

OBS/GYN

Issue N° 03 Winter Newsletter 2012



Our lives are dedicated to yours

INTERIM CHAIRMAN SERVES ON THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN MEDICINE FOR 2012



Dr. Anwar Nassar was invited to serve on the committee of international experts to select this year's winner of the King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) in Medicine.

This prize is awarded to leaders in the fields of Islamic studies, Arabic literature, science and medicine. To date, 209 laureates from 40 countries have been awarded the prize. The deliberations of the committee were held in the King Faisal Center for Islamic Studies and Research in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on January 14-17, 2012. The Prize for Medicine (Minimal Invasive Fetal Management) was awarded jointly to Professors Richard L. Berkowitz of Columbia University and James B. Bussel of Cornell University for their pioneering work in the management of alloimmune thrombocytopenia. Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, director general of the King Faisal Foundation, announced the winners of the 2012 KFIP at a high-profile event held in Riyadh on January 16, 2012. It is worth mentioning that, since its inception 34 years ago, 15 of the recipients of this prize were later awarded the Nobel Prize for the same work.

The Winter 2012 issue of **OBS/GYN Wire** is rich in departmental news and achievements.

Before I leave you to catch up on our work, I'd like to share with you very special news. Two of our alumni, who are world-renowned in the field of maternal fetal medicine, are currently the presidents of two prestigious societies in the United States.

Dr. George Saade is the President of the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and Dr. Alfred Abuhamad is the President of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). This brings great pride to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in particular, and AUBMC in general.

Sincerely,
Anwar Nassar, MD
Editor-in-Chief

UNFORGETTABLE CHRISTMAS DINNER AT LE BRISTOL

On December 14, 2011, the departmental Christmas dinner was held at Le Bristol Hotel, where attendings, residents, nurses, support staff and guests from various departments gathered to celebrate the success of our department last year.

AUBMC Director of Nursing, Miss Iman Kouatly, said that this gathering, which included a live performance by Zahret El-Adra Choir, was "outstanding for the spirit that exists among the physicians, nurses, clinical assistants and other AUBMC staff. This is what the Christmas holiday is all about and a true testimony of what a Magnet environment we are living by at AUBMC."



Zahret El-Adra Choir getting ready to perform at the departmental Christmas dinner

CONGRATULATIONS

- Dr. Muhieddine Seoud was appointed member of the Standing Committee on Gynecologic Oncology of the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) in December 2011.
- Dr. Joseph Nassif was elected advisor for Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery at the Royal College of Ob/Gyn – Portugal on November 11, 2011.
- Numerous faculty members were recognized for their Service Excellence in patient care in a ceremony held on January 4, 2012. Among them were Drs. Muhieddine Seoud, Anwar Nassar, Ali Khalil, Antoine Abu-Musa and Ahmad Fakih.

ACADEMIC NEWS

- Dr. Antoine Hannoun received the best research award in the Middle East Fertility Society Meeting held in Beirut in November 2011 for his research entitled: "Addition of sphingosine-1-phosphate to human oocyte culture medium decreases embryo fragmentation".
- Dr. Joseph Nassif performed the first Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (N.O.T.E.S.) cholecystectomy on a porcine model in the Middle East along with Drs. Assaad Soueid and Faek Jamali on December 9, 2011. Human application is pending IRB approval.
- Dr. Labib Ghulmiyyah participated in the breast cancer awareness campaign held by Think Pink. Dr. Ghulmiyyah briefed several health care providers about the "step by step" process of conducting the Breast Self Exam. The campaign generated enormous hype online and offline.
- Dr. Antoine Hannoun was the external examiner for the defense of Fatima Saeed Al Sheikh's Master's thesis in Laboratory Medicine, specializing in Biochemistry entitled: "Protein Z and protein Z-dependent protease inhibitor variants in recurrent spontaneous miscarriage". The defense took place on January 8, 2012 at the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences in the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain.
- Dr. Tony Bazi was invited by the Saudi Urogynecology Group to participate in the 2nd Urogynecology and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Symposium and Workshop, which was held at King Abdul-Aziz University Hospital on December 14-15, 2011. He gave two presentations entitled "The spectrum of urogynecology across the medical disciplines" and "Urogenital fistulae". In addition, he was an instructor at two workshops: "Perineal repair" and "Retropubic midurethral slings".
- Dr. Labib Ghulmiyyah was an invited speaker at the Grand Rounds at the Department of Anesthesia at AUBMC, where he discussed obstetrical emergencies.
- Dr. Labib Ghulmiyyah was an invited speaker and moderator at a half-day seminar held at RHUH for the 30th anniversary of AIDS Day to increase global awareness and update the audience on the AIDS pandemic in Lebanon and the region. Several national keynote speakers as well as religious figures were present. This educational activity was highly attended by the community, patients and staff.
- Drs. Anwar Nassar and Fadi Mirza were invited speakers at the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LSOG) Seminar Series held in Nabatieh, Lebanon, in December 2011. This activity, which was attended by a significant number of local physicians, was the result of the ongoing collaboration between the LSOG and the Department. Dr. Nassar reviewed the new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of gestational diabetes, while Dr. Mirza gave an overview of the diagnosis and management of antepartum hemorrhage.

PUBLICATIONS

- Perretta S, Vix M, Dallemagne B, Nassif J, Donatelli G, Marescaux J. Repeated transvaginal notes: is it possible? Surg Endosc 2012 Feb; 26(2): 565.
- Pomel C, Naik R, Martinez A, Ferron G, Nassif J, Dauplat J, Jeyarajah A. Systematic (complete) para-aortic lymphadenectomy: Description of a novel surgical classification with technical and anatomical considerations. BJOG 2012 Jan; 119(2): 249-53.
- Ghazeeri G, Awwad J. Two successful pregnancies in a patient with chemotherapy-induced ovarian failure while on hormone replacement therapy. Gynecol Endocrinol 2011 Nov 28. [Epub ahead of print]
- Nassar AH, Masrouha K, Itani H, Abi Nader K, Usta IM. Effects of sildenafil in L-NAME-induced intrauterine growth restriction in a rat model. Am J Perinatol 2012 (In press)
- Fahed A and Nassar AH. Pregnancy in a homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia woman not on LDL-apheresis. Am J Perinatol 2012 (In press)

CME CREDITS FROM THE LEBANESE ORDER OF PHYSICIANS FOR OBS/GYN GRAND ROUNDS

The weekly Grand Rounds held on Wednesday at 7:30 AM in SB-101 are now assigned category 2 CME credits by the Lebanese Order of Physicians.



Alumni News

*Dr. Faysal El Kak graduated from AUBMC as an obstetrician/gynecologist in 1995. He is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB, where he is involved in teaching and research. His clinical work is based on comprehensive women's health care, focusing on maternal health, youth reproductive health, and sexual health. He is also involved in scientific and advocacy activities, and the training of physicians around women's health issues, and works on the advancement of clinical algorithms and evidence-based practices, and raising public awareness. He served as consultant on various reproductive sexual health/maternal health and women's health issues in Lebanon with UN agencies, namely the UNFPA and WHO. He was recently elected President of the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

*Dr. Tarek Khalife finished his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at AUBMC in 2009. Throughout his residency years in the department, he consistently received departmental awards acknowledging his contributions to medical students' education. Currently, he is a third year resident at the Henry Ford Health System - Detroit, Michigan. He is planning to join a fellowship training in Female Pelvic Medicine, a field that is becoming more and more essential in caring for women worldwide. In his spare time, Dr. Khalife enjoys going on road trips and wild life excursions as well as cooking and tasting good food. He is getting engaged in April and he says that he couldn't be happier. Congratulations!

THE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONGRESS OF LSOG: EXCEPTIONAL PARTICIPATION BY AUBMC FACULTY

The International Annual Congress of the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology was held in Beirut on November 17-19, 2011. The faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was once again an integral component of this congress. Drs. Karam Karam and Adnan Mroueh were honored in the opening ceremony attended by the Minister of Health.

Drs. Anwar Nassar, Ihab Usta, Abdallah Adra, Labib Ghulmiyyah, and Fadi Mirza participated in the pre-congress workshop entitled "Emergency obstetric care: The art and science that every obstetrician should know". Drs. Antoine Abu-Musa and Joseph Nassif participated in the workshop entitled "Laparoscopic psychomotor skills and suturing", while Dr. Muhieddine Seoud took part in the one about "HPV prevention and management". Drs. Seoud, Ali Khalil, Joseph Nassif and Tony Bazi also gave lectures at the event.



From right to left: H.E. Minister of Health Ali Hasan Khalil, Dr. Karam Karam, Dr. Anwar Nassar

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISIONS

Dr. Anwar Nassar recently announced the establishment of the Divisions of Maternal Fetal Medicine (Head: Ihab Usta, MD) and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (Head: Johnny Awwad, MD). The Head of the Division will report directly to the Chairperson and will be responsible for the academic program, clinical service, administration, growth and development of the Division. This would help us move towards our long-term goal of developing fellowship programs in various disciplines.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DR. ANWAR NASSAR

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

A: In 2003 as an Assistant Professor.

Q: What is your title?

A: Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Q: What are your main duties?

A: Clinical, academic, and administrative.

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

A: After a residency in OBS/GYN in this department (1992-1996), I did a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the University of Miami – Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL - USA.

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

A: I would have chosen to be an architect. I have been doing sketches and architectural drawings since my years in High School. I was involved in the architectural design of the Women's Health Center, where I participated in the interior design, choice of the furniture, equipment and decorative items.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: Being appreciated for my efforts by patients, students, residents, faculty, paramedical staff and administration, which brings me immense self-satisfaction.

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

A: To succeed in achieving my goals for the development of the Department without "annoying" anybody. This is not an easy task as most people are always resistant to change.

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

A: Italy. It is my favorite part of the world. I enjoyed every day I spent there. I love the history, the culture, the landscape, the food, the music, the language, the accent, the people and the wine!

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

A: I love to paint. But lately I haven't had much time for myself. I also love listening to various kinds of music.

Q: Tell us something that most people don't know about you.

A: I enjoy cooking for friends. My favorite cuisine is Italian and I prepare my own fresh pasta.

Q: What is your weakness?

A: I forgive easily.

Q: Who is your favorite artist?

A: Fairuz, Van Gogh, and Giuseppe Verdi.

Q: What is your favorite song these days?

A: "Eh Fee Amat", "Adagio" by Albinoni and "Otl w Darar" by Ziad Rahbani.

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

A: "Amadeus", the incredible story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart directed by Milos Forman, is one of the few movies that I have in my DVD library.



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