



# HPDC NEWSLETTER

## Message from the Associate VP for Medical Advancement and Communications, Dr. Ali Taher



Dear AUB/AUBMC Faculty, Staff, Colleagues, and Students,

It is my great pleasure to announce and launch the first quarterly **“Healthcare Professional Development Center’s (HPDC) Event Newsletter”** to keep you informed of our latest continuing healthcare professional education programs and activities, our services, and accreditation. The first issue of the HPDC Event Newsletter highlights our mission, services and accreditation, in addition to our upcoming, recurrent, and past programs.

Several major changes were put in motion after I was appointed the Associate VP for Medical Advancement and Communications for the Faculty of Medicine including the CME Office, beginning with the name change from the “Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office” to the “Healthcare Professional Development Center (HPDC)”. The change in the office’s name was reflective of the growth and diversity in healthcare programs developed and organized by the office. The HPDC’s programs target physicians, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, patient advocacy groups, patients, fellows, residents, students, and all healthcare professionals working in the healthcare field. As part of the change, Dr. Maya Romani and Dr. Ahmad Zaghal were appointed Directors for Medical Programs and Surgical Programs respectively. Dr. George Abi Saad continues to lead as the Director for Trauma Training Programs at the HPDC.

I would like to end my message by encouraging all faculty and staff to work closely with the HPDC in creating one-of-a-kind health related programs and activities that continue to attract local, national, and regional participation. The Center is ready to guide and assist you in planning, organizing, and implementing all your continuing healthcare education programs and activities.

With your expertise, commitment, and support we anticipate immense growth in our offerings and the utmost dedication in supporting the continuing education of all healthcare professionals!

**Ali Taher, MD, FACC, FRCP**

Associate VP for Medical Advancement and Communications | Director – Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute  
Vice Chair – Research, Department of Internal Medicine | Founding Director – Fellowship and Residents Research Program,  
Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut

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# ABOUT HPDC

## OUR MISSION

The Healthcare Professional Development Center (HPDC), previously Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office, provides continuing education activities in Lebanon and the region with the participation of expert faculty and leaders in the fields of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.

## OUR SERVICES

- Full activity organization, planning and implementation (In-Person, Virtual, Online courses, conferences, workshops, simulations, trainings, observerships, preceptorships...etc).
- Program accreditation by local and International accrediting bodies (LOP, ONL, OPL, LDA, ACCME, ANCC through collaboration with CPDC, and CERP through collaboration with the Department of Orthodontics)
- ACCME Accredited providers for *AMA PRA Category 1 credit™*
- Certificates of attendance, completion, and CME/CNE/CPE credits
- Database accumulated over the years for more than 6,000 healthcare professionals in Lebanon and the Region
- Marketing material designs for activities through the Faculty of Medicine's Creative Service Unit and AUB/MC Communication Office
- Announcement dissemination of programs to our database and social media platforms

## ACCREDITATION

The HPDC at AUB has been reviewed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) and awarded accreditation for 4 years as a provider of continuing medical education (CME) for physicians. Accreditation in the ACCME System seeks to assure the medical community and the public that the HPDC at AUB delivers education that is relevant to clinicians' needs, evidence-based, evaluated for its effectiveness, and independent of commercial influence.

HPDC renewed accreditation effective from March 31, 2022 to March 31, 2026.





# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER



## BEIRUT VALVES 1<sup>ST</sup> STRUCTURAL CARDIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Beirut Valves is a 2-day course dedicated to transcatheter therapies for structural heart disease. The main objective of this course is to promote awareness, advance knowledge on transcatheter heart therapies and innovate to reduce the burden of heart valve disease with a global and multidisciplinary approach.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Septemeber 22-23, 2023  
Halim & Aida Daniel ACC, AUBMC  
Multi-purpose Rooms



## THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS GENERAL SURGERY REVIEW COURSE

This course is a collaborative project between the ACS Division of Education and the Department of Surgery at AUBMC. It is a two-day, multi-faceted course meant to provide general surgeons with a review of the essential content areas of general surgery. The course format is comparable to that of the General Surgery Review Course provided by the ACS during the annual congress.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

October 13-14 , 2023  
Issam Fares Hall, AUB



## GLOBAL ADVANCES IN MENTAL HEALTH (GAMH)

GAMH is designed to improve the competence of psychiatrists and psychologists by providing them with up-to-date evidence-based knowledge and practices. The conference aims to address the gap in practice in multiple subspecialties in psychiatry and psychology to improve patient outcomes in the digital and post-COVID World.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

November 17-18, 2023  
TBA







# RECENT ACTIVITIES



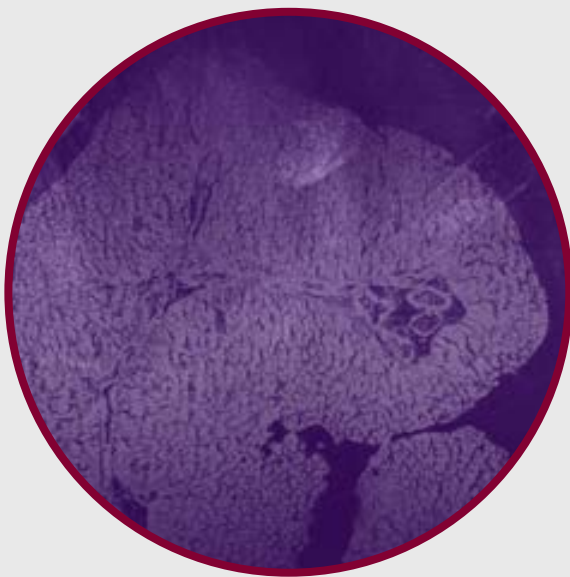
## **SSSHP: SURGICAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SSSHP) COURSE**

The HPDC in collaboration with The Royal College of Surgeons of England held the “Surgical Skills for Students & Health Professionals (SSSHP)” Course on February 4, 2023, for the second time. During the course work, participants demonstrated a safe set of aseptic skills, tied a safe and secure knot, demonstrate safe handling of essential surgical instruments, closed a wound safely, and appropriately demonstrated tissue handling skills and safe use of local anesthetic.



## **BBCC-11: 11TH ANNUAL BEIRUT BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE (BBCC)**

The Breast Center of Excellence at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, AUBMC, organized the “11th Annual Beirut Breast Cancer Conference (Beirut BBCC-11)” with the aim to advance breast cancer knowledge and care. On February 10-11, 2023, the conference brought together Lebanese and Arab medical associations, NGOs, and international experts to address breast cancer. The conference discussed the importance of implementing new treatment recommendations, emphasizing palliative care, understanding biomarkers' influence on treatment, promoting multidisciplinary approaches, and recognizing the role of nursing and clinical pharmacists.



## **IMMUNOTHERAPY IN UROTHELIAL CARCINOMA SERIES: MUSCLE-INVASIVE BLADDER CANCER**

The "Immunotherapy in Urothelial Carcinoma Series: Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer" workshop, held on February 28, 2023, aimed to educate urologists and oncologists from the Middle East and North Africa Region about evidence-based treatment options and promote prospective clinical data collection for collaborative research in urothelial carcinoma.



## **POEM 3RD SCIENTIFIC MEETING - CHILDHOOD CANCER: ADVANCING THROUGH ADVERSITY**

POEM is a collaborative pediatric oncology regional group, formed in 2013 as a cooperative platform for physicians, scientists, and healthcare professionals from institutions in the Middle East, North Africa, and West Asia region, with the goal of sharing experience, initiation of cooperative trials, and establishing common strategies to achieve optimization of the care of pediatric oncology patients. POEM carries out several educational activities throughout the year, including educational symposia, workshops, and a biannual Scientific Conference.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES



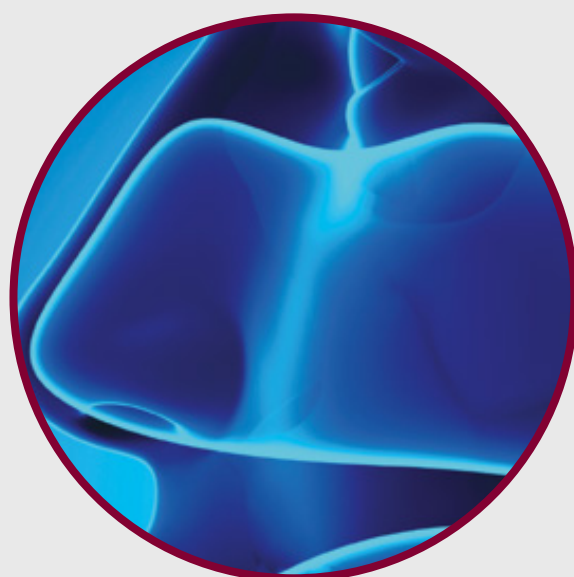
### **TACKLING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS IN THE MENA: HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT**

The "Tackling Structural Barriers in the MENA: HIV Prevention and Treatment" webinar, held on March 11, 2023, aimed to bring together HIV professionals and local partners to collaborate, find recommendations, and work towards policy change in the Middle East and North Africa region. The webinar focused on overcoming structural challenges in HIV prevention and treatment by self-reflecting on the regional, local, and organizational situations and sharing experiences.



### **ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (ALL) SESSION**

The Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) Session, held on March 14, 2023, aimed to provide general oncologists with an overview of the latest therapeutic advances in ALL. The online program focused on the treatment of newly diagnosed and relapsed ALL, introducing participants to cutting-edge targeted therapies and the role of allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Additionally, the session provided up-to-date information on the management of Philadelphia positive ALL.



### **6<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLE EAST VOICE & LARYNGOLOGY SYMPOSIUM**

The "6th Middle East Voice and Laryngology Symposium", which took place on March 18, 2023, featured a scientific program centered around four key themes that have significantly evolved in the past two decades. These themes included the impact of non-laryngeal cancers on voice, the rising prevalence of "irritable larynx" due to environmental challenges, the role of laser therapy in treating vocal fold pathology in office-based settings, and the phonatory and swallowing disorders experienced post-COVID-19.



### **BASIC NEONATAL DEVELOPMENTAL CARE ONLINE COURSE**

The "Basic Neonatal Developmental Care Online Course" took place from May 2 to May 31, 2023. It provided a 2-hour self-learning package covering brain development, developmental care principles, and the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP). Participants gained knowledge of infant behaviors, developmental care components, and strategies for supporting parents in the NICU. The course emphasized low-cost approaches applicable to all NICUs, including those in low-resource settings.



## RECENT ACTIVITIES



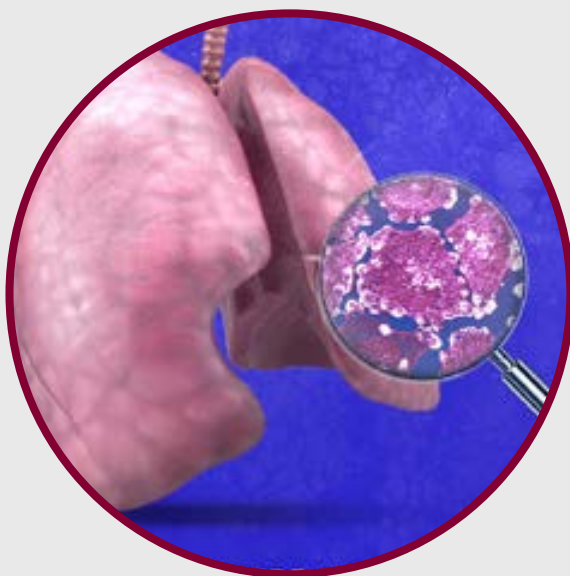
### THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PEDIATRICS UPDATE SYMPOSIUM

The “12th Annual Pediatrics Update Symposium” took place on May 12 and 13, 2023. The symposium aimed to provide pediatricians and healthcare professionals with updates on the latest guidelines in pediatric practice. Topics covered included bedside ultrasound techniques, emerging issues in nutrition, vaccination, infectious diseases, hematology, neonatal medicine, and new technologies in therapeutic interventions. The symposium also addressed evidence-based practices and strategies to tackle current challenges faced by physicians and patients.



### PHARMACOGENOMICS AND PERSONALIZED MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

The “Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine Symposium” took place on June 3, 2023, with the aim of increasing awareness and promoting the integration of pharmacogenomics into clinical practice. The symposium focused on optimizing treatment regimens based on individual genetic variations, moving away from the one-size-fits-all approach. By highlighting the benefits of pharmacogenomic testing, the symposium aimed to inspire progress and address the current lack of awareness among patients and healthcare professionals in Lebanon.



### THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLE EAST LUNG CANCER CONGRESS

The “5th Middle East Lung Cancer Congress” took place on June 16 and 17, 2023, and provided a platform to discuss recent advances in understanding the pathophysiology of lung cancer. The congress aimed to promote multidisciplinary collaboration among various specialties involved in the care of lung cancer patients. In addition to sessions for oncologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, pulmonologists, and radiologists, parallel sessions were held for nursing and pharmacy professionals on June 17, 2023.









# RECURRING ACTIVITIES



## STOP THE BLEED

On November 17th 2022, HPDC at AUBMC coordinated the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing between Roads for Life and AUBMC. This event reaffirmed AUBMC's relationship with Roads for Life the Talal Kassem Fund for Post-Accident Care. The signing was followed by "Stop the Bleed" training for the AUB community. The purpose of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign is to make people more resilient by better preparing the public to save lives if people nearby are severely bleeding. This preparation is done by raising awareness and teaching people how to learn three quick actions to control serious bleeding and is conducted by Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructors from AUBMC.



## THE ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT (ATLS)

The ATLS course provided by the American College of Surgeons is a comprehensive, systematic approach to the care of trauma patients. The course provides healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills necessary to quickly and effectively manage trauma patients in emergencies. During the past three months, the Trauma Team accommodated for 1 course in Lebanon and 3 in Ethiopia having more than 15 participants per course.



## TRAUMA EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (TEAM)

The TEAM course provided by the American College of Surgeons is derived from the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course, and is designed to teach healthcare providers the foundational principles of trauma care, including patient assessment, resuscitation, and stabilization. The course emphasizes a team-based approach to trauma care and is intended to improve patient outcomes and reduce morbidity and mortality associated with traumatic injuries. During the past three months, the Trauma Team accommodated for 2 trainings with 30 participants each.



## RECURRING ACTIVITIES



### SURGICAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SSSHP)

The Healthcare Professional Development Center (HPDC) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), in collaboration with The Royal College of Surgeons of England held the first “Surgical Skills for Students & Health Professionals (SSSHP) Course” on February 4, 2023. During the course work, participants demonstrate a safe set of aseptic skills, tie a safe and secure knot, demonstrate safe handling of essential surgical instruments, close a wound safely, and appropriately, demonstrate tissue handling skills and safe use of local anesthetic.



### CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CRI)

The Clinical Research Institute (CRI) provides clinical investigators with the required infrastructure, research support and research education through various capacity building programs and educational workshops. The Medical Research Lecture Series, the Faculty Advancement Program (FAP) and the Research Education Unit (REU) workshops are open for AUB and non-AUB participants. The Medical Research Lecture Series aim to support junior researchers in acquiring the fundamentals of medical research. The FAP aims to provide training in clinical research for early career faculty members in local and regional academic medical institutions. The REU workshops provide participants with a comprehensive set of skills to conduct high-quality research and advance their knowledge. For more info, you can check out our [website](#).

To register to our upcoming & recurring activities please [CLICK HERE](#)

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