

# LENS

GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE E-NEWSLETTER  
Vol 2 - Issue 8 - May 2019



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## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Dear Lens Readers,

As has been the case since GHI establishment in July 2017, this past quarter was busy with the three GHI Divisions: Programs, Academy and ASSIST, engaging in novel and impactful initiatives. This issue of the LENS covers most of those. However, I would like to highlight GHI's newest project, the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi), launched in partnership with a sister unit at AUB, the Office of Regional External Programs.

The NGOi engages one of the most vibrant sectors in Lebanon, NGO sector, and by default the communities and populations it serves. In many countries of the world, Lebanon being a great example, NGOs play a major role in pushing for sustainable development and advancing global health. However, there is a major gap in streamlining the work of the sector and ensuring that it (including NGO workforce) achieves its full potential. We strongly believe that a vibrant and dynamic society cannot exist without an active civil society. The NGOi attempts to support the sector through certification, capacity building and providing a platform for sharing lessons and successes.

I am also happy to report that 28 women, including refugees and members of host communities in Akkar/North Lebanon, were among the first cohort to have completed the Certificate on Women's Health. This is part of a program, Mobile University for Health (MUH) organized by GHI's Academy Division. MUH aims to build professional health skills of Syrian refugees and host communities.

These two highlights are just examples of the many activities during the past quarter, many others are included in the following sections. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the lens as we relentlessly work on advancing global health with all of our partners. We look forward to your continuous engagement!

*Shadi Saleh*

## THROUGH THE LENS

- GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS
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**Nasser Hussein:** Untitled, 2018, 120x120cm, Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Saleh Barakat Gallery.

Nasser Hussein is a Syrian painter born in 1971 in Aleppo, and currently residing and working in Berlin. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1997 and pursued his higher education in the Art Academy in Dusseldorf in 2006. He has held exhibitions in Amman, Damascus, Bonn, Berlburg and many other cities.

The notion of solitude is emphasized in his works by using a unified color in background spaces and neutral facial features. Hussein uses acrylics and watercolors to create powdery matte surfaces, and flat, though perspectival spaces such that the lone figure in each painting appears to exist in a vacuum—mirroring back to the viewer a self-enclosed world in which human activity is denaturalized.

### LAUNCHING OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE (NGOI)

April 2019 | American University of Beirut



The Global Health Institute (GHI) and the office of Regional External Programs (REP) at AUB launched the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOI) in an effort to empower the NGO sector in Lebanon, considered amongst the most vibrant in the Middle East.

The NGOI is the first-of-its-kind initiative in the Middle East region. It aims at being the regional hub for NGO sector certification, development, and knowledge exchange. The initiative comes as a response to an urgent need arising as Lebanon houses the largest number of NGOs relative to its population size, estimated to exceed 10,000 NGOs.

[Read more](#)

### AUB'S GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE HOLDS A CANCER AWARENESS DAY IN WADI KHALED AREA ON THE LEBANESE-SYRIAN BORDERS

March 2018 | Akkar, Lebanon



The Global Health Institute organized a Cancer Awareness Day on March 24, 2019, with March marking the colorectal cancer awareness month. The Cancer Awareness Day, which took place at Al Ghousoub Playground in Wadi Khaled, Akkar, Lebanon, was held in partnership with AMALOUNA, MALAAK and Akkar Network for Development (AND) NGOs, and in collaboration with the Health and Wellness Center as well as the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

Around 61 health professionals from different health backgrounds volunteered in the Cancer Awareness Day to provide awareness, prevention and screening tips on different types of cancer for 512 refugees and members of the host communities of Wadi Khaled.

[Read more](#)

### AUB'S GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE PARTICIPATES IN THE CUGH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

March 2019 | Chicago, United States



GHI participated in the tenth Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) conference "Translation and Implementation for Impact in Global Health". The conference was hosted by Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago and took place in Chicago on March 8-10, 2019.

GHI led a panel on "Innovative Capacity Building Models for Global Health in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)" that had great interaction. The GHI team also engaged with more than 300 visitors at the exhibition booth over the course of two days. Booth visitors were introduced to the GHI divisions, projects, and initiatives.

## GHI PROGRAMS

### E SAHHA PROGRAM

ESP

#### GHI Welcomes the New Co-Directors of its E-Sahha Program

March 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



GHI welcomed Dr. Ghassan Hamadeh and Dr. Shady ElBassuoni as new co-directors of the E-Sahha Program. Dr. Hamadeh who serves as the Chairman of the Family Medicine Department at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) was among the leading team for the implementation of the newly introduced health information system at AUBMC.

Dr. ElBassuoni who is an assistant professor at the Computer Science Department expressed his enthusiasm to join the ESP, highlighting the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on global health. "I believe that AI is infiltrating every aspect of our lives at an unprecedented rate; but in health, its impact can be truly life changing. AI is revolutionizing the health field with a promise to reduce costs, improve health outcomes, and increase accessibility to health services", said Dr. ElBassuoni.

Dr. Shadi Saleh, founding director of GHI, and co-director of ESP stressed on the importance of tackling eHealth from a multidisciplinary approach to address global health challenges especially in low-resource settings.

[Read more](#)

### CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM

CMP

#### GHI CMP Coordinator Presents on Gender Equity in Global Health Research on International Women's Day

March 2019 | Chicago USA



On March 8, GHI's Programs Manager Ms. Menassa took part of the Lancet Women panel titled "Diversifying the global health knowledge pipeline: How do we address structural barriers to the recognition and participation of LMIC women?".

During the breakout session that took place on the second day of the CUGH conference in Chicago, Menassa discussed her perspectives on the challenges for gender equity in global health research in the MENA region and how the work of GHI and CMP is helping address these challenges.

Menassa also highlighted the role of R4HC MENA in building research capacity through a framework that promotes the leadership of women in research.

[Read more](#)



## R4HC MENA Holds Fifth Executive Board Meeting in Jordan

March 2019 | Amman



The fifth Executive Board meeting for R4HC MENA took place in Amman in Jordan on March 26-27 2019. Researchers from CMP and partner institutions presented on the progress of their needs assessment and framework across different health workstreams for strengthening research capacity on health in conflict. During the two-day meeting, the team presented an overview of GHI's work progress across cancer, political economy of health, and health in conflict. The team also participated in the Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference that took place in Amman that same week.

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## CMP Research Associate Presents on Conducting Research in Conflict to R4HC MENA Research Associates in Jordan

March 2019 | Amman



During the executive board meeting that was held in Amman for the R4HC MENA project, Dr. Maiky delivered a presentation on conducting research in conflict zones. In her presentation, she highlighted the challenges in conducting research in conflict and lessons learned from the MENA region. Dr. Maiky reflected on her experience from the field to outline the challenges related to methods, ethics and accountability that research in conflict entails.

## GHI Team Participates Delivers a Series of Lectures and Seminars as part of the Health and Conflict Course at King's College London

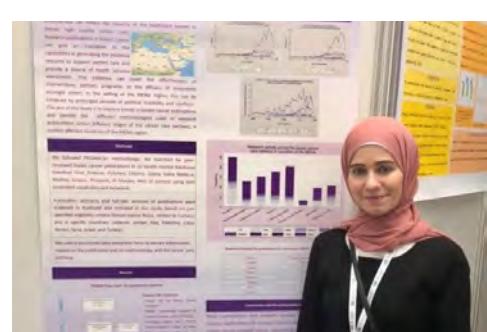
February, March 2019 | London



As part of the work on health and conflict, CMP Research Associate Dr. El Achi and Programs Manager Ms. Menassa prepared and delivered a series of lectures and interactive seminars to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Global Health at King's College London. The topics ranged from Nutrition in Conflict to Health Research in Conflict. This course was jointly prepared and delivered by R4HC MENA team at both GHI at AUB and KCL.

## CMP Research Associate Presents on Breast Cancer Research in Conflict during IEA-EMR Conference

February 2019 | Beirut



CMP former Research Associate Dr. Rima Abdul Khalek presented research findings of GHI's scoping review on breast cancer research in conflict during this year's International Epidemiological Association - Eastern Mediterranean Region 2019. The conference that took place in Beirut was attended by many health professionals and stakeholders.

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## NUTRITION AND OBESITY RELATED DISEASES

### NORD

#### The 9th Annual International Breast Cancer and Nutrition Symposium (IBCN) To Be Held for the First Time in the Middle East

November 2019 | Lebanon



Middle East. The 2019 theme is "Breast Cancer Prevention: From Genes to Nutrition and Lifestyle" and the sessions will cover: Breast Cancer in the MENA Region and Beyond, Epigenetics, Life Course and Cancer Risk, Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity in Prevention of Breast Cancer, Environmental Contaminants, Breast Cancer and Economic perspective for shaping public health policies.

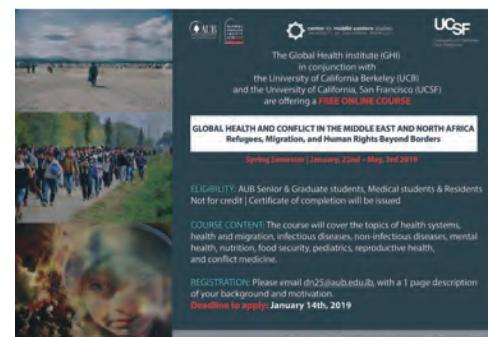
[Read more](#)

## REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

### RHP

#### Free Online Course on Global Health and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa-Refugees, Migration, and Human Rights Beyond Borders

January - May 2019 | Lebanon



#### PROFILE: Collaborative Study between GHI's Refugee Health Program and the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing

April 2019 | Lebanon



GHI in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine (FM), Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) and Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at AUB, will host the IBCN 2019 Symposium in November 14-15 2019, in celebration of the annual Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

The IBCN project was conceived at Purdue University, Indiana. Housed in Discovery Park, Oncological Sciences Center, it aims to serve as a model for breast cancer prevention by adopting a multidisciplinary approach that brings together experts in breast cancer, nutrition, cell and molecular biology, health policy, anthropologists among others, who will collectively set strategies to examine nutrient induced genome changes and breast cancer onset.

The IBCN 2019 Symposium is the 9<sup>th</sup> annual

During the Spring semester, GHI in conjunction with the University of California Berkeley and the University of California, San Francisco offered the online course "Global Health and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa: Refugees, Migration, and Human Rights Beyond Borders". Five out of the nine modules were developed by GHI co-directors and affiliates: Dr. Lamis Jomaa, Dr. Fouad Fouad, Dr. Mona Osman, Dr. Faysal Kak and Dr. Ghassan Abou Sittah. The course had a wide participation and contribution from AUB students enrolled from various faculties.

The Refugee Health Program (RHP) and the AUB's Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) at AUB initiated their first research study collaboration (PROFILE).

The aim of this study is to examine the impact of the refugee crisis on the resilience, well-being and quality of services provided by nurses in healthcare centers in Lebanon.

### Mobile University for Health (MUH) First Cohort on Women's Health Certificate

March - April 2019 | Lebanon



The GHI Academy's MUH rolled out its first certificate on Women's Health in March-April, 2019. The certificate was delivered to a cohort of over 25 women learners from the Syrian refugees and host community populations in the north of Lebanon. The MUH project aims to empower women by building the professional health skills of women refugee and host community members using state of the art distance learning. The cohort was successfully completed with evident improvement in learners' knowledge and attitude. Learners received the didactic training in the facilities of Malaak, an NGO dedicated to educating Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The practical training of the cohort took place in a primary health care centre in the north. All learners who completed the curriculum will be receiving a certificate from AUB during a graduation ceremony.

[Read more](#)

### Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) Curriculum Vetting Workshop

April 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



core objective, which is to equip health practitioners with the practical skills and tools they need to conduct research in conflict settings.

[Read more](#)

### GHI Academy Webinar Series on Gender and Global Health

January – February 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



The GHI Academy launched its second webinar series on "Gender and Global Health" in January-February 2019. The series consisted of three webinars including: gender equity and access to health from a human rights perspective, women's health in protracted crises and gender based violence. The speakers were from local and international academic institutions, humanitarian organizations, and governmental agencies. Over 700 individuals from more than 50 countries have viewed the webinars so far.

[Read more](#)

Dr. Enrique Steiger is a Swiss board certified specialist in plastic- and reconstructive surgery, as well as a board certified specialist in traumatology. He earned his doctorate at the University of Zurich, and continued his specialist training in Los Angeles and Rio de Janeiro. He is the clinic director and owner of the renowned clinic utoquai in Zurich, Switzerland since 1997. Since 1989, he has undertaken numerous missions as a physician and delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, OSCE in regions of conflict like: Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Namibia, Western- Sahara, Bosnia, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Chad, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan Syria etc.

He is a guest lecturer at the Institute of Political Science, University of Zürich, in conflict research and senior medical advisor in the rank of Lt Col to SWISSINT, the Swiss Peacekeeping Force of the Swiss army until 2017. He is the founder and initiator of the Swisscross Foundation, an independent and impartial humanitarian non-profit organisation which seeks to provide help and support to medical staff and populations affected by armed conflict.

The Swisscross Foundation, through educational and research-driven initiatives, seeks to empower, strengthen and support local medical capacities by covering a wide scope of topics including community building and mobilization, standardization of clinical protocols and surgical methods, post-operative care, adaptability to changing environments and security and infrastructure development.

As the Swisscross works to enhance the quality of medical treatment in conflict zones, and across borders, it also aims to restore human dignity by providing treatment which enhances the victim's quality of life and ability to perform tasks crucial to their survival.

Dr Enrique Steiger, has not only been committed to its activities for more than 15 years but he has also served as a war surgeon in numerous conflict areas for the past 20 years throughout the world. Dr. Steiger is married, has a 20 year old daughter and lives in Küsnacht near Zurich.

### CORE EXPERT PROFILE

## Enrique Steiger Ph.D

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon  
Founder, Swisscross Foundation  
Switzerland



**“**Help rebuild the health care communities damaged by conflicts, not physically, but through mentorship and training! **”**

*Enrique Steiger*

## GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



### Dana Sobh, ME

#### **Project Coordinator, GHI ASSIST**

Dana Sobh is the Project Coordinator for the AUB NGO Initiative, which is a joint project between the Global Health Institute and the Regional External Programs at AUB. Dana holds a Master's degree in Engineering Management with a focus on Project Management. She has previous consulting experience as a Business Analyst, Educational Supervisor, and Trainer. She spent over five years working with NGOs on community development projects. She has thorough knowledge in planning, data analyses, researching, and training.



### Tarek Kishawi, MPH

#### **Consultant, GHI Academy**

Tarek Kishawi is a consultant working on developing the curriculum of the Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW). Tarek earned his undergraduate degree in History from AUB and completed his postgraduate studies at the University of Sheffield, earning a Masters in Public Health. He worked in community centers providing valuable services and assistance to migrants and refugees in Lebanon and Greece. His research interests involve the study of war and health and migration.



### Zahi Abdul Sater, PhD

#### **Post Doctoral Research Fellow, CMP Program**

Zahi Abdul Sater is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow for the R4HC MENA cancer work stream based at AUB Global Health Institute. Zahi holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with a minor in Cancer Biology, from Indiana University, USA and a Masters of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics from the American University of Beirut (AUB). His research focused on unraveling the mitotic networks leading to genomic instability in cancer.



### Maya Abou Saad, MPH

#### **Project Coordinator, RHP Program**

Maya Abou Saad is a project coordinator for the SEEK Trial project developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with GHI. Maya earned her undergraduate degree in Environmental Health and completed her postgraduate studies at AUB, earning a Master's in Public Health. She worked as an administrative assistant in an NGO for refugees called INSAN, and as a research assistant in the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB. Her main interest is to explore innovative approaches to advocate for health in poor communities. Her research interests involve the study of refugees and health.

## GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Apply now! 



**Joe Laham**  
**William's College, United States**  
January 2019

Joe is pursuing his BA in Computer Science and Economics at Williams College, Williamstown. Looking to nurture his skills in global health knowledge, Joe decided to intern at the Global Health Institute hoping to get involved in the interdisciplinary initiatives and contribute to the GHI mission's in addressing global health challenges in the MENA region.



**Indira Idyk**  
**Wageningen University, Netherlands**  
February 2019

Indira is pursuing her Master's Degree in Nutrition and Health at Wageningen University, with a specialization in Epidemiology and Public Health Nutrition. She is interested in looking at global and public health from different perspectives, not exclusively nutrition. Indira reached out to GHI to get a broader experience in Global Health more specifically in the Middle East.



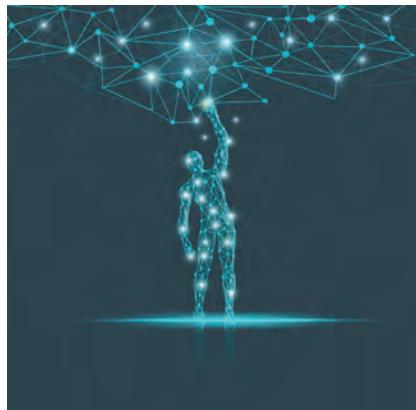
**Salah Ghazzal**  
**American University of Beirut, Lebanon**  
February-April, 2019

Salah is pursuing his BA in Political Science and Public Administration having earned minors in International Law and Public Policy, at the American University of Beirut. Attracted by the GHI's multi-disciplinary approach in bringing together policy and healthcare, Salah worked with the Conflict Medicine Program team on the political work stream for the R4HC MENA project, more specifically on research projects concerning global health research in the Arab World.



**Patil Babikian**  
**Lebanese American University, Lebanon**  
May 2019

Patil Babikian is pursuing her Master's Degree in Molecular Biology at the Lebanese American University (LAU). Her research focuses on cancer chemoprevention. Having an interest in the health field in general, she aims to expand her experience in the field of global and public health by joining the AUB GHI internship program.



" This universe I adore is an infinite store  
In energy and information  
Like the waves of an ocean  
They're making and breaking evermore  
All over my consciousness  
Making countless waves on my senses  
Ringing my heart's string  
And urging to join the symphony all long

And joining the song on universal tone  
Playing in the global hearts  
Are indeed the finest parts  
That all of us should learn and adorn  
For reaching the end goal  
And fulfill our life as blessed human "

**The State Of Our Global Health, Orchestra  
Tushar Ray**

## CONTACT US

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