

Little Ones



by the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at AUBMC - Issue N° 8

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

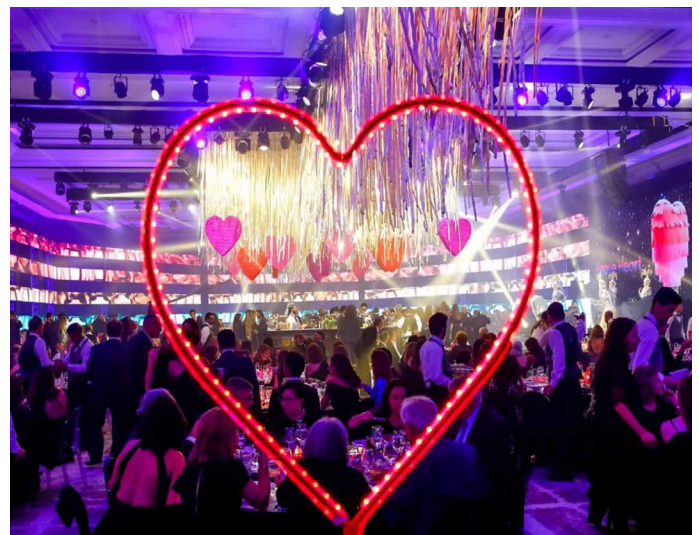
Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Week is observed each year between February 7 and 14 to promote awareness about congenital heart defects. This year, Brave Heart Fund held a press conference on February 23, 2019 to celebrate 15 years of hard work and thank all those whose efforts contributed to this growth. Doctors, committee members, patients, parents, friends and Goodwill Ambassadors, Lana El Sahely and Rodge, and celebrity supporters, Jerry Ghazal and Silvio Chiha were amongst the attendees. The campaign was also featured on different social media platforms.



Brave Heart Fund committee, supporters, and ambassadors

Brave Heart Fund 15th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri, Brave Heart Fund (BHF) and the Children's Heart Center (CHC) teams at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) organizing a fund raising gala dinner on December 08, 2018 in Seaside Pavilion., Celebrating fifteen years of community outreach, BHF highlighted the difference it made within the community by providing hope and healing to children and families affected by congenital heart disease (CHD). In the gala dinner, BHF thanked the extraordinary people who have offered their time, commitment, expertise, and funds in order to save children with heart disease for the past fifteen years. Being the first established patient fund in the country dedicated to support patients with CHD, BHF bridges the gap of limited resources to treat children who suffer from the disease. The Brave Heart Fund has grown to save the lives of 350 children a year with 3636 lives saved to date since its inception in November 2003.



Georges Wassouf Donates to Gift of Life

On Friday, January 11, 2019, the legendary music icon, Georges Wassouf, released his new hit song "Hal El Garih" in a press conference that was held in the Children's Heart Center (CHC) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). During the event, he reiterated his support to the fund and offered to donate YouTube proceeds to the "Gift of Life Lebanon", an International NGO. In 2015, Wassouf was appointed as the ambassador of the NGO, and his step aimed at supporting the treatment of children with congenital heart disease at CHC. To watch the music video and help in raising funds, please click the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flgsTsWLdJE>



Singer Georges Wassouf with the Children's Heart Center team after the press conference

The Stray Bullets' Campaign

"A Stray Grand Round" is the title of the Grand Rounds presented on February 5, 2019 by Dr. Maria Abou Nader, PGYIII and moderated by Dr. Rana Sharara-Chami, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Critical Care. A description of the prevalence and severity of stray bullet injuries occurring in Lebanon in the past few years was presented in a highly attended Grand Round. The campaign, "Stray Bullets", initiated by Dr. Sharara-Chami, aims to raise awareness of the deleterious effects of random gunfire shooting among people in the community. The aim is to also reach policy level and have laws that prohibit this behavior. The launching team: Dr. Rana Sharara-Chami, Dr. Ghadi Abou Daher (Critical Care Fellow), and Dr. Maria Abou Nader, are now working towards political and financial support to run the campaign at all levels, affect community awareness, and impact policy change and public health.



Lebanon Hosts the SWAAC ELSO Conference in 2021

Dr. Jana Assy, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Critical Care and Director of the ECMO program at AUBMC represented Lebanon in the South West Asia and Africa Chapter (SWAAC) of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) 2019 meeting that was held in Egypt on 15-18, January 2019 and that included more than 14 countries.

This year, Dr. Jana Assy represented Lebanon in this highly attended meeting. She was amongst the most prominent speakers in the field, and she shared her knowledge in seven lectures and workshops. Dr. Assy presented and won the bid to host the SWAAC ELSO conference in 2021 in Lebanon; competing with five other countries. Congratulations!



Dr. Jana Assy at the SWAAC ELSO 2019 in Egypt

First Mobile ECMO transfer in Lebanon

Supported by the transfer center at AUBMC, the ECMO program team led by Dr. Jana Assy, along with Dr. Issam Rassi, Dr. Ali Hallal and a team of nurses and support staff, performed the first complex transfer of a patient on ECMO, in Lebanon and the neighboring countries, on February 9. The Lebanese civil defense ambulances, and the air transfer backup of the Lebanese army, the Medical Center's team went to a small hospital in the Bekaa Valley to save the life of the young mother who presented with a severe case of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) due to H1N1, one week after giving birth to her baby. The woman received extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) cannulation and was transported safely to AUBMC Surgical ICU where she is now well-oxygenated and stable.



ECMO and transfer team during the mobile transfer operation.

Congratulations I-Fight PID and Neonate Fund for winning the Celebrity Duets Contest

I-Fight PID Fund ambassador Walid Hellani won first prize in Celebrity Duets Program contest, donating 30,000 USD to the I-Fight PID fund to treat children with Primary Immune Deficiency. Neonate Fund ambassador, former Miss Lebanon, Miss Valerie Abou Chacra, won 3rd place and donated 12,000USD to the Neonate Fund.



Miss Valerie Abou Chacra visiting the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at AUBMC



Mr. Al Walid Hellani presenting the First Prize cheque to the I-fight PID Fund

Dr. Ghassan Dbaibo receives "Excellence in Scientific Research" Award

Professor and Vice-chair for Research and Faculty Development, Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, and Head of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Dr. Ghassan Dbaibo received the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) award on December 13, 2018, in Grand Serail in the presence of several Lebanese dignitaries. Dr. Dbaibo was offered this award for his contributions to understanding the interface between infectious agents and the host's immune response in the context of sphingolipid signaling, oncogenesis, immunodeficiency, and vaccination. The award ceremony was highly featured in Lebanese press and social media.



Dr. Ghassan Dbaibo receiving the CNRS Award from H.E. Bahia Hariri

Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR) and the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology, and Microbiology (EPIM) designated as WHO Collaborating Center

The World Health Organization (WHO) designated the Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR) under the leadership of Dr Ghassan Dbaibo and the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology, and Microbiology (EPIM) under the leadership of Dr Ghassan Mattar and as a "WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Bacterial Pathogens in Lebanon effective February 1, 2019. The center will cooperate with WHO on data collection, organizing local and regional training, monitoring, tracking and controlling spread of multidrug resistant (MDR) bacterial pathogens and responding to emergencies in outbreak settings and will provide a formal framework for future joint activities.



The CIDR and EPIM teams

Dr. Marianne Majdalani Elected as Vice-President for the Lebanese Pediatric Society

Pediatricians gathered on Friday, March 1, 2018 at the Lebanese Pediatric Society and elected Dr. Marianne Majdalani, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care in the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, as vice-president of the society. The Lebanese Pediatric Society was founded in 1959 actively serving a strong pediatrician's voice and patient advocate. Dr. Majdalani has always been an active member of the Lebanese Pediatric Society and was chair of the Scientific Council from 2012 till 2017.



Congratulations!

The Neonate Fund Gala Dinner

The Neonate Fund held its annual gala dinner on January 24, 2019 in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Health H.E Ghassan Hasbani, Deputies, official figures and others from the private and public sectors.

The President of the The Neonate Fund Mrs. Rada Sawwaf, expressed that the burden of premature births is increasing, calling for a national emergency plan to keep pace with the increase in the number of preterm infants.

Mrs. Rada Sawwaf opened with a speech in which she noted that the Neonate Fund, together with the American University of Beirut Medical Center and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, had provided seven years of intensive medical care and treatment to 450 premature babies, who were brought back to their families. She added: The standards of treatment and intensive care at the American University of Beirut Medical Center are unprecedented in the region, and a national emergency plan is needed to cope with the increasing rate of premature babies, in addition to the psychological support that parents receive, which helps them overcome difficult days of concern for the fate of their children in incubators.

The head of the neonatal intensive care unit at the American University of Beirut, Professor Khalid Yunis, emphasized on the presence of an integrated and specialized medical team in addition to the latest technologies and medical equipment that facilitate the work of the team and contribute not only to giving life to these children, but also play a key role in providing special treatment to ensure good health outcomes for these children in the future.

Thanks to Ms.Maya Diab, who made this Gala dinner another special one with her magical performance in support of the Neonate Fund!



The Neonate fund committee during the Gala Dinner on January 24.

NCPNN Meeting 2019

The National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network (NCPNN) held its 7th meeting on January 10-12, 2019 at Le Bristol Hotel, Lebanon.

It was a highly successful meeting that hosted 12 international speakers from USA, Canada, and the UK, and was attended by close to 450 health care professionals, from Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, and UAE.

The meeting hosted participants from various disciplines including physicians, residents, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, and others working in the field of neonatology, pediatrics and obstetrics, in addition to hospital directors and administrators.

The topics discussed including new guidelines and technologies pertaining to the care of newborns and pediatrics, in addition to the workshops offered, have contributed considerably to the high scientific standards of the meeting, and were of great significance and insight to the audience.

Dedication of the Rami Fouad Salha Pediatric Clinic

Through a donation from the Salha family, the Rami Fouad Salha Pediatric Clinic at the Wassef and Souad Sawwaf Building was dedicated in his name and is the first pediatric unit to be dedicated. The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) held a dedication ceremony on March 14, 2019, attended by representative of VP/Dean Dr Mohamad Sayegh, the Salha family, dignitaries, and friends. This Pediatric clinic is headed by Dr Pascale Karam, who has been following up Rami for the past 15 years for his metabolic condition. Dr Karam thanked the family for their continuous benevolent support for the Inherited Metabolic Diseases Research and now the dedication of this clinic. The Salha family thanked AUBMC for the care provided to Rami, and added that this dedication goes to acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Pascale Karam in treating Rami and to support her research in the field of inherited disease.



Faculty, staff, and family during the dedication ceremony on March 14.

Dr. Jaap Jan Boelens visits the Department

On March 19-21, Dr. Jaap Jan Boelens, MD, PhD, and Chief of the Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies in Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center visited the Department of Pediatrics on March 19-21. He gave two special lectures: "Individualized conditioning: towards predictable immune reconstitution and outcomes after alloBMT" and "Transplantation for metabolic disorders" and toured the facility.



Snowshoeing Trip to Baskinta and Sannine

Residents and faculty embarked on a snowshoeing hiking trip on Saturday, February 9, 2019 to Baskinta. After a walk under the falling snow, the group went for a warm lunch in Hemlaya. The trip allowed our foreign residents to get to see one of our breathtaking natural scenes.



Faculty and residents during their snowshoeing hike in Baskinta

Third year medical students thank the department for a valuable educational experience



Third Year Medical students thanking the pediatric department, faculty, and staff on March 21 with a reception gathering.

Annual Christmas Breakfast

It's the festive season! Department faculty, residents, and staff gathered for a Christmas breakfast, exchanging "Secret Santa" gifts and wishes of joy, health, and success for Christmas and the New Year 2019.



Welcoming Dr. Samar Rahhal as new faculty in the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Dr Samar Rahhal joined the Department on March 12, as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology. Dr. Rahhal is American Board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Endocrinology. She will be seeing patients in the private clinics. Dr. Rahhal has a wealth of clinical experience in all pediatric endocrinology disorders, with a special interest in pediatric obesity, hyperlipidemia, and endocrine disorders of childhood cancer survivors. Dr. Rahhal can be reached at extension 7950 (clinic), 5740 (OPD), 6946 (office), 0355 (pager), e-mail: sr47@aub.edu.lb.



Visit of DJ Rodge during Christmas

During the Christmas season, DJ Rodge, goodwill ambassador of the Brave Heart Fund, visited the admitted children in the Children's Heart Center to distribute gifts and wish them merry Christmas and speedy recovery.

