
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Nazar Yahya: Nazar Yahya: Human Machine IV, 2017, Digital Print on Cardboard, 29.5 x 27.5 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Mark Hachem gallery.

Nazar Yahya was born in Baghdad in 1963, and is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in the city of his birth. Since the early 90's, his work has been exhibited extensively around the world and is featured in the collections of the British Museum in London, the Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha - Qatar and the Station Museum in Houston -Texas, where he currently lives.

In this work, inspired by the philosophy, beauty and science emanating from Da Vinci's Vitruvian man, Yahya has used repetition of that particular human shape, brought together as a multitude to produce a new form, and bringing out the resemblance to machines.

THE GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY

July 2018 | Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut



In recognition of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Global Health Institute, the GHI team gathered to commemorate the inaugural year with a photo at the American University of Beirut (AUB) main gate with AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri and Executive Vice President Dr. Mohamed Sayegh.

Dr. Khouri congratulated the GHI team for the first year and the relentless work of the GHI team. Dr. Saleh re-emphasized GHI's commitment to realize its vision and contribute to AUB's global standing.

COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN ECOLOGY OF WAR (CREEW)

June 2018 | Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut



The GHI Academy signed a MOU with Swisscross Foundation to establish a Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) with the vision to develop global excellence in investigating ecology of war.

CREEW will equip frontline health practitioners from conflict zones with the necessary skills to enable them to conduct research into the relationship between health and war. CREEW hosted by GHI will be the regional center and the hub for other CREEW centers to be established in different regions of the world.

[Read more](#)

A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH SWANSEA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR GLOBAL INJURY RESEARCH AND TRAINING

June 2018 | Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut



The GHI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Swansea University Center for Global Injury.

Collaborations have started to devise a framework that aims to further research and training in global burn injury and devise solutions to address the clinical and global health challenges ensuing from burns.

This unique Centre – based at the University's College of Human and Health Sciences – was set up in 2016 with the principal aim of providing evidence, developing policies and leading the way in burn care and prevention across the world.

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM CMP

CMP Co-Director Dr. Abu Sittah recounts his experience in treating wounded in Gaza

May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



Dr. Abu Sitta has gone on several war surgery missions to Gaza with the Medical Aid for Palestinians, and most recently in May 2018. The medical team has treated injured, most of whom with lower limb gunshot wounds to help them return to full function.

During a conference organized by the Issam Fares Institute, Dr. Abu Sitta described the situation in Gaza and the challenges that medical teams are faced with when treating thousands of injured since the start of the Great March of Return earlier in 2018.

[Read more](#)

Global Health Institute's research team joins the 2nd Executive Board meeting of the R4HC MENA project in Jordan

June 2018 | Amman, Jordan



King Hussein Cancer Center hosted the 2nd Executive Board meeting in Jordan where researchers presented on the progress of their work across different health workstreams that aim to build research capacity on health in conflict.

During the one-day meeting, the CMP team working on the project discussed their preliminary findings and the next steps planned for the workstreams on health research capacity in conflict, cancer in conflict, and political economy of health in conflict.

[Read more](#)

Anthropological Airwaves features CMP Co-Director Dr. Dewachi on the "Military Presence"

July 2018 | Podcast



In the fourth episode of the "Military Presence", CMP Co-Director Dr. Dewachi discussed the impact of war on the rise of antimicrobial resistance and the ecologies of war by drawing on his ethnographic work and research.

[Read more](#)

RHP organizes a Refugee Health Day in Bekaa in recognition of World Refugee Day

June 2018 | Bekaa, Lebanon



As part of its community outreach activities, RHP organized a Refugee Health Day on June 20, 2018, coinciding with World Refugee Day. The health day, which took place at Al Omariyeh Refugee Camp in Zahle, was a collaboration between the RHP, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), and BEYOND Association.

More than 40 health professionals from different universities across Lebanon, including AUB, the Beirut Arab University, the Lebanese American University, the University of Balamand, and the University of Saint Joseph, volunteered to examine and provide health information to over 250 refugees. A wide range of topics were addressed including maternal and child health, mental health, communicable diseases, and non-communicable diseases, among others.

[Read more](#)

RHP Affiliate, Dr. Gladys Honein, presents on the informal provision of health services to Syrian refugees in Lebanon at the 3rd ALUM - Siracusa Research Conference Series on Migration

May 2018 | Siracusa, Italy



RHP Affiliate Dr. Gladys Honein, from the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing at AUB, presented the RHP project on the informal provision of health services to Syrian refugees in Lebanon at the 3rd Alliance of Lead Universities on Migration - Siracusa Research Conference Series on Migration in Italy.

Honein discussed how displaced Syrian health professionals were able to build an informal community of practice, filling as such a substantial gap faced by the Lebanese healthcare system in responding to the refugees needs. She also underlined the facilitators and barriers facing the informal health providers, while the audience shared similar practices in their refugee hosting countries.

[Read more](#)

Joint collaboration between GHI Academy and Swisscross Foundation to establish a Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW)

June 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



GHI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Swisscross Foundation on June 27, 2018 in the presence of AUB President Fadlo Khuri, Executive Vice President for Medicine and Global Strategy Mohamed Sayegh, and administration representing both signing parties. The MOU outlines a collaborative framework to establish a Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW).



The center aims to contribute to the capacity building of health professionals in war zones, as well as the generation and dissemination of knowledge and best practices for humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict. This partnership will support one of GHI Academy's strategic roles in advancing context-specific global health literacy and professional development.

[Read more](#)

Surgical training in hostile environment organized by GHI Academy in partnership with the David Nott Foundation

May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



The GHI Academy, in partnership with the David Nott Foundation, organized a workshop on surgical training in hostile environments on May 28-30, 2018. The David Nott Foundation Hostile Environment Surgical Training (HEST) course teaches essential surgical decision-making strategies and techniques to surgeons working in austere conditions.

Over three days, more than 65 surgeons from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and different regions in Lebanon were taught life-saving and timely surgical techniques by five faculty experts from the foundation, including founder and renowned British surgeon David Nott who directed the course.

[Read more](#)

GHI Academy offers a webinar series on Global Health and Conflict

April- May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



The GHI Academy launched its inaugural webinar series on "Global Health and Conflict" in April 2018. The series consisted of five webinars including an introduction to global health and conflict, mental health challenges in fragile settings, conflict and the impact on non-communicable diseases, health systems in situations of fragility and communicable diseases in conflict settings. The speakers were from local and international academic institutions, medical centers and governmental organizations. Around 900 participants, with various educational and professional backgrounds, joined from fifty-three countries.

[Webinars](#)

GHI's Humanitarian Learning Team Organized a Panel Titled "When Humanitarian Knowledge Hits the Road" in the International Humanitarian Studies Conference

August 2018 | The Hague, Netherlands



The Humanitarian Learning team organized a panel at the International Humanitarian Studies Conference that was held in The Hague, under the title "When Humanitarian Knowledge hits the Road". The interactive panel hosted speakers on humanitarian knowledge management, the role of humanitarian academia and the advancement of humanitarian learning.

During the panel, GHI team presented the Contextualization Framework that was developed. This framework serves as a guide that would allow humanitarian practitioners to systematically contextualize online learning courses. GHI will be soon publishing the framework and the practitioners' guide with its toolkit.

GHI develops the Humanitarian Learning Persona for the MENA region

May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



As part of GHI's partnership with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA), the Humanitarian Unit developed the learning personas for humanitarian practitioners in the region. Understanding the learning personas is a key element in the process of contextualizing and adapting learning content. It allows catering the content to the various and preferred learning styles and environment of the learners.

Responding to the region's protracted crises, GHI organizes the first consultation on humanitarian learning

May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



GHI organized and hosted the "First Regional Consultation on Humanitarian Learning" with the aim of strengthening the region's humanitarian learning efforts and identifying the learning needs of humanitarian practitioners. This consultation was the first of its kind in the region, engaging an academic institution and regional humanitarian organizations to advance the humanitarian learning field. It brought together diverse humanitarian practitioners from various sectors and countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen.

The meeting comprised a series of working groups and discussions on the learning personas of humanitarian practitioners in the region, the learning needs of humanitarian managers, and the contextualization of humanitarian knowledge.

[Read more](#)



The past decades have witnessed significant strides in global health, yet around two thirds of total deaths worldwide are attributed to preventable and treatable diseases, with the highest burden found in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and among women and children. Innovative approaches and technologies play a vital role in saving lives, improving overall health outcomes around the world and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Global Health Forum aims to draw special attention to global health challenges in LMICs most of which are geographically located in the Global South. The overarching theme of the first biennial global health forum is “Innovative Approaches to Global Health Challenges in Low and Middle-Income Countries”. The forum will be organized by the Global Health Institute in collaboration with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

The forum is intended to create an open platform for innovators among policy makers, global health professionals, academics and the private sector to evaluate and anticipate global health challenges pertaining to LMIC. The forum will convene stakeholders from various disciplines to showcase innovative ideas and practical cases of innovations in global health either originating in or applicable to the LMIC context.

The forum will convene stakeholders from various disciplines to showcase innovative ideas and practical cases of innovations in global health either originating in or applicable to the LMIC context.

To register, click [here](#).

Objectives

The forum will include eight panel discussion sessions including:

1. The Role of Innovations in Strengthening Health Systems in Fragile Settings
2. Innovative Approaches to Humanitarian Response
3. Sustainable eHealth Solutions for Low Resource Settings
4. Use of Technology to Enhance Access to Health Care Services
5. Integration of Big Data Analytics to Improve Health Outcomes
6. Examining Gender Role and Dynamics in Global Health
7. Role of eLearning Models in Global Health Education and Capacity Building in LMICs
8. The Political Determinants of Global Health

Poster Presentations

The forum will include two scientific poster presentation sessions. The poster presentations will be focused on the following themes:

- Integrating Information Technology in Health Systems of LMICs
- Adopting innovative approaches to humanitarian crises, prevention, and response
- Using Digital Health (eHealth, mHealth, telehealth, etc.) and Internet of Things to enhance access of hard-to-reach populations to healthcare
- Utilizing big data analytics to improve health outcomes
- Employing innovations in global health education
- Enhancing public-private sector partnerships for innovative solutions in low-resource settings

Exhibition Opportunities

For interest in sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, click on the following [link](#).

Pharmaceuticals and Global Health

September 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

Counterfeit drugs are an emerging menace that have a devastating impact on global health. The Research-based pharmaceutical industry that has a unique role in global health in developing medicines and vaccines for disease prevention and treatment, stands out as an industry that is particularly susceptible to corruption. There are many examples globally that display how corruption in the pharmaceutical sector compromises global health. Harvard University's Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics has released an extensive range of studies & lawsuits focused on pharmaceutical companies' corruptions. The pharmaceutical sector that has a pivotal role in global health hides, ignores, or misrepresents evidence about- news drugs, distorting medical literature avoiding moral principles, commercializing the role of doctors and decreasing markedly their budget for research, to fund lobbying and marketing.

Counterfeit drugs can be defined as brand and/or generic products with falsified packaging and may have too little, wrong, or no active ingredient medicines with impurities, medicines manufactured in unhygienic conditions, by unskilled personnel.

They can be classified into three categories:

- Substandard (low dose or active ingredient)
- Falsified (no active ingredient, wrong active ingredient and no active ingredient: chalk, powder, water vial etc...)
- Spurious (contains impurities)

One in ten medicines are counterfeit drugs; they are mostly manufactured in India and China due to the easiness of manufacturing with the availability of the tableting machines and packaging material. It includes all main therapeutic categories including medicines, vaccines and in vitro diagnosis and some fake medicines are hard to detect. The distribution of fake medicine is usually concentrated in poor and under developed countries and areas of conflict. The Universal market of counterfeit medicine is estimated around 200 billion \$ out of 1 trillion \$ of the pharmaceutical industry (75 billion \$ online purchase).The fall out of falsified and substandard medicines include a wide range of health problems: from poisoning to drug resistance and death. Substandard drug supply has caused the loss of confidence in the health system in addition to economic and social costs. The health fall out of falsified medicines, include poisoning, drug resistance and death. Antibiotics, anti-parasitic (mainly malaria) and antivirals are the most recorded drug resistance cases where the poor quality drug circulates in fewer levels in the patient, resulting in treatment failure and drug resistance. An alarming example is pneumonia, which is the leading cause of death in children below 5 years of age, accounting for 18% of universal child death, mainly due to poor quality antibiotics. Drug resistant bacteria often surface in hospitals causing infective that are difficult to treat and are an important killer in adults in low middle-income countries. Diabetic patients are also affected by the drug-counterfeiting emergency. With around 350 million diabetic patient around the world, the market is extremely attractive to counterfeiters.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a massive campaign to combat the lethal counterfeit drug industry but keeping track of the import and export of fake medicine is not enough. Tackling this high-impact health challenge can start with local solutions such as justifying drug prices, encouraging national drug purchase and monitoring national drug policies.

Dr. Ismail Sukkariyeh, MP

Clinical Associate - Gastro enterology
Head of National Associate for social health



EXPERTS IN THE LENS

Dr. Marco Bardus is an Assistant Professor in Health Promotion and Community Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is also co-director of the Nutrition, Obesity, and Related Diseases (NORD) program, within the Global Health Institute at AUB.

With a background in corporate communications and marketing, acquired over 15 years of experience in public relations and journalism industries (mostly in Italy), his research is aimed to understand how communication strategies can enhance the delivery of public health interventions. His research, at the intersection between communication and behavioral sciences, builds on Uses and Gratifications Theory, Captology, and social marketing frameworks and focuses on the use of smartphone and mobile apps, social media, and wearable devices as delivery modes for health promotion and behavior change interventions.

He is currently involved in two projects on mHealth apps for weight management and in a community-based social marketing project on solid waste management. He has applied this research to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, by developing interventions promoting physical activity, diet and weight control. He has applied this research to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, by developing interventions promoting physical activity, diet and weight control. Dr. Bardus is interested in expanding his investigations to other preventive health behaviors (screening for cancer prevention/HIV/STIs, contraceptive use, etc.) in different settings and among various populations.

Parallel to his research, Dr. Bardus has been involved in social marketing education and training since 2008, actively participating in conferences and bringing ideas for innovation in the classroom, in Europe and in Lebanon. At AUB, he mentors and supervises students developing social marketing initiatives for local and international NGOs (Caritas, SIDC, Arcenciel), and local governmental entities (Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs).

“I like to think of innovations in the words of Everett Rogers, the developer of the Diffusion of Innovations Theory. An innovation is "Any idea, practice, or object that is perceived as new by an individual" (1983, p. 11). In this sense, introducing a new concept or behavior such as screening for cancer in a community where cancer prevention is new can be considered an innovation. Technologies can act as innovative modes of delivery of interventions that can reach large populations, hence shaping public health initiatives on a global scale.”

Marco Bardus

CORE EXPERT PROFILE

MARCO BARDUS, M.A, Ph.D

Assistant Professor
Department of Health Promotion
and Community Health
Faculty of Health Sciences



Dr. Honein-AbouHaidar is an Assistant Professor at the Hariri School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut. She is also a co-director of the Refugee Health Program at the Global Health Institute.

Her research and scholarship focus on improving the health of communities with a strong attention on the social determinants and their impact on health outcomes especially for under-privileged population. Drawing on her extensive expertise in community health and its intersection with health services research in both Canada and United Arab Emirates, she works closely with multidisciplinary teams and community stakeholders to develop innovative research underpinned by the principles of equity, inclusiveness and participatory approach to improve equity and quality of services in the community.

She is currently involved in several projects with the Refugee Health Program on assessing and evaluating adaptive mechanisms adopted by Syrian refugees to improve their livelihoods. Those projects are covering issues such as using community kitchens to reduce food insecurity, seeking informal care provisions to improve access to health care, and adopting informal coping mechanisms for resilient livelihoods.

Further, given her nursing background, she is also involved in research endeavors focusing on capacity building for community health nurses and a road map towards organized cancer screening programs in Lebanon.

She employs mixed methodologies, primary and secondary analyses of population databases and qualitative approaches, to generate critical knowledge to inform inclusive programming and advance policy change.

CORE EXPERT PROFILE

GLADYS HONEIN- ABOU HAIDAR, RN, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor
Hariri School of Nursing (HSON)
American University of Beirut



“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane”— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Coming across this impactful timeless statement, I think that innovation is the essential ingredient to transform Global Health and to eliminate disparities in health care and health status. ”

Gladys Honein-Abou Haidar

GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Manal Kanaan, BS

GRANTS MANAGER

Manal Kanaan is the Grants Manager at the Global Health Institute monitoring and supervising the whole process of grant making in GHI, from the post award phase until the end of the project while maintaining a good communication and coordination with all the correlated departments.

Manal holds a degree in Banking and Finance with a second emphasis in Business Management. She worked as Grants Coordinator at The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture and Credit Coordinator at Global Communities following up on the whole process of grant making. Her experience developed in her leadership, analytical, researching and surveying skills, as well as it introduced her to effective reporting and assessment tools to minimize risk.



Nassim El Achi, PhD

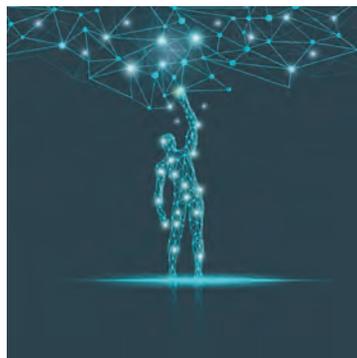
RESEARCH FELLOW

Nassim El Achi is a Research Fellow at R4HC-MENA Conflict and Health Work Stream working on capacity building of conflict and health research across the MENA region.

Though trained in chemical sciences, Nassim joined the University of Oxford for a postgraduate degree in Water Science, Policy and Management in 2017. At Oxford, Nassim worked with the different stakeholders involved in water management in Amman, Jordan on the challenges to achieve equitable access to safe water, i.e. Sustainable Development Goal 6, in an urban-MENA context.

Nassim received three awards including the second prize for the "Best PhD in Chemical Sciences" award organized by the Société Chimique de France (SCF). She has also published over 20 research papers in journals and conferences.

GLOBAL HEALTH IN WORDS



*" The power to create
from the inner universe
millions of possibilities
billions of worlds
projected by a pen
that inspires change and innovation
giving birth to countless inventions
Over there
the splendid path of Ambition Avenue
is available to all
and each and everyone
is gifted an amazing tool
to make fiction reality "*

Vermillion Scythe, Power of Imagination (2017).

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