



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY^{OF} BEIRUT**
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

**HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER**



ISSUED ON NOVEMBER, 2024

THE HPDC NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE

SUBSCRIBE AND STAY TUNED TO HPDC PROGRAMS.





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Director of Surgical Programs

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HPDC Director of Medical Programs

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

“Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

As we delve into another edition of our newsletter, we are deeply grateful to connect with you, our dedicated healthcare professionals and aspiring students. Continuous learning is our guiding beacon and within these pages, you'll discover a trove of invaluable resources to enrich your professional development journey. From cutting-edge research insights to practical clinical updates, our commitment to fostering ongoing education remains unwavering.

As directors, we are privileged to nurture an environment where knowledge and innovation thrive. This newsletter is designed not only to inform but to inspire; a passion for lifelong learning. Together, let's embrace the transformative power of education to advance medical excellence.

Thank you for entrusting us with your educational aspirations.
Your dedication fuels our mission toward a brighter and healthier future for all.

Wishing you an enriching reading experience.

Warm regards, HPDC Directors.”

ABOUT HPDC

OUR MISSION

The Healthcare Professional Development Center at the American University of Beirut is committed to delivering exceptional and cutting-edge continuing professional education tailored to the needs of physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals across Lebanon and the broader region. Our mission is to enhance the safety and quality of patient care locally and regionally by providing CME, CNE, and CPE activities, programs, and courses that enrich healthcare professionals' knowledge, skills, and competencies, leading to better patient outcomes.

OUR VISION

We aim to remain the leading local and evolve into a regional hub for innovative, evidence-based, North American accredited continuing professional development and educational activities. We aim to serve all healthcare professionals and their institutions, including patient advocacy groups and healthcare systems, through in-person programs, online platforms, and personalized education.

OUR SERVICES

- We handle everything from organizing and planning to executing various activities, whether they're in-person, virtual, or online – including courses, conferences, workshops, simulations, trainings, observerships, and preceptorships.
- Our programs are accredited by both local and international bodies such as **LOP, ONL, OPL, LDA, ACCME, ANCC** (in collaboration with CPDC), and **CERP** (in collaboration with the Department of Orthodontics).
- We are accredited by ACCME as providers for **AMA PRA Category 1 credit™**.
- We provide certificates for attendance, completion, and CME/CNE/CPE credits.
- Our database boasts a wealth of information accumulated over the years, comprising more than 6,000 healthcare professionals from Lebanon and the region.
- We offer creative marketing material designs for activities through the Faculty of Medicine's Creative Service Unit and the AUB/MC Communication Office.
- Our programs are announced and disseminated to our database and across various 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.





Group picture with activity directors and participants



PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

In this section, we reflect on our programs showcasing their success and effective impact.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2023 TILL JUNE 2024



THE 12TH ANNUAL BEIRUT BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE

Leading the Fight Against Breast Cancer in collaboration with the Breast Center of Excellence at AUBMC. The 12th Annual Breast Cancer Conference of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute unites Lebanese and Arab medical associations, NGOs, and international experts to advance breast cancer treatment and research.



MIOF V | THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY FORUM

Leading the Future of Cancer Care
The Middle East and North Africa Immuno-Oncology Forum is a virtual event that discusses the advancements in Immunology for solid and blood tumors, where healthcare professionals connect with colleagues and top experts in interactive sessions. Endorsed by the Emirates Oncology Society (EOS).



UPDATES IN PAIN MEDICINE: INTEGRATING EVIDENCE INTO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Lebanon's Premier Pain Management Conference!
Experts unite across disciplines to enhance patient care, tackle challenges, and shape effective pain management strategies. Healthcare professionals gain vital knowledge and skills at this essential event, in collaboration with the Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain.



THE 1ST NATIONAL RESEARCH DAY - LEBANESE MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Medical Schools Innovation
Organized by the Clinical Research Institute, and in collaboration with the 8 Lebanese Medical Schools, this event was open to medical students, residents, and clinical fellows as a hub for advancing medical research and innovation.

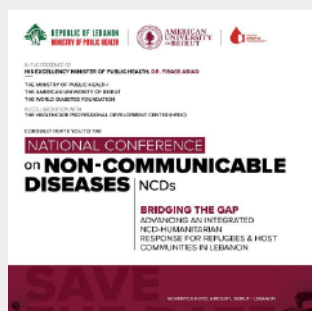
NEW BEGINNINGS

Discover our pioneering efforts in the programs that we organized for the first time.. Here, we present new and innovative activities that have been introduced, reflecting our dedication to continuously providing participants with cutting-edge and up to date healthcare professional development programs.



BEIRUT VALVES | THE 1ST STRUCTURAL CARDIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Beirut Valves Transforming Heart Care
A 2-day course that offered cardiologists a deep dive into therapies for structural heart disease, featuring live procedures, case reviews, and lectures by world-renowned experts.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)

Shaping the Future of Health
The 2-day conference addressed non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through policy, prevention, management, and research; engaging healthcare professionals in plenary sessions, panels, and working groups, and interacting directly with patients to drive impactful recommendations.



GAMH | GLOBAL ADVANCES IN MENTAL HEALTH: STEPPING INTO A NEW ERA

Global Mental Health!
Enhancing healthcare professionals' expertise with the latest evidence-based practices in psychiatry and psychology; exploring AI innovations and disaster impacts on mental health in our digital, post-COVID world.



DIGNITY IN PALLIATIVE CARE AND AT END-OF-LIFE CONFERENCE

Dignity and Compassion in Healthcare! Stakeholders united to enhance palliative care for chronically ill patients; in collaboration with the National Lebanese Palliative Care Society and the Lebanese Association of Palliative Care Nurses, the conference addressed gaps, challenges, the role of spirituality, and developed action plans.

ON THE HORIZON

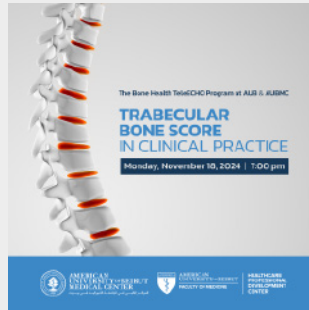
Explore our upcoming programs section to stay ahead of the curve. Visit our website to discover further details.



FORENSIC SCIENCES INTRODUCTORYSESSION

Curious about what it takes to be a forensic scientist or if a suspect can truly commit the “perfect crime”? Join our FREE one-hour introductory session on Forensic Science for an inside look into this fascinating field and a preview of our full course launching in 2025!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



BONE HEALTH TELEECHO PROGRAM AT AUB AND AUBMC: TRABECULAR BONE SCORE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

This program enhances bone health care by leveraging resources to expand access, enabling more patients to receive high-quality care closer to home, affordably and conveniently. Don't miss the upcoming session in part 2 of the series on November 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Beirut Local Time.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



57TH (ATLS) AND 34TH (ATCN) COURSES

Strengthen your trauma management skills with courses designed to enhance initial assessment and multidisciplinary trauma care approaches for medical doctors and registered nurses. Gain evidence-based knowledge and hands-on experience that can improve patient outcomes through life saving techniques.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

RECURRING PROGRAMS

Our Recurring Programs' section highlights the monthly and annual programs. These regular activities offer consistent opportunities for professional growth, networking, and community engagement.



ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT COURSE ATLS

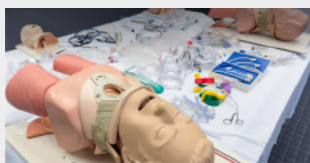


ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT COURSE (ATLS)

Advance Your Trauma Care Skills Globally!

Designed for physicians by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) and recognized in over 80 countries worldwide; this recurring program enables physicians to enhance their skills in initial trauma assessment and management with evidence-based, multidisciplinary approaches.

Physicians advance their career through improving patient outcomes through lifesaving techniques and earn prestigious certification.



ADVANCED TRAUMACARE FOR NURSES ATCN



ADVANCED TRAUMA CARE FOR NURSES (ATCN)

Advance Your Trauma Nursing Skills!

In this recurring program designed for nurses, participants master initial trauma assessment and management with evidence-based, multidisciplinary approaches.

Nurses get to advance their career through improving patient outcomes, earning prestigious certification, and gaining life saving knowledge with this program by the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN).



SURGICAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SSSHP

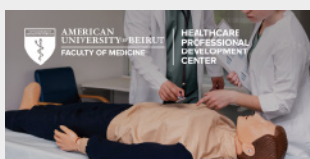


SURGICAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SSSHP)

Master Surgical Skills with the Royal College of Surgeons of England!

This one-day program is designed for healthcare professionals across specialties, including physicians, dentists, nurses, medical students, and pharmacists.

Developed and quality assured by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, this 6-8 hour program enhances your surgical expertise.



TRAUMA EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

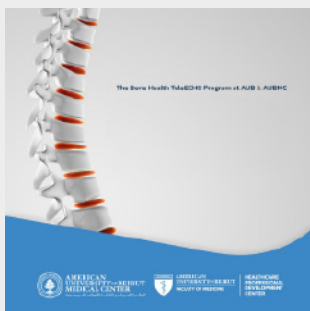


SIGN UP HERE

TRAUMA EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (TEAM)

Essential Trauma Care Skills

Equip yourself with the initial evaluation and early management of trauma patients. Based on the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Course by the American College of Surgeons, this program equips first responders with crucial information and skills to identify and treat life-threatening injuries.



The Bone Health TeleECHO Program at AUB & AUBMC



BONE HEALTH TeleECHO PROGRAM AT AUB AND AUBMC

Join the Bone Health TeleECHO Program Series!

This virtual, interactive learning network empowers healthcare professionals to improve bone healthcare through shared knowledge and resources. Attend the next session on November 18, 2024 to enhance patient outcomes.

HPDC MILESTONES

Spotlight of significant achievements and milestones within our center reflecting our commitment to excellence.



- **The HPDC team at ACCME's 2024 #LearntoThrive conference in Chicago:** Committed to innovation in continuing healthcare education, the HPDC team explored the latest updates in accreditation and continuing education for healthcare professionals. Dr. Maya Romani facilitated a key session on physician burnout, a pressing issue in today's healthcare landscape.



- **HPDC team representing the center and its latest programs during the 2nd AHNI Open House.**



- **Our Projects and Events Manager, Ms. Dalva Salem Nehme, was honored with the Dean's Excellence Award;** this recognition highlights the contributions and our ongoing commitment to excellence in all our endeavors.



- **Spotlight on Leadership:** Among the several international conferences that our directors were invited to as speakers, organizing and scientific committee members, our director, Dr. Maya Romani recently took the stage as an invited speaker at the International Meeting on Waterpipe Smoking and Cancer Research in Bologna, Italy. Her participation highlights our dedication to advancing research and education on vital public health issues.



- Our HPDC Director, **Dr. Ahmad Zaghal** was inducted as a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society AUB Faculty of Medicine Chapter. This honor highlights his consistent commitment to compassionate patient care, exceptional leadership, and dedication to the values of humanism in medicine.



- **HPDC Strategic Planning Retreat:** The HPDC team held a retreat that included a strategic planning session to revisit the center's mission and vision. The retreat included a laughter yoga session for team-building and wellness of the team members.

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

AI IN HEALTHCARE AND MEDICINE: PROMISE AND PERIL

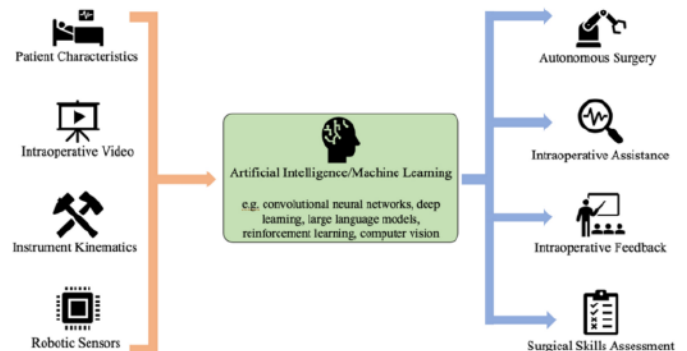
(Li et al., 2024) found that the design of ChatGPT's interface for question answering (QA) allows seamless integration into clinical workflows, offering real-time feedback. Besides answering specific queries, ChatGPT can justify its responses. However, (Li et al., 2024) warned from ChatGPT's limitations and highlight the importance of cautious and specialized use of ChatGPT in any sensitive or regulated context like healthcare. The 'justifications' it provides are based on predicting subsequent words according to probabilities rather than genuine reasoning. Consequently, while ChatGPT may sometimes give correct responses, its explanations can be entirely nonsensical. Also, ChatGPT lacks the ability to differentiate between real and fabricated information provided to it. Consequently, its responses in healthcare contexts could potentially be highly misleading, biased, and even dangerous. Finally, ChatGPT being a proprietary product means that feeding sensitive patient information into its interface to obtain feedback could potentially violate privacy regulations.

(Knudsen et al., 2024) described the use of AI in robotic surgery. They explained that AI is currently automating surgical tasks and improving intraoperative safety within robotic surgical platforms. It's also advancing surgical education through automated skills assessment tools and real-time feedback during procedures. However, the integration of AI in robotic surgery raises significant ethical questions that are actively being discussed and addressed with each new innovation. Despite these challenges, the field continues to expand rapidly, promising even more exciting advancements in the future.

*Article provided by Dr. Ola El-Zein,
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Figure 1: Data inputs and outputs for the development of artificial intelligence/machine learning applications for the improvement of robotic surgery.

AI has great applications in radiology as well. (Guha et al., 2024) observed that machine learning has demonstrated superior sensitivity, accuracy, and consistency compared to radiologists in various studies. However, neuro-radiologists consistently exhibit higher specificity in their diagnoses. This difference may stem from what could be termed the "human touch," a quality that is difficult to define but likely arises from their experience, ability to correlate findings with clinical details, and intuition developed over years of practice.



However, always be warned that there are ethical and legal considerations when using AI. (Čartolovni et al., 2022) warn from lack of safety and transparency, lack of proper regulation (liability & accountability), and a potential negative Impact on patient-physician relationship. AI's disruptive impact could potentially transform the traditional physician-patient relationship by introducing various stakeholders, including programmers, product manufacturers, and AI tools. This shift challenges the conventional medical ethics model of "shared decision-making" and may lead to a new form of paternalism, termed "computernalism," where decisions are increasingly influenced or controlled by computational systems rather than direct human interaction.

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