

LENS

GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE E-NEWSLETTER
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GLOBAL
HEALTH
INSTITUTE
AUB

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Dear Lens Readers,

The Global Health Institute (GHI) celebrated its second anniversary this past quarter. The past two years have been rich with initiatives addressing global health challenges beyond those affecting the MENA countries to other regions in the Global South. All of that is the culmination of the commitment and hard work of the GHI team, unwavering institutional support and committed partners. Still, it seems like the journey is still long as global health challenges are reaching an alarming level, many consider jeopardizing the survival of the human race

In this issue of the LENS, we highlight the global burden of cancer, and the initiatives GHI and its partners are undertaking to address this global health challenge. We specifically present GHI's latest collaborative project, the Initiative for Cancer Registration in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey Region [MENAT] (ICRIM). The Initiative is a joint effort with the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, the Children's Cancer Institute at AUB Medical Center and the Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC) Program (spearheaded by King's College), in addition to many regional and international partners. ICRIM will be launched in a regional workshop hosted by GHI at AUB which will bring together regional cancer registry managers and key decision makers. The aim is to discuss strategies for improving cancer registration in the MENAT region.

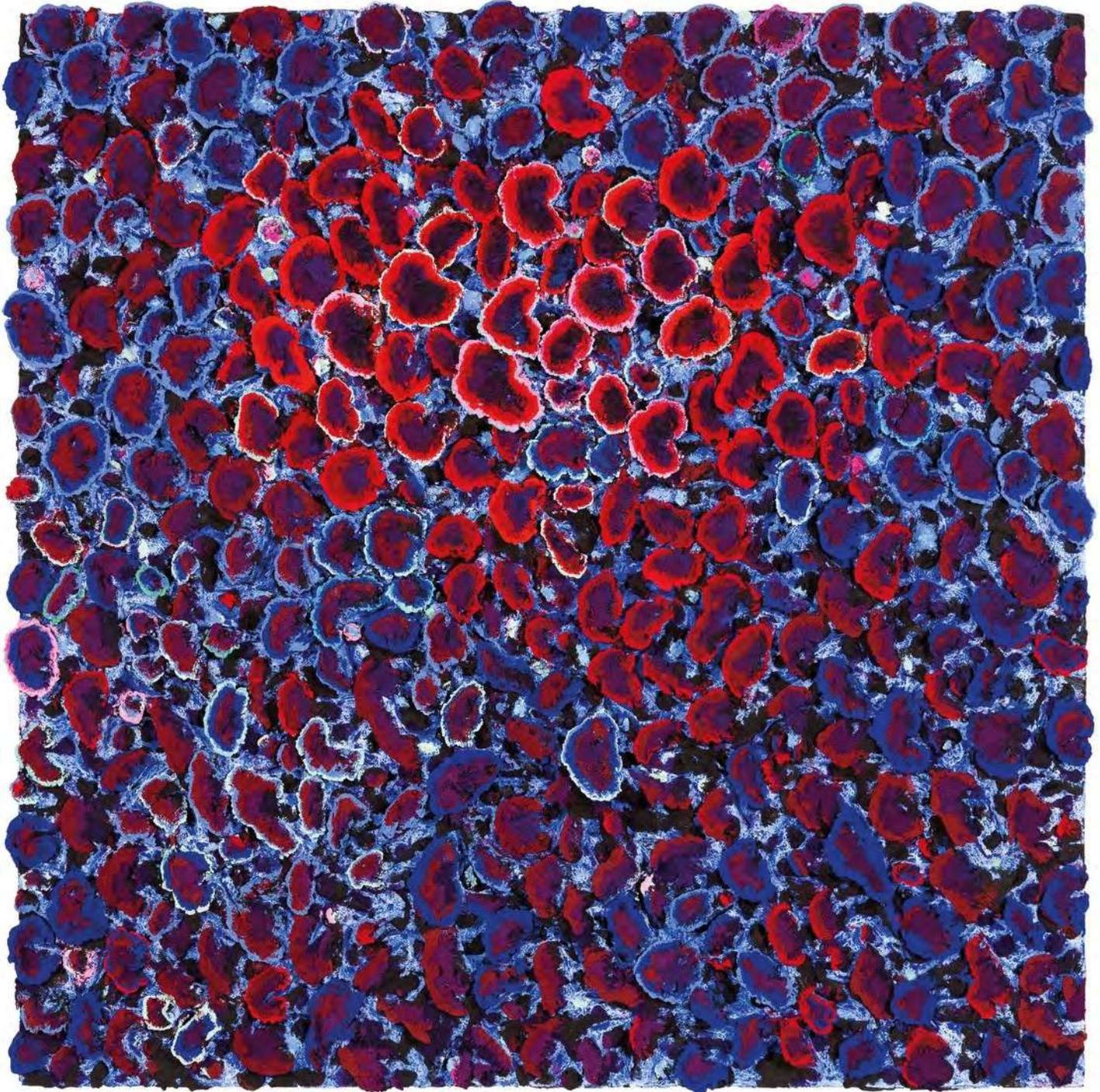
In September, the GHI Academy, the capacity-building arm of GHI, has launched two key initiatives: the Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) fellowship and the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma. The fellowship employs an innovative model, blending online and face-to-face mentorship to equip frontline health practitioners in conflict settings with the necessary skills to conduct research into the relationship between health and war. The Humanitarian Leadership Diploma, consisting of eight courses, is designed to strengthen the skills and competencies of both new and existing managers to lead different types of humanitarian crisis. GHI is offering five full scholarships for CREEW fellowship and ten full scholarships for the Diploma applicants from conflict settings. The quantity and quality of applications received are an indication of the gap these capacity building programs addresses, and reinforces our belief that the knowledge produced will be of great value to humanitarian practitioners worldwide.

I hope you enjoy reading all the GHI news in this upcoming issue of the lens and we look forward to your continuous engagement.

Shadi Saleh

THROUGH THE LENS

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Nabil Nahas: Untitled, 2019, 150x150cm, Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Saleh Barakat Gallery.

Nabil Nahas is a Lebanese artist, born in 1949, currently living in New York. Nahas' use of geometric motifs and decorative patterns is inspired by Levantine art as well as traditional Western abstract painting, pointillist and impressionistic techniques, sometimes combined into florid brightly colored compositions, evoking the richness of nature and of the imagination.

This painting is from Nahas' s latest exhibition (Sept 2019), which revolves around fractals. In his works, the fractal is analogous to the geometry of nature in its laws, processes, and overall logic.

GHI HIGHLIGHTS

THE GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS SECOND YEAR ANNIVERSARY

July 2019 | Global Health Institute



In recognition of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Global Health Institute (GHI), the GHI team gathered to celebrate another year of hardwork and commitment to drive sustained actions for global health in the MENA region and the Global South.

The theme of the second anniversary was "GHI... Two Years on the Rise". During the past two years, GHI's institutional path has evolved to include:

- ▣ 33 educational offerings
- ▣ 1728 learners
- ▣ 14 research projects
- ▣ 175 volunteers engaged
- ▣ 93 experts connected
- ▣ 8825 ASSIST community reach
- ▣ 59 countries global reach
- ▣ 12 partnerships
- ▣ 39 outreach events

[Watch video](#)

GHI ASSIST INITIATES THE WORK ON THE REFUGEE HEALTH SUPPORT PROJECT 'SANADI'

August 2019 | Beqaa, Lebanon



As part of its community outreach agenda, GHI's service arm, ASSIST initiated the work on the refugee health support project SANADI. SANADI is a multi-level and multidisciplinary project, led by medical and health experts from AUB GHI and implemented in collaboration with multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with refugees. It aims to create sustainable health outreach and educational activities for refugees, with an ultimate goal of attending to the increasing health needs of the displaced populations residing in Lebanon. It also aims to improve the morbidity outcomes in the midst of widespread vulnerabilities.

The implementation of the SANADI project, which consists of two phases, a needs assessment and screening phase, followed by tailored interventions to address the identified needs, started last

with Intaliqi NGO. GHI ASSIST team completed the community-based component of the needs assessment that consisted of Focus Groups Discussions with women and men of the targeted informal tented settlement (ITS), complemented with an interview with the collaborator NGO, to better understand the health and medical needs of the targeted ITS. Based on the results of this community-based needs assessment, the GHI ASSIST team will target refugees of the ITS with screening and medical examinations, awareness sessions, and other tailored interventions.

[Read more](#)

GHI LAUNCHES THE INITIATIVE FOR CANCER REGISTRATION IN THE MENAT WORKSHOP

October 2019 | Global Health Institute



Countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region have not established clear and reliable National Cancer Control Plans. Developing and prioritizing such plans is in line with the 2030 WHO Global Monitoring Framework targets and the 2025 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Cancer registration, defined as the systematic collection and analysis of tumor data, is an instrumental component of any cancer control strategy. Cancer registration in the MENAT region is underdeveloped and there is a crucial need for building capacity in cancer registration across the region and involving stakeholders in the process of cancer

surveillance. Hence, GHI, with its partners, is launching the Initiative for Cancer Registration In the MENAT (ICRIM) workshop. The ICRIM workshop, scheduled on October 25th and 26th 2019, will connect regional cancer registry managers and key decision makers to systematically assess the landscape of cancer registration and discuss strategies for improving cancer registration in the MENAT region.

THE 9th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER AND NUTRITION SYMPOSIUM (IBCN) TO BE HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST

November 2019 | Lebanon



In celebration of the annual Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, the Global Health Institute (GHI), in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine (FM), Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) and Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), will host the International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) 2019 Symposium in November 14-15, 2019. The IBCN 2019 Symposium is the 9th annual 3-day Symposium, the first to be held in the Middle East.

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 & molecular biology, health policy, anthropology, and others, who will set strategies to examine nutrient induced genome changes and breast cancer onset.

An international executive committee and advisory board from seven member countries overlook the different activities of IBCN, amongst which is the IBCN annual symposium.

▣ Program highlights

I. Two Keynote speakers:

1. Epigenetics and the Fountain of Youth. Jean Pierre Issa, MD, President & CEO of the Coriell Institute for Medical Research. NJ, USA.
2. Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research. Sharon Ross, PhD, MPH, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, NIH, USA

II. Susan Bulkeley Butler Leadership Excellence Award lecture

Nagi Saghir, MD - Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Hematology/Oncology, AUB Lebanon



Registration

Deadline
October 15, 2019



Symposium
program



Learn more

E SAHHA PROGRAM

ESP

E-SAHHA PROGRAM'S FLAGSHIP PROJECT 'SIJILLI' FEATURED IN LANCET GLOBAL HEALTH

September 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



E-Sahha Program's flagship project 'Sijilli' was featured this September in a commentary written by the project's leads, and published in the Lancet Global Health journal. The published piece highlighted the global health relevance of Sijilli, the mobile electronic health records system for refugees in low-resource settings, and the facilitating role it plays in delivering care to vulnerable groups.

Launched in July 2018, the Sijilli project aims to serve as a model to securely collect and maintain health data of displaced individuals throughout their displacement journey and beyond. To date, more than 8,500 Syrian refugees across Lebanon—the country with the highest proportion of refugees per capita worldwide—have a Sijilli Electronic Health Record. The project is a tripartite partnership among an academic institution (AUB Global Health Institute) based in a low-income country leading the project's technical and operational management and implementation, a private company based in a high-income country providing technical infrastructure (Epic), and a network of local non-governmental organizations facilitating access to the target population. "Such models of partnerships coupled with the employment of low-resource innovations remain much needed to enhance the resilience of health systems in situations of fragility", said Dr. Shadi Saleh, Sijilli project lead, and founding director of GHI.

[Read the full commentary](#)

[Learn more about Sijilli](#)

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM

CMP

GHI CMP TEAM PRESENTS PROGRESS UPDATES AND SUSTAINABILITY PLANS DURING 7th EXECUTIVE BOARD IN CAMBRIDGE

September 2019 | Cambridge UK



Researchers from GHI and Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC MENA) partner institutions presented on the progress of their work during the seventh Executive Board that took place in Cambridge on September 3 and 4, 2019. 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, and discussed new project ideas and sustainability

plans. The team also participated in a one-day workshop in London organized by the Political Economy of Health team at Imperial College London which took place on September 2, 2019.

CMP CO-DIRECTOR, DR. ABU SITTA, PRESENTS ON SURGICAL CHALLENGES DURING THE BLAST INJURY CONFERENCE 2019

July 2019 | London UK



CMP co-Director Dr. Abu Sitta gave a plenary speech on Conflict Medicine and the "War to end all wars": Rising up to the challenges of protracted conflict during the Blast Injury Conference that was held at Imperial College London on 11-12 July 2019.

The conference included an inspiring multidisciplinary program of presentations delving into a broad range of topics related to military and civilian blast injury.

GHI PROGRAMS MANAGER AND RHP CO-DIRECTOR PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH DAY ORGANIZED AT KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

June 2019 | London, UK



As part of the research capacity strengthening aim of R4HC MENA, King's College London organized a research day that brought together colleagues from AUB GHI, King Hussein Cancer Center, Birzeit University, Hacettepe University, Cambridge University, and Imperial College London to explore new research ideas for strengthening research capacity on health in conflict. Menassa and Fouad presented on behalf of the GHI team sustainability plans, project ideas, and collaborations across cancer, political economy of health, and health in conflict.

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

RHP

THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN LEBANON | PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTH: INFORMALITY & COPING MECHANISMS SYMPOSIUM

September 2019 | American University of Beirut, Lebanon



The Refugee Health Program (RHP) organized a Symposium titled "The Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon | Perspectives on Health: Informality & Coping Mechanisms" on September 17th, in order to shed light on informal coping mechanisms for resilience in health adopted by displaced Syrians residing in Lebanon.

The symposium featured the presentation of two qualitative studies conducted by the RHP team followed by reflective discussions from the panelists. The first study explored the

access to services and informal coping mechanisms of displaced Syrians based on registration status, and their effect on health. While, the second study explored the informal provision of services by Syrian healthcare workers in Lebanon. The panels further explored these themes in the context of today's multifaceted humanitarian environment. The diverse background of panelists, including representatives from NGOs, UN agencies, governmental officials and academicians, allowed for a more balanced conversation and highlighted the need for collaboration among key stakeholders in advancing humanitarian efforts and guiding future research and policy recommendations.

GHI PUBLISHES A NEW STUDY ON "INFORMAL HEALTHCARE PROVISION IN LEBANON: AN ADAPTIVE MECHANISM AMONG DISPLACED SYRIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN A PROTRACTED CRISIS"

August 2019 | Global Health Institute, Lebanon



The Refugee Health Program is pleased to announce the publication of its study "Informal healthcare provision in Lebanon: an adaptive mechanism among displaced Syrian health professionals in a protracted crisis" in Conflict and Health.

This qualitative study sheds light on the mechanisms of informal provision of services by Syrian healthcare practitioners, in addition to the facilitators and barriers to such practices.

[Read more](#)

MOBILE UNIVERSITY FOR HEALTH SECOND COHORT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CERTIFICATE

September 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



The Mobile University for Health (MUH) which aims to build the professional health skills of female refugees and host communities using state of the art distance learning delivered its second cohort on Women's Health Certificate, on September 2019, in the greater Beirut area. The cohort was successfully completed with evident improvement in learners' knowledge and attitude towards the topics discussed during didactic and practicum hours. The didactic hours of the certificate were delivered in a non-mobile facility in the presence of a teaching assistant. The practicum hours took place in the outpatient department of the AUB Medical Center during which learners were able to observe how patients access and receive women's healthcare services. All learners completed the required work and will be receiving recognized certification from AUB, which would support and empower women of the targeted communities and at a later stage support the rebuilding of their health care system.

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE ECOLOGY OF WAR FELLOWSHIP LAUNCH

July 2019 | Global Health Institute, Lebanon



The Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) launched the CREEW fellowship call for applications for the inaugural cohort of fellows, on July 24, 2019. Applications are being received on a rolling basis from countries currently experiencing armed conflict including Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. The fellowship admissions committee will select up to eight fellows and will take them through a one-year program that includes training in research methods and best practices for conducting research in conflict setting. Fellows will then be paired with mentors, chosen for their expertise in the field, who will guide them through the entire research process—from data collection to publication. Every year, the Center chooses a priority global health issue as a thematic topic for research. This year's theme is Antimicrobial resistance, which is increasingly seen as one of the greatest threats to global health.

MIDDLE EASTERN CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN ADVANCEMENT LAUNCHES THE HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA

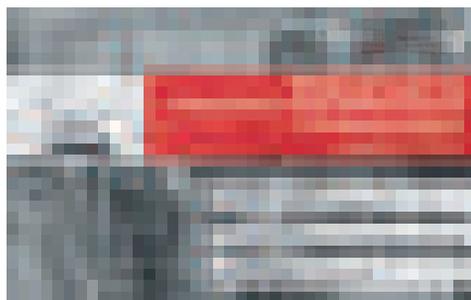
September 2019 | Global Health Institute, Lebanon



The Middle Eastern Center for Humanitarian Advancement (MECHA) launched the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma on September 2019, and opened the call for applications for global humanitarian practitioners. MECHA is a virtual center established in partnership between GHI and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy for the delivery of contextualized humanitarian tools and programs in the MENA region. More than 300 applicants applied to the first course "Project Management in Humanitarian Settings" from all over the world, among them, Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Ten scholarships will be offered to humanitarian practitioners who fit the scholarship eligibility criteria. The online diploma consists of eight courses, each spanning for a duration of 5 weeks, will start in September 2019 and end in August 2020.

WEBINAR PANEL ON 'CONTEXTUALIZATION OF HUMANITARIAN LEARNING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE'

September 2019 | Global Health Institute, Lebanon



The MECHA delivered a webinar panel on “Contextualization of Humanitarian Learning, From Theory to Practice” that attracted high participation and engagement from the international and regional humanitarian community. The speakers from Britain, Philippines and Lebanon, discussed the importance of contextualization of humanitarian learning and presented some practical experiences from the field.

[Watch webinar](#)

GHI ASSIST

NGOI BUILDS CAPACITY OF NGOS STAFF IN PROPOSAL MANAGEMENT AND DONOR IDENTIFICATION

July 2019 | Beirut, Lebanon



The Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) at AUB initiated its capacity building activities with a course on Proposal Management and Donor Identification, delivered through the months of July-August 2019. The course, which falls under the requirements of the NGOi certificate in "NGO Fundraising & Proposal Management", was attended by 30 professionals from more than 25 different NGOs operating in Lebanon. Throughout the course, participants built and strengthened their understanding of how to identify, qualify, and segment donors effectively for their organization, and how to write successful proposals targeting different donors.

Next on the NGOi agenda of offerings is the face-to-face course on ‘Methods of Assessing Community needs’ which aims to build the capacity of NGOs staff on the topic of community centricity.

[Register for the course](#)



Know more about the NGOi and its services



I- Organizational Certification



II- Training and Capacity Building



III- Performance Improvement



IV- Knowledge Resource Center



V- Convening Platform

Dr Deborah Mukherji joined the faculty of the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) in June 2012 as a medical oncologist and has a special interest in gastrointestinal and genitourinary oncology. Dr Mukherji completed her advanced specialty training in Medical Oncology at Guys and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust, London UK and was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London in 2011. On completion of her advanced specialty training Dr Mukherji joined the Royal Marsden Hospital London where she worked in clinical research and drug development with a focus on prostate cancer. In June 2015 Dr Mukherji was awarded a post-graduate diploma in Global Clinical Research from Harvard Medical School supported by a scholarship from the Dubai-Harvard Foundation. In June 2016 Dr Mukherji was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians UK.

At AUBMC Dr Mukherji is involved in patient care, clinical and translational research and the teaching of medical students and junior doctors. Dr Mukherji currently directs the fellowship training program for hematology oncology and is a Van Dyke Medical Educator involved in medical student teaching. Dr Mukherji is a vice-chair of the AUB biomedical institutional research board (IRB) and has an active portfolio of clinical and translational research projects involving many

co-investigators within AUB plus regional and international collaborators. Dr Mukherji is a member of the coordinating team for the Oncodistinct clinical trials network and a member of the Prostate Cancer Association Group to Investigate Cancer Associated Alterations in the Genome (PRACTICAL) international consortium. Dr Mukherji co-chairs the Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference Middle East satellite meeting and in 2019 published resource-stratified consensus recommendations for the region in the World Journal of Urology.

Dr Mukherji is currently a co-investigator on the cancer workstream of the research for health in conflict (R4HC) project in collaboration with partners in the UK, Palestine, Turkey and Jordan. Colleagues from the AUB Global Health Institute are working on building research and policy capacity in conflict-affected areas focusing on health, political economy and cancer care. We have recently completed work on the financial toxicity experienced by Iraqi patients with cancer who travel to Lebanon for high-cost cancer treatments.

CORE EXPERT PROFILE

Dr Deborah Mukherji MBBS, FRCP

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
American University of Beirut Medical Center



“Low and middle-income countries (LMICs) carry the highest burden of cancer incidence and mortality. Cancer control and the adaptation of cancer treatment guidelines to resource-limited settings is essential to improve outcomes globally”

Deborah Mukherji

GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Amar Chamas, MSc
Project Associate, GHI Academy

Amar joined the GHI Academy as a project associate at the Middle Eastern Center for the Humanitarian Advancement (MECHA) where she is currently working on the Humanitarian Management Diploma. Amar holds a BA in Political Studies with a minor in Arabic and Middle Eastern Languages from the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is currently pursuing her Masters studies in International Affairs at the Lebanese American University (LAU). Prior to joining the GHI Academy team, Amar taught Colloquial Arabic and Arabic Language at the teaching consultancy center ETCETERA.



Elsa Kobeissi, MPH
Research Associate, CMP

Elsa joined the CMP as a Research Associate on the NIHR PrOTect project on Trauma. After finishing her Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the Lebanese American University (LAU), Elsa completed her Master of Public Health degree at Imperial College London, with an emphasis in Global Health. Prior to joining the GHI CMP team, Elsa worked as Data Analyst for the May Measurement Month global awareness campaign initiated by the International Society of Hypertension and as Data Analyst for the Oxford GBD Group on the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) project.



Rita Nassar, MPH
Project Coordinator, GHI ASSIST

Rita joined the GHI ASSIST as a Project Coordinator on the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi). Rita hold a BS in Biology from the Lebanese University and an MPH with a concentration in Health Management and Policy from AUB. In her final semester, she had the opportunity to do her internship at International Medical Corps (IMC) for a period of 3 months where she managed several projects and visited many Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) conducted interviews and collected data. Rita is a motivated public health practitioner with almost 3 years of experience in the healthcare sector.



Hady Naal, M.A in Clinical Psychology
Research Assistant, GHI Academy

Hady holds a B.A in Psychology and has recently received an M.A in Clinical Psychology. Over the past five years, he has managed, consulted, and/or assisted on multiple research projects in different fields such as substance use, mental health, and sexual health. During his graduate studies, Hady developed an interest in health and mental health promotion research, with a focus on youth and underserved populations. He currently seeks to conduct research that informs and improves healthcare systems, and that connects academia with on-the-ground fieldwork



Massa Baali, MSc
Artificial Intelligence Consultant, ESP

Massa works as an Artificial Intelligence (AI) consultant for the E-Sahha Program (ESP). Massa is an AI Engineer & she is currently pursuing her master's degree in computer science from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Massa will help the ESP to put in practice the AI to tackle many global health challenges.

GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



Lea Sacca
University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston
June 2019

Lea is a PhD candidate at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHealth) at Houston from where she holds an MPH in Health Promotion Behavioral Sciences and Global Health as well. Lea interned with the Refugee Health Program (RHP) and was involved in multiple activities including community based research projects.



Rita Ibrahim
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London
July 2019

Rita has a BSc in Human Genetics from University College London & will be pursuing her MPH at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She supported the Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) team on various research projects related to cancer, mental health & political economy of health.



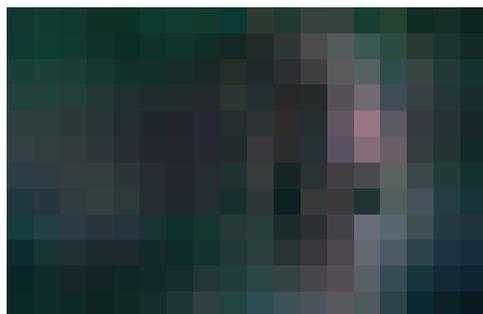
Lubna Jaber
University of Balamand, Lebanon
August-until date, 2019

Lubna holds a BSc in Public Health & Development Sciences from the University of Balamand, Lebanon. She works with the Refugee Health Program on various qualitative research & community based projects. Lubna supports the institute during the main events by working collaboratively with all the GHI team members.



Apply to the GHI internship program

GLOBAL HEALTH IN WORDS



"The experienced mount climber is not intimidated by a mountain - he is inspired by it.

The persistent winner is not discouraged by a problem - he is challenged by it.

Mountains are created to be conquered; adversities are designed to be defeated; problems are sent to be solved.

It is better to master one mountain than a thousand foothills."

William Arthur Ward

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PROGRAMS



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