

Current research projects

Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

Breast cancer studies

Project title	Principal investigator
Prognostic determinants of outcome at presentation in young Lebanese female patients (< 40 year compared to those > 40 years with newly diagnosed Breast carcinomas: A prospective clinicopathologic and molecular study)	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Outcome of patients with early and locally advanced breast cancer treated outside clinical trials 2008-2010	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations in ethnic Lebanese Arab women with breast cancer	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
CLEE011F2301 trial (MONALEESA-3): A randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled study of ribociclib in combination with fulvestrant for the treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative, advanced breast cancer who have received no or only one line of prior endocrine treatment	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
CLEE011E2301 (MONALEESA-7): A Phase III randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of LEE011 or placebo in combination with tamoxifen and goserelin or a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor (NSAI) and goserelin for the treatment of premenopausal women with hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative, advanced breast cancer	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
BOLERO6: CRAD001Y2201 trial: A three-arm, randomized, open-label, phase II study of Everolimus in combination with exemestane versus everolimus alone versus capecitabine in the treatment of postmenopausal women with estrogen receptor positive, locally advanced, recurrent or metastatic breast cancer after recurrence or progression on prior letrozole or anastrozole.	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
Peruse MO28047: A multicenter, open-label, single-arm study of pertuzumab in combination with trastuzumab and a taxane in first line treatment of patients with her2- positive advanced (metastatic or locally recurrent) breast cancer.	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
Comparative Baseline needs assessment for Breast Cancer Awareness and Management in Middle East and North Africa	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
Gene Expression Profiling of Breast Cancers in Lebanese Women	Dr. Arafat Tfayli
Toxicity profiles of thin breast cancer patients at AUBMC receiving Anthracycline-based BSA adjusted Chemotherapy	Dr. Arafat Tfayli
Availability, Rate of Usage, and Impact of Commercialized Genomic Tests on Adjuvant Treatment	Dr. Hazem Assi

Decisions in Early-Stage Breast Cancer Patients in Lebanon	
Project Title: Randomized, Prospective, Open Label Phase III trial Comparing Mebo Ointment with Biafine Cream for the Management of Acute Skin Reaction Caused by Postoperative Radiotherapy for Breast.	Dr. Fady Geara

Colorectal cancer studies

Project title	Principal investigator
The survival advantage associated with metformin usage in colorectal patients and type II diabetes	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
A randomized, double-blind, multicenter, phase III study of everolimus (RAD001) plus best supportive care versus placebo plus best supportive care in the treatment of patients with advanced NET of GI or lung origin RADIANT-4	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Oxaliplatin-Induced Increase in Spleen Volume; Accurate Detection and Correlation with Other Oxaliplatin Adverse Events	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Rectal cancer in patients younger than 45 at AUBMC, Epidemiology, tumor characteristics and survival	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Observational Prospective Study In Management of 1st line KRAS Wildtype mCRC with Erbitux™ (Cetuximab) – OPTIM1SE	Dr. Sally Temraz
Colorectal Cancer Outcome Study	Dr. Sally Temraz

Prostate cancer studies

Project title	Principal investigator
Prostate Cancer in the Middle East; Epidemiology, Presentation and Comparison to the western populations	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Collaborative Prostate Cancer Translational Research Project: Development of pre-clinical models of disease and non-invasive biomarkers of treatment response	Dr. Deborah Mukherji
Prostate cancer urinary biomarkers	Dr. Deborah Mukherji
Prostate cancer treated by risk adjusted radiation therapy and androgen ablation	Dr. Fady Geara

Neuroendocrine tumors

Project title	Principal investigator
Primary Familial Hepatic Neuroendocrine tumor (NET)	Dr. Ali Shamseddine
Retrospective chart review of cases of Pancreatic Neuro-Endocrine Tumors (PNETs) at AUBMC	Dr. Ali Shamseddine

Bladder cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Bladder Cancer in Lebanon: a review of clinical, pathological and demographic data.	Dr. Sally Temraz

Pancreatic cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Neo-adjuvant FOLFIRINOX in borderline-respectable/locally advanced pancreatic adenocarcinoma	Dr. Sally Temraz
Modified GTX second-line therapy in pancreatic adenocarcinoma	Dr. Sally Temraz
Prognostic and predictive impact of Bcl2 and P53 expression in patients with pancreatic cancer	Dr. Sally Temraz
Changes in body composition in patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma treated with FOLFIRINOX	Dr. Deborah Mukherji

Gastric cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Expression of HER2 in Signet Ring Gastric Cancer	Dr. Deborah Mukherji
Evaluation of morphology, HER2 status and its clinical and prognostic correlation in advanced gastric cancer	Dr. Deborah Mukherji

Malignant Hematology

Project title	Principal investigator
Investigating the Pathophysiology of Adult T-Cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma and the Role of Post Translational Modification of the Tax Oncoprotein Following Arsenic/Interferon Treatment	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Pathophysiology of HTLV-I associated adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma and mechanism of action of targeted therapies.	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
APL Model for Oncogene-Targeted Leukemia Cure	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Sequencing Adult and pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML) samples for Histone H3.3, H3.2 and H3.1 mutations:	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Hodgkin Lymphoma: AUBMC Experience	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Imatinib Mesylate (Glivec) as maintenance therapy after cytogenetic response with Nilotinib (AMN107, Tasigna) first line in newly diagnosed chronic Myelogenous Leukemia	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Adult Acute Leukemia: AUB Experience	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Targeted Therapy in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients with Nucleophosmin (NPM1) mutation	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
incidence of CMV activation after APSCT at AUBMC	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Predictive value of FDG-PET for clinical outcome in patients with Hodgkin lymphoma or diffuse large B-cell lymphoma prior to and after autologous stem cell transplant	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Trends of Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation at AUBMC	Dr. Ali Bazarbachi
Systemic antifungal prophylaxis represents the main antifungal strategy used in patients	Dr. Jean el Cheikh

hospitalized in haematology. A French cross-sectional observational study, the AFHEM Study.	
Consolidation with bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone post autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation in patients with multiple myeloma: a single-center experience.	Dr. Jean el Cheikh
Comparison between haploidentical T-cell repletetransplantation with post-transplant cyclophosphamide and matched unrelated donor for patients with high-risk hematologic malignancies: A single center experience	Dr. Jean el Cheikh
Impact of graft versus host disease on outcome of haploidentical transplant.	Dr. Jean el Cheikh
Randomized (3:1), 2-arm, open-label, multicenter, multinational, phase III study with a comparison of an add back strategy of HSV-Tk donor lymphocytes versus standard strategy in high risk acute leukemia patients underwent haploidentical HCT.	Dr. Jean el Cheikh
Multiple Myeloma Whole Exome Analysis using Next Generation Sequencing: An outcome correlation among Lebanese patients	Dr. Jean el Cheikh

Lung cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Screening for the Prevalence of EGFR and ALK Mutations in Lung Adenocarcinoma Patients in the Levant Area, a Prospective Analysis	Dr. Arafat Tfayli

Bone cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Bone Scan versus PET Scan for the Detection of Bone Metastases: Is Bone Scan Better in some Patients?	Dr. Arafat Tfayli

Benign hematology

Project title	Principal investigator
Myeloproliferative neoplasms epidemiological registry in growing and emerging markets - The MERGE Study; CINC424AIC01	Dr. Ali Taher
An open label, multi-center, efficacy and safety study of deferasirox in iron overloaded patients with nontransfusion dependent thalassemia (THETIS)	Dr. Ali Taher
A randomized, open-label, multicenter, two arm, phase II study to investigate the benefits of an improved deferasirox formulation (film-coated tablet)	Dr. Ali Taher
A single arm, multicenter, phase II a study to explore the efficacy and safety of ruxolitinib (INC424) in regularly transfused patients with thalassemia	Dr. Ali Taher
Digital thermography in Thalassemia patients	Dr. Ali Taher
A phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, multicenter study to determine the efficacy and safety of Luspatercept (ACE-536) versus placebo in adults who require regular red blood cell transfusions due to Beta-Thalassemia	Dr. Ali Taher
Burden of Beta-Thalassemia – Quality of life and health care resource utilization – A prospective observational study	Dr. Ali Taher

Brain cancer

Project title	Principal investigator
Correlation Of O6-methylguanine Methyltransferase (MGMT) Promoter Methylation and Isocitrate Dehydrogenase 1 (IDH1) mutation With Clinical Outcomes In Patients With Glioblastoma in the Middle East: A Prospective Cohort Study	Dr. Hazem Assi
Correlation of the MGMT to motor methalation and IDH1 mutation with clinical outcomes in patients with glioblastoma.	Dr. Fady Geara

Other

Project title	Principal investigator
Informing patients about their cancer status	Dr. Sally Temraz
Impact of Tumor Boards on Management of Patients with Cancer	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
ASCO survey: Use and Efficiency of Multidisciplinary Tumor Boards Worldwide	Dr. Nagi el Saghir
Outcomes of Patients with Malignancy Admitted to the Intensive Care Units (ICU): a Prospective Study	Dr. Hazem Assi
Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Outcomes of Meningioma Patients	Dr. Hazem Assi
Outcomes of Lebanese Patients with Advanced Malignancies treated with Immunotherapy	Dr. Hazem Assi