



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY^{OF} BEIRUT

RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL
OF NURSING

NEWSLETTER 2024-2025

Thriving on Challenge





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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Given the war challenges we faced in 2024, this newsletter summarizes the Hariri School of Nursing (HSN) achievements in 2024 and 2025, as they continue to attest to the dedication of our talented faculty, staff and students, and their resilience in the face of adversity.

During these past two years, HSON witnessed ups and downs. We launched new graduate degree programs, and online professional diplomas and a certificate. Our student numbers continued to rise steadily despite adversity.

We recruited four seasoned instructors with various specialties. Our faculty members continued to do relevant research, especially crisis-related research. The summers of 2024 and 2025 witnessed very successful summer camps for high school students, some of whom ended up joining our BSN.

In Fall 2025, HSON held a long-awaited research conference October 29 and 30, in collaboration with the Scientific Society of Arab Nursing Faculties to promote nursing research collaboration within the region, which paved the way for creating a network of regional researchers.

We also sadly lost Dr. Lina Kantar, a dedicated expert educator shortly after 2025.

Our students continued to persevere in their studies against all odds. During times of war, they assisted the displaced, while in peaceful times, they continued to provide health related awareness campaigns to the community. Graduate students persisted in completing their research despite delays.

The school will be transitioning in 2026 to a new organizational structure that aligns with new trends in nursing education, and a major curricular revision is underway to meet the new accreditation essentials of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Looking forward to peaceful times, so we can continue with our mission to provide excellent education, research and service to our country, the region and beyond.

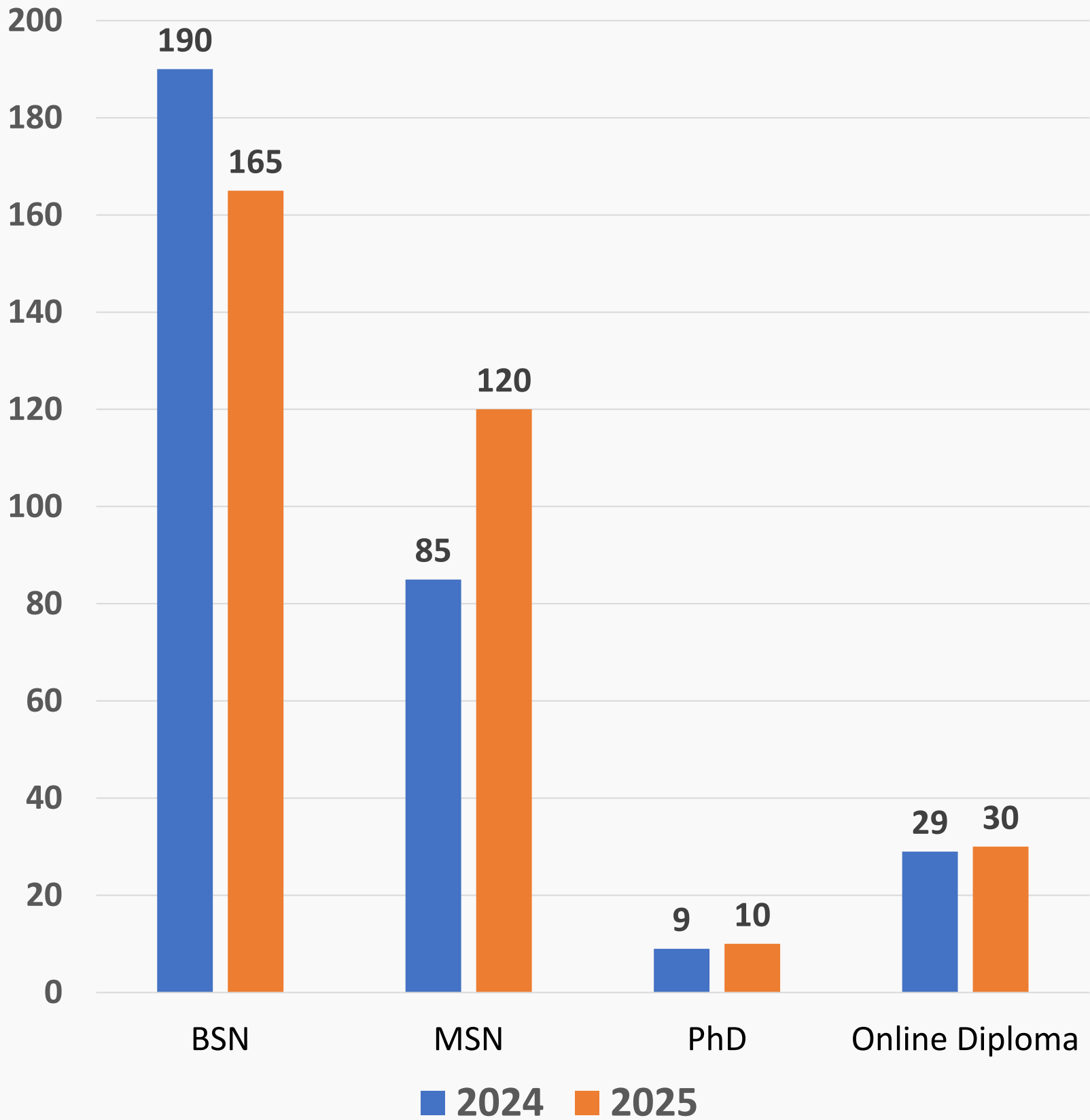
Samar Nouredine, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Hariri School of Nursing



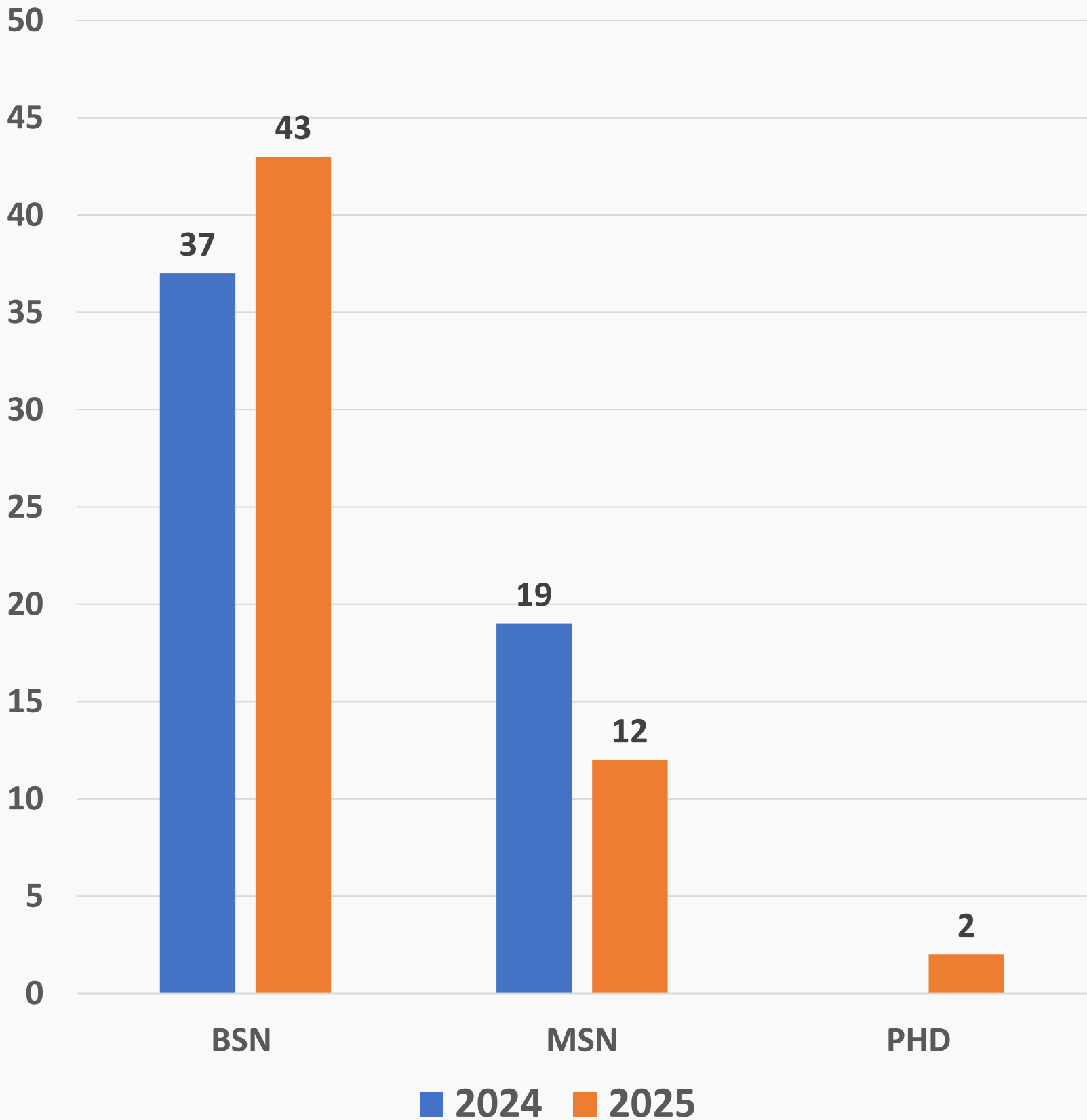
FAST FACTS 2024-2025

Student Numbers in 2024-2025

Total Student Enrollment by Program and Year



Number of Graduates by Degree Program

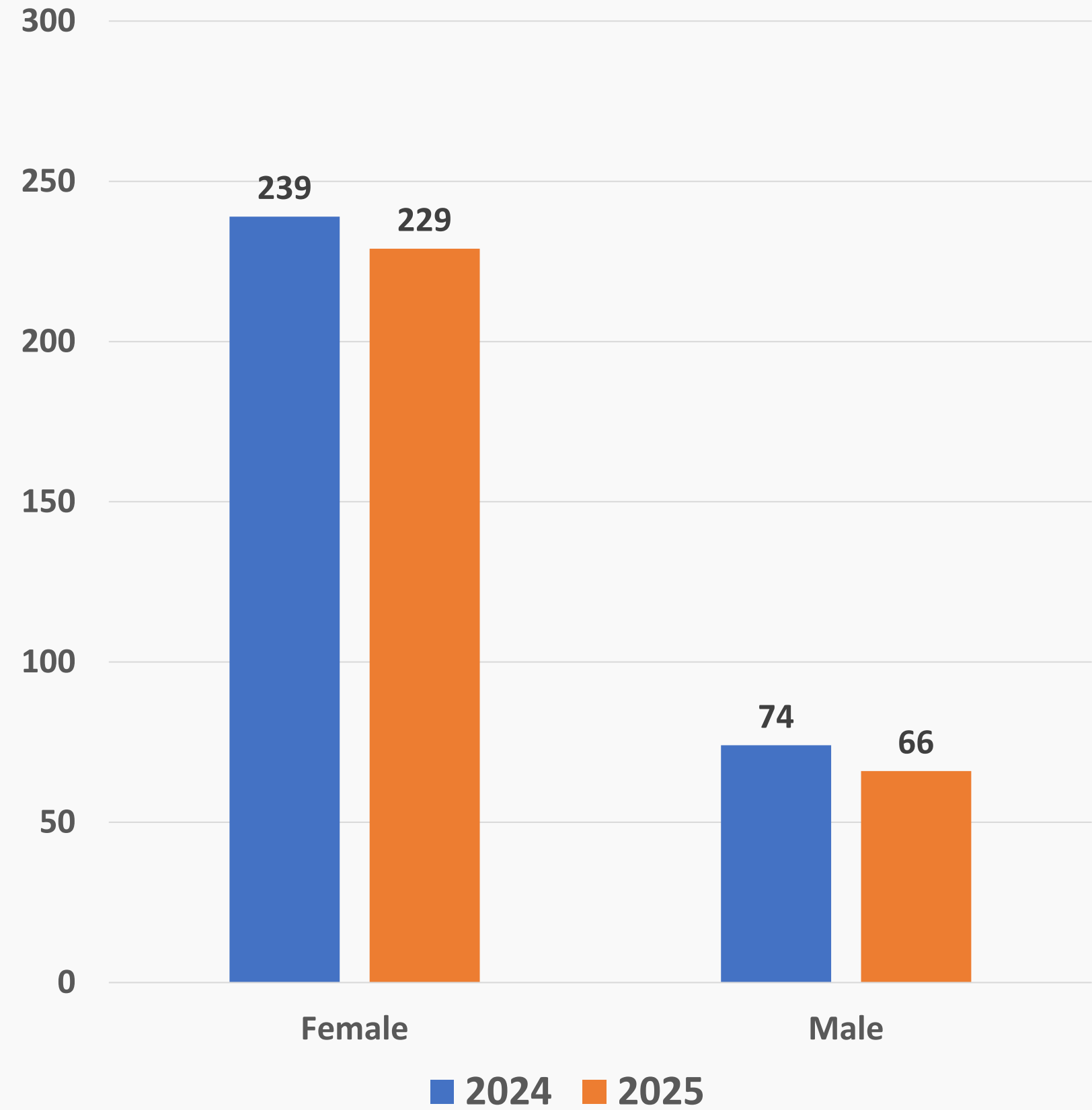




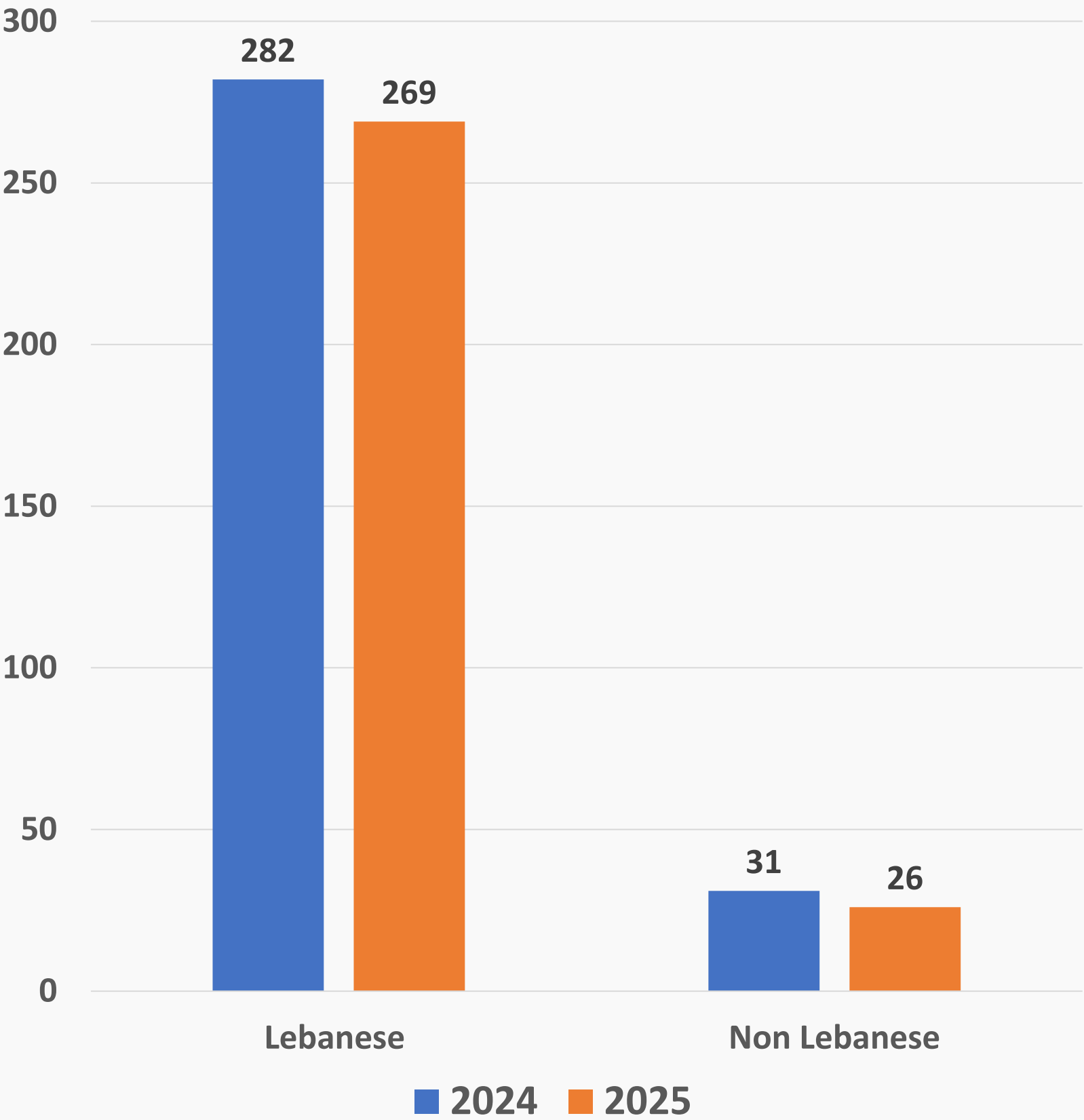
FAST FACTS 2024-2025

Student Numbers in 2024-2025

Distribution of Students by Gender



Distribution of Students by Nationality





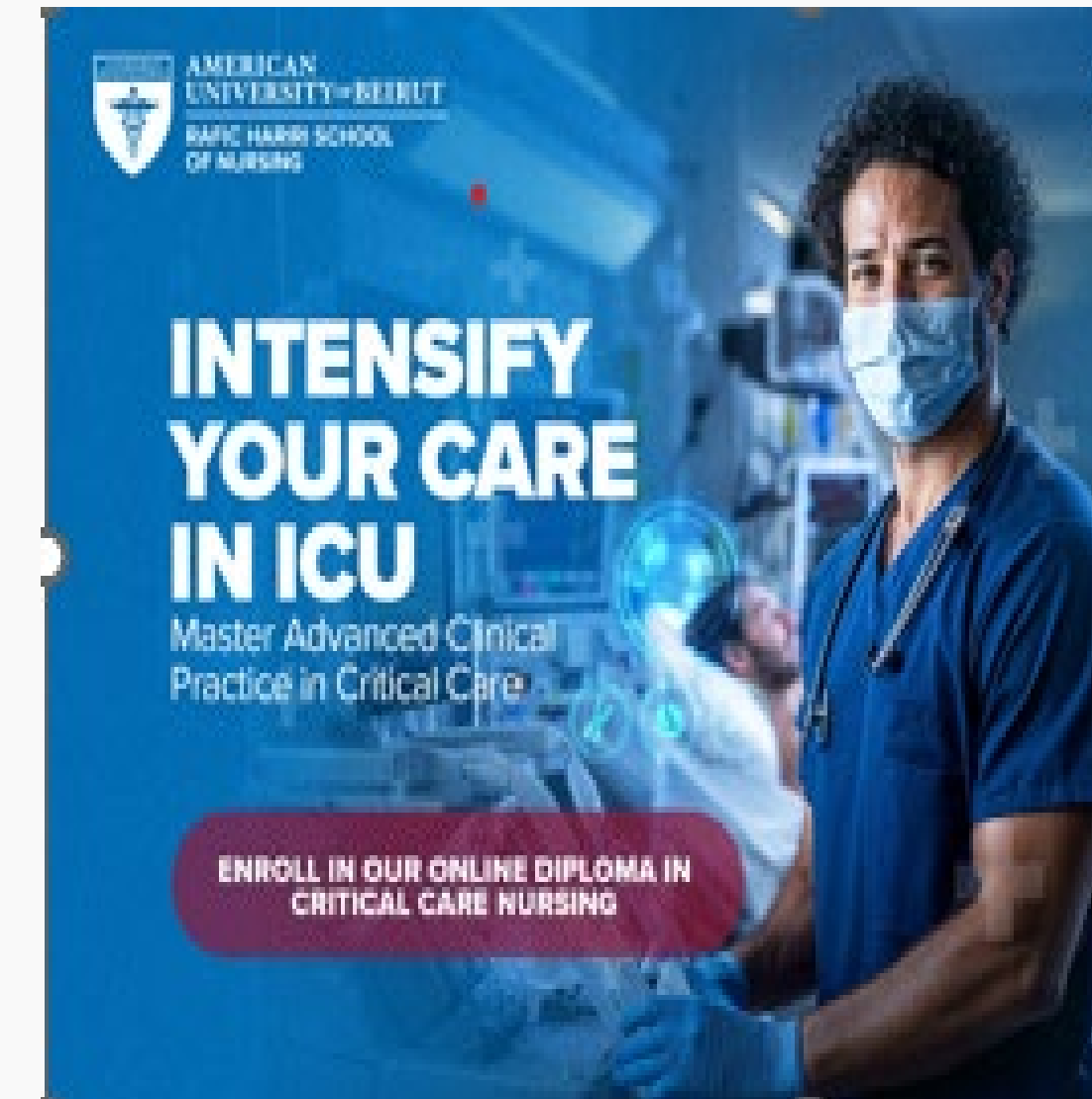
NEW PROGRAMS

2024

- Master of Science in Nursing - Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Professional Online Diploma in Nursing Education

2025

- Professional Online Diploma in Critical Care Nursing
- Professional Certificate in Validation and Adaptation of Research Instruments





**AMERICAN
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**RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL
OF NURSING**

HSN NEWSLETTER 2024-2025

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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 2024-2025



REGIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2025

On October 29 and 30, 2025, HSON held a regional research conference titled: 'Advancing Health Care Research in the Arab Region: Towards a Collaborative Nursing Research Agenda'. The meeting was held in collaboration with the Scientific Society of Arab Nursing Faculties, represented by its president Dr. Hasan AbulRuz from Al Zaytoona University, its secretary Mr. Raed Ali, many deans and directors of Arab Nursing Faculties, and Dr. Hani Nawafleh, the secretary General of the Jordanian Nursing Council.

ADVANCING HEALTH CARE RESEARCH IN THE ARAB REGION:
TOWARDS A COLLABORATIVE NURSING RESEARCH AGENDA - Agenda





The conference was attended by 270 participants.





Welcome remarks on day 1 by President Fadlo Khuri, Vice President for Research Dr. Elie Akl, and Dean Samar Nouredine





The keynote speaker: Dr. Patricia Davidson, professor and vice chancellors fellow at the University of New South Wales, Australia, and Dr. Fadia Shaya, distinguished professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, and affiliate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. They addressed international research collaboration in today's contested and complex world, as well as implementation and translational science.





Oral and poster presentations covered various topics of regional relevance where faculty, practitioners, and students shared their work.



The deans and directors of the Arab Nursing Faculties met and discussed accreditation, collaboration, and research issues.



The second day included network cafes that led to the creation of clusters of researchers with similar interests who discussed topics of interest.





On day 2, presenters discussed HSON research and a survey-based network of nurse researchers in the region, with a commitment to update and disseminate the database to promote access to the nurse researchers and enhance regional collaboration. The closing remarks summarized the conference discussions, focusing on the importance of regional research collaboration.





STEM WEEK

The year 2025 witnessed the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Week across AUB. HSON made a significant contribution, showcasing the vital role of nursing in science, innovation, and life-saving care through a dynamic series of activities. Mrs Danielle Damianos and Dr. Tamar Avedissian served on the organizing and scientific committees.

The week concluded with an engaging celebration, as nursing students competed in escape rooms, skills olympics, and jeopardy games, which reinforced teamwork, knowledge, and clinical skills, while graduate students engaged in an online session on nursing entrepreneurship led by alumni.





Middle school students in the HSON Simulation Lab learned various skills



Dr. Nuhad Dumit participated in a panel on women in STEM

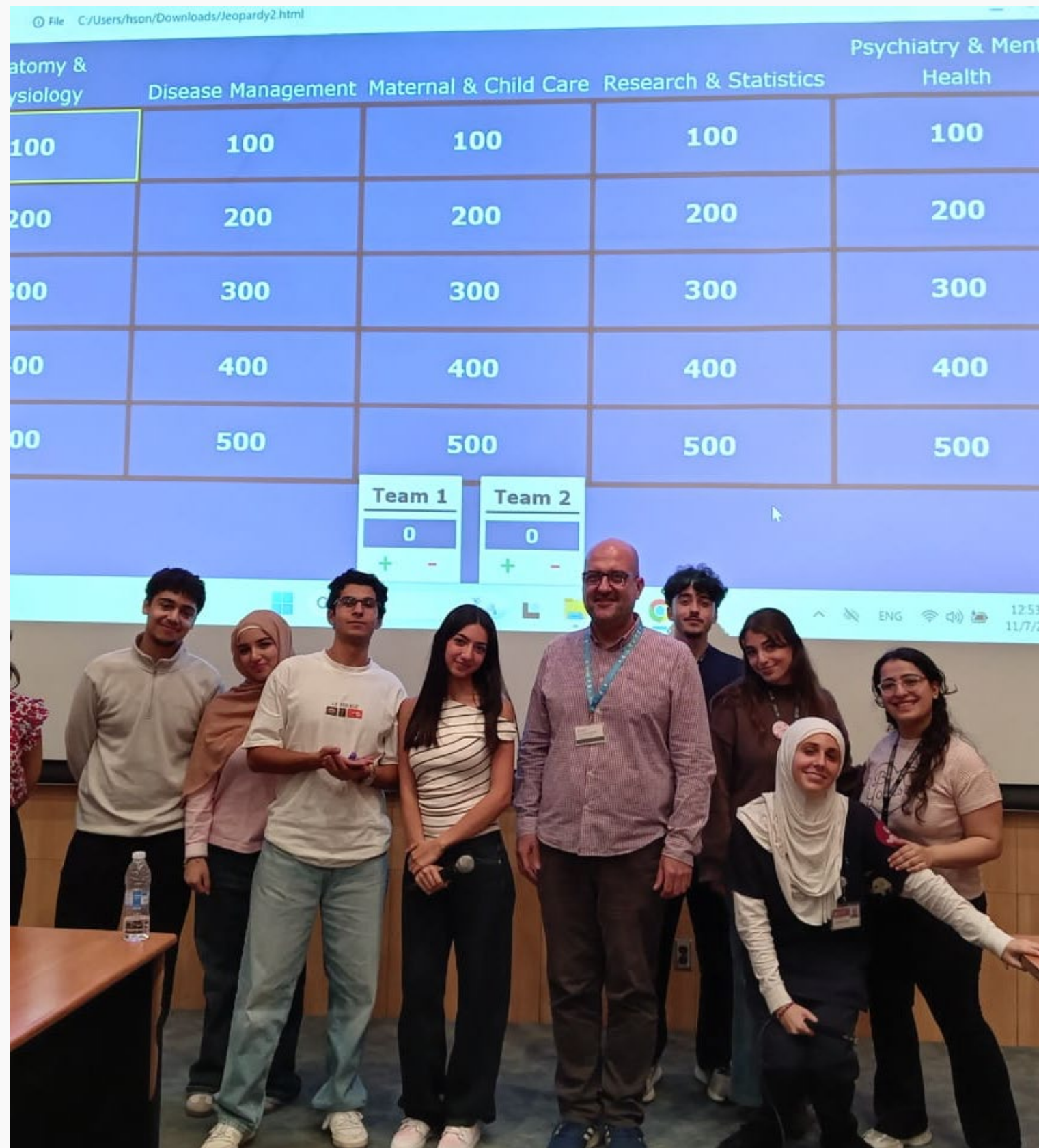


Dr. Houry Puzantian presented impactful nursing research





In the simulation lab at HSON and West Hall, middle school students participated in learning games, explored how nurses use science to assess, diagnose, treat, and educate patients; and practiced nursing skills and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.





STUDENT AWARDS AND PINNING CEREMONIES 2024-2025

The most joyful event at HSON is the yearly award and pinning ceremony that is held in May. In 2024, our guest speaker was Provost Zaher Dawy, who addressed the graduates and announced the launch of a new student award: the Siham Rida Ali Endowed Nursing Award. In 2025, Dr. Salah Zeineldine, associate professor, pulmonologist and critical care physician, and associate vice president for clinical affairs spoke of the importance of interprofessional collaboration in practice and the role of nurses in health care.

Award Name	2024 Recipients	2025 Recipients
Penrose Award	Linda Hicham Labban	Leen Mohamad Eid Ghazaoui
Janet Jeries Haddadin Nursing Award	Linda Hicham Labban	Leen Mohamad Eid Ghazaoui
Salma Mansur Jurdak Excellence Award in Nursing	Michael Saad Allah El Kassis	Amar Abdul Rahman El Siblini
Florence Nightingale	Esraa Khaled Daher	Grace Alice Prescott
Lions Award	Grace Alice Prescott	Amira Bilal Barghout
Rouzan Al-Najjar Memorial Awards in Nursing	Fatima Al Zahraa Hussein Tabaja	Abbass Mohamad Zein
	Leen Mohamad Eid Ghazaoui	Nour Bader Katerji
	Vanessa Assem Bou Karroum	Daniela Refaat El Banna
Women Auxiliary Awards	Latifa Samer Jumaa	Hana Ihab Al Srouji
	Hela Hussein Shawa	Amal Wissam Sharab
	Layana Amer Chehab	Aya Abdul Rahman Ghalayini
	Ghinwa Saleh Khattab	Latife Rabih Ghalayini
	Farah Bilal Cheaib	Adam Hicham El Harake
Siham Rida Ali Endowed Nursing Award	NA	Gharam Mohamad Ali Khalifeh
Dr. Hassan Abbas Endowed Award in Citizenship and Social Justice	NA	Amar Abdul Rahman El Siblini



Provost Dawy Announcing the Siham Rida Ali
Endowed Nursing Award



Dr. Salah ZeinelDine Addressing the awardees



Congratulations Class 2025!





Leen Ghazaoui, BSN



Gharam Khalifeh, BSN



Aya Muhtady, MSN





Mohamad Mubarak, MSN



Rola Shehadeh, PhD



Shams Issa, PhD





TOY TEA PARTY 2025

The Women's Auxiliary Toy Tea Party was resumed in 2025 in Marquand House. Five BSN graduates received awards for their academic achievements, and two students received scholarships.

The Toy Tea party was special as the Women's Auxiliary celebrated their 75th anniversary. On this occasion, President Khuri, EVP of Health Affairs and Faculty of Medicine Dean Raymond Sawaya, and HSON Dean Samar Nouredine presented a plaque, and the deans gave donations.





LION'S AWARD CEREMONY 2025

The Lion's Award Ceremony was held for the first time at the Hisham Jaroudi Auditorium of the HSON building in 202. The ceremony was attended by Lion's Club President Mr. Habib Abla and the President of the Order of Nurses Mrs. Abir Alameh, in addition to deans and directors of schools of nursing across Lebanon.

The guest speaker was Dr. Rima Sassine, dean of the Faculty of St Joseph University Faculty of Nursing and former president of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.





HSON SUMMER CAMPS 2024-2025

In line with AUB's initiative introducing high school students to its majors, HSON conducted two summer camps in 2024 and 2025 directed by Mrs. Danielle Damianos with a team of our faculty members: Nour Abdallah, Rana Chedid, Sarine Malkdjian, Emilie Succar, and Ammar Zahreddine. Joyce Nasr, the coordinator of our simulation lab and other HSON staff and students contributed to these programs.

During a week of activities, participants benefited from nurses' daily activities, shadowing them at the hospital, in addition to practicing skills in HSON simulation lab.

A health awareness competition was held and awards given to the first three winner groups. Some participants ended up joining our Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2025.





Visit to the Diana Tamari Sabbagh research lab



Team building



Hands-on activities





Health awareness projects, training in precautions against infections, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in the simulation lab at HSON





Participants at the fire station



In recognition of her excellent work in leading the summer camps, Mrs. Danielle Damianos was appointed by the AUB Office of the Provost as director of the Summer@AUB Program as of 2026, a designation HSON is very proud of.

The closing ceremony





GIVING DAY – ANOTHER SUCCESS

In 2024, and for the second year in a row, HSON won the Faculty Challenge with the highest percentage of alumni donors.



In 2025, HSON received the first runner up for the highest percentage of alumni donors.





FACULTY NEWS 2024-2025



FACULTY PROMOTION



Dr. Tamar Avedissian, PhD, RN, was promoted from instructor to Assistant Professor in the tenure track in 2024. She achieved this promotion following her graduation with PhD from AUB, with a dissertation titled: 'The association between overprotective parenting, parental perceptions of child vulnerability and the growth and development of children with congenital heart disease' with a grant from the University Research Board. She published three manuscripts from her dissertation work.

Dr. Avedissian joined HSON in 2014 as clinical instructor where she was teaching community and maternal child nursing. During her tenure at AUB, she completed the Scholars in Health Research (SHARP) diploma program and two certificates; one in 'Primary Health Care' and another one in 'Child Development'. Following her promotion, she was elected as the first president of the Lebanese Association of Pediatric Nurses. She participated in the development of a guideline on anaphylaxis management by school and day care nurses and was involved in a UNICEF project on capacity building of community nurses. She was recently invited to serve on the editorial board of the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.



Dr. Angela Massouh, PhD, APRN, FESC, FHFA, was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure June 2025. This came in recognition of her research productivity and quality in caregiver burnout, chronic illness dyads, frailty and compassion fatigue among critical care nurses, as well as the intra- and extramural grants she acquired. The promotion also attested to her excellence in teaching and supervision of graduate students' scholarly work, and outstanding service to the school, AUB and the profession, while keeping her joint appointment as leader in Research, Education and Innovation at AUBMC. Prior to her promotion, Dr. Massouh was appointed at HSON in September 2024 as Director of Continuing Education and Off-Shore program, reporting in this capacity to both HSON and the AUBMC leadership as part of the collaboration framework between the school and AUBMC nursing services. recently dr. massouh was selected as Associate Editor for the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.



FACULTY RESEARCH RESEARCH IN CRISIS



Dr. Laila Farhood and her team are exploring the impact of war and cumulative trauma on faculty members in private Lebanese universities. To explore the experiences and perspectives of faculty members regarding the cumulative traumas and stressors they endured and their coping strategies, a descriptive phenomenology design was used with focus groups. Moreover, the impact of cumulative trauma on the faculty and moderating factors is being assessed with a quantitative online survey that measures the outcome variables (depression, PTSD, and anxiety), exposure variables (life events) and moderating factors including social support and level of education. Data collection is in progress. Data collection is ongoing. The findings will hopefully inform university administrators to develop strategies to maintain the wellbeing of the faculty during crises.



Dr. Nuha Dumit and her team explored the views of nurse educators on crisis accommodation in nursing schools across Lebanon, to gain insight into how they managed the challenges within their educational settings during crisis. They explored how nurse educators accommodated their students' academic continuity, engaged with them in serving the community affected by war, curriculum content on crisis management in healthcare settings and their recommendations for strengthening crisis preparedness in nursing education. Preliminary findings indicate that during war nurse educators rapidly transitioned to online or hybrid teaching and suspended or gradually resumed clinical rotations based on the situation. Educators also facilitated proximity-bound, supervised community engagement where students conducted needs assessment and health education. Deficit in disaster preparedness within nursing curricula was identified, suggesting an urgent need for curriculum reform and faculty development in this regard.



FACULTY RESEARCH RESEARCH IN CRISIS



Dr. Myrna Doumit published multiple influential articles, including studies on nursing education in Lebanon, innovative task-sharing approaches for managing non-communicable diseases in humanitarian settings, and improving equitable care for pediatric oncology patients. She also published on oncology nursing, school-based mental health in conflict zones, and the status of nursing research in Arab countries.

Her invited presentations spanned continents, from discussions on therapeutic communication in palliative care and cancer nursing in difficult circumstances, to building effective nursing coalitions at international congresses in KSA, Germany, India, and Bahrain. She also conducted a study about resilience of nurses in conflict zones.



Dr. Souha Fares and her team explored in a cross-sectional survey the impact of the 2024 war on the emotional and physical wellbeing, coping mechanisms, and resilience factors associated with professional impact, career prospects, and future intentions in 305 Lebanese registered nurses. Results showed significant stress, moderate physical health and resilience. Safety concerns and increased workload were the most commonly reported challenges. In addition, close to half the nurses received mental health support during and after the war. Over two thirds of the sample reported intending to leave due to financial instability and job insecurity. These results highlight the urgent need for improved institutional support, mental health resources, and retention strategies to sustain the nursing workforce during and following crises.



FACULTY RESEARCH RESEARCH IN CRISIS



Dr. Gladys Honein and her team explored in a descriptive phenomenological study the productivity of nurses despite the war and the influence of professional empowerment on their care experiences after the 2024 war ended, using individual interviews with 12 nurses. The findings showed that productivity was no longer experienced as patient load and clinical tasks, but rather “endurance and adapting to chaos”. Nurses worked longer hours, helped in other departments and managed limited supplies. Empowerment was drawn from strength and support at work, where the hospital became a kind of refuge from the war. Moreover, leaders were visible and truly cared. The staff supported each other, sharing meals, discussing their fears, and some even hosted their colleagues who lost their homes. These findings emphasize the importance of psychosocial support to maintain the productivity of nurses during crises.



Dr. Silva Dakessian Sallian and her team explored the lived experiences of palliative care providers in delivering care amid prolonged conflict, insecurity, and systemic challenges. The project used in-depth interviews with multidisciplinary healthcare professionals, examining providers lived experiences, challenges, ethical tensions, opportunities, and adaptive practices during harsh times of instability. Overall, the project shed light on an underrepresented perspective of providers and highlighted how palliative care services were maintained and adapted amid moral tensions and systemic constraints in conflict settings. The findings underscored the need for integrating palliative care into the humanitarian and emergency responses in ongoing geopolitically unstable contexts.



FACULTY RESEARCH RESEARCH IN CRISIS

- **Dr. Tamar Avedissian** and her team studied early childhood development (ECD) and nutrition services for children affected by crises in Lebanon, with the goal to generate evidence-based recommendations for a policy framework to improve preparedness of young children during emergencies. The team examined the availability, implementation, and gaps in ECD and nutrition initiatives for displaced children living in shelters. A desk review and semi-structured qualitative interviews with key stakeholders were conducted to document current practices, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening services.
- **Dr. Angela Massouh** examined with her student Mohamad Nakhal the prevalence of compassion fatigue and its associations with sociodemographic characteristics, work environment factors, and interprofessional communication in a national survey of 395 nurses and physicians during war time. Data analysis is in progress.
- **Dr. Samar Nouredine** led a team including Drs. Marina Adra, Angela Massouh and Tamar Avedissian to investigate in Lebanon the knowledge and confidence of novice nurses (with less than one year experience) in provision of psychological first aid, as part of a multi- country study initiated by Dr. Fuad Taleb from Taiz University in Yemen, and including Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The Lebanese and Saudi samples showed the lowest level of knowledge and confidence in the provision of psychological first aid, suggesting the need for integration of such content in nursing curricula in conflict zones.



FACULTY RESEARCH INTERVENTION STUDIES



Dr. Marina Adra and her team conducted a pioneering study on horticultural therapy in nursing homes, focusing on the perspectives of frail older residents. The aim was to examine the impact of this therapy on institutionalized older adults. Through simple yet meaningful activities such as planting, nurturing and caring for greenery, residents expressed renewed joy, a sense of purpose, and opportunities for social connection. Beyond the physical act of gardening, the intervention helped restore dignity, foster emotional well-being, and reconnect participants with the rhythms of nature. The sessions were facilitated by a multidisciplinary team that included a gerontologic nurse specialist, a horticultural therapy facilitator, a community facilitator, nursing students and volunteers, supported by occupational therapists and medical personnel from the center.



Dr. Ola Sukkarieh and her team are conducting a mixed method study that evaluates the acceptability and impact of diabetes education delivered through mobile health (mhealth) on diabetes and cardiometabolic outcomes (HbA1C, BP and lipid profile), diabetes self-management, knowledge, self-efficacy, diabetes fatalism, social support, and quality of life in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). The first qualitative phase assessed the acceptability of the use of mhealth intervention delivered via mobile phones, using interviews with 9 Lebanese patients with T2DM. Participants showed a positive attitude about diabetes, expressed feeling safe and secure with this approach, appreciated its convenience and gave recommendations that were used in developing the intervention that is currently being tested in a single-blind randomized controlled trial of 100 Lebanese adults with T2DM.



FACULTY RESEARCH INTERVENTION STUDIES



Dr. Houry Puzantian was involved in 2 intervention studies. In one randomized controlled trial (RCT) that investigates ‘the effect of dietary interventions on arterial stiffness in obese patients on liraglutide’, she has been overseeing the measurement and interpretation of the primary outcome of arterial stiffness. In a second RCT, on the ‘comparison of dapagliflozin versus placebo on weight gain in women with estrogen receptor positive early breast cancer’, she has been responsible for monitoring and interpreting the cardiovascular outcomes of arterial stiffness, blood pressure, and microalbuminuria – in context. These studies are ongoing.



Dr. Lina Younan, her student Meghety Gudeshian and a team from the Ministry of Public Health conducted a quasi-experimental pre-post study that included revision of a medication reconciliation (MR) policy, redesign of the MR form, visual workflow aids and inter-professional training with the aim of improving MR in a primary health care center. Following implementation of the intervention, availability of MR improved, and an increase in the completeness of documentation was noted by nurses, physicians and pharmacists. The initiative improved MR uptake and practice but highlighted the need for ongoing quality improvement cycles, stronger organizational integration, maintenance of electronic systems, and continued leadership engagement to achieve full compliance.



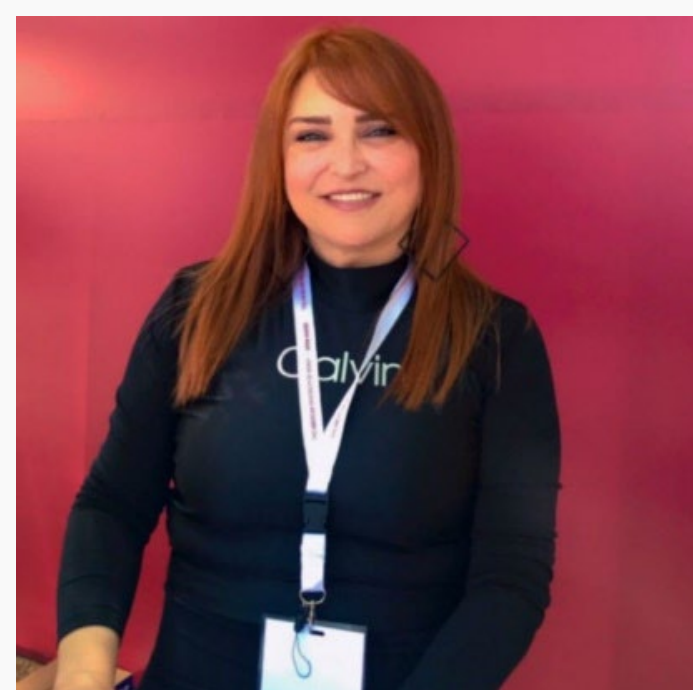
FACULTY OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS

- **Dr. Myrna Doumit** served as an invited expert in the WHO EMRO Health Workforce consultation. In 2024, she received the Leading Women Award for the Kempinski Summerland Initiative, in recognition of her contributions to advancing women's leadership. Her appointment as president of the Arab Board for Nursing and Midwifery was renewed. In that role, she championed postgraduate nursing education, led consultations on specialty training and fostered regional collaboration to strengthen nursing practice across the Arab world. In 2025, she was elected as member on the board of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), representing the MENA region, where she contributes to shaping global nursing agendas, especially during the current crises.
- **Dr. Nuhad Dumit** continued her service with the ICN, where in the Education Experts Advisory Committee of the ICN Board and the National Nurses Association (USA), she has been contributing to the development of nursing education leadership and quality, identifying opportunities and challenges in education and practice to address the impact of global faculty shortages on the preparation of nurses and midwives, and the review of ICN's educational guidelines, aligned with global priorities and WHO goals. As co-chair of the Global Nursing Faculty Workforce Dataset Sub-Working Group of ICN Education Experts Advisory Committee, she contributed to development of a global nurse faculty workforce research initiative, including a pilot global database, to inform decision-making and address issues related to the nurse faculty workforce. As member of the Clinical Practicum Hours Sub-Working Group of the ICN Education Experts Advisory Committee, she is involved in policy development on clinical education in pre-licensure nursing programs.
- **Dr. Marina Adra** did a lot of community work with her students targeting institutionalized older adults, especially during holidays when they celebrated and provided them with entertaining activities. She has also offered two workshops on Older Adult Care organized by the non-governmental organization Evolve to caregivers of older adults in the community. The sessions were very well received and focused on essential topics such as assessment, healthy aging, physical health, emotional health and support, daily care routines, communication strategies, recognizing signs of cognitive decline, dementia, and care of patients with dementia and their caregivers. Participants engaged actively in discussions, role-playing activities, Q&A sessions, and hands-on demonstrations to reinforce the practical skills and knowledge shared.



FACULTY OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS

- **Dr. Gladys Honein** assisted in establishing the Chouf Coastal Area- Primary Health Care Center in Damour in 2024. She coordinates the services at the center as per the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) requirements, strategic planning, and securing funding. She also oversees services to ensure staff adherence to high quality standards of care, documentation, and reporting to MOPH. Dr. Honein also worked with a team of HSON faculty on a UNICEF project that aims to build a sustainable and evidence-informed health workers' program integrated within the national PHC health workforce, including development of a policy and regulatory framework. She also led an ERASMUS funded project titled 'Lebanon's Empowerment & Building of Assistant Nurses for Universal Resilience & Skilled Education (LEBANurse)' with HSON faculty. This project is a vocational training initiative designed to strengthen Lebanon's healthcare system by addressing the critical shortage of nursing professionals through creation of a competency-based vocational curriculum for assistant nurses and provision of education and career opportunities for women from underserved communities.



- **Dr. Dina Madi** represented HSON on the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Colloquium Committee where she participated in coordinating the nursing Colloquium exam, contributed to question bank review and development of new questions, and participated during the exam in 2024. During the 2024 war, she visited shelters where she provided maternal health support, including assessment and education, to pregnant women in shelter settings.
- **Dr. Houry Puzantian** continued her active involvement with the American Heart Association (AHA), where she served on the nominating committee of the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN), identifying candidates for both Council and Association-wide awards. She was also selected to represent the CVSN on the Clinical Pharmacology Committee of the Council on Clinical Cardiology - AHA, evaluating new scientific knowledge and developing science advisories on drug treatments for cardiovascular disease. Since 2024, she joined the Association for Research on Arterial Structure and Physiology (Artery Society, Europe), where she is engaged with both the Knowledge Exchange and Technological Innovation working groups.



FACULTY OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS

- **Dr. Angela Massouh** was elected president of the Lebanese Association of Critical Care Nurses at the Order of Nurses in Lebanon. She delivered many invited presentations nationally and at the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions [ACNAP] Congress. She co-led the Leadership in Cardiovascular Research for Nurses and Allied Professionals e-learning course at ACNAP. She was also appointed Associate Editor for Heart Failure at the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.
- **Dr. Silva Dakessian Sailian** was elected president of the Lebanese Association of Palliative Care nurses at the Order of Nurses in Lebanon and has been coordinating the offering of an adapted European certificate in palliative care to nurses all over the country.
- **Dr. Tamar Avedissian** was elected president of the Lebanese Association of Pediatric Nurses at the Order of Nurses in Lebanon. The association is offering continuing education workshops to update nurses on new developments in the field. She was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing
- **Dr. Lina Younan** was invited by the ICN Global Nursing Leadership Institute to serve as co-editor of the book titled 'Nursing Leadership in Crisis: Preparedness, Response and Resilience'.



IN MEMORIAM



Soon after 2025 ended, we lost our colleague and dear friend Dr. Lina Kantar, clinical associate professor at the Hariri School of Nursing. We deeply mourn the loss of an ethical, dedicated and talented educator.

Dr. Kantar earned her BSN from AUB in 1980, and her graduate degrees in education, with a doctorate in Educational Leadership with Specialization in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix, Arizona. She worked academia in Lebanon then in the United Arab Emirates where she was instrumental in promoting nursing education.

She joined AUB in 2011 and was promoted to clinical associate professor in 2019. Dr. Kantar introduced innovative methods in teaching such as case-based and problem-based instruction at HSON. She was also instrumental in developing the Objective Structured Clinical Exam and Nursing Simulation. She developed, directed and taught the online professional diploma in nursing education. In her research, she tested new methods of teaching. She was a staunch advocate for students, supporting them and spending long hours mentoring and advising them. She believed that if a student fails, the onus is on us who may have failed to educate him/her well.

As a colleague, Dr. Kantar was very humane, humble, selfless and supportive of her colleagues. During the past nine years, she has been fighting her illness without letting us feel her struggle. She never complained and whenever you see her, she would have this tender smile that she greeted us with, regardless of how tired she was. She continued her duties while in the hospital and kept apologizing for being ill. She did not want her students to miss anything.

We shall cherish and remember the impact Dr. Kantar had on students and faculty alike. Her legacy of commitment, perseverance, and excellence will continue to inspire us at HSON.



NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Mrs. Rana Chedid joined HSON in February 2024 as instructor. She earned her BSN and her MSN in Nursing Administration in 2004 and 2007, respectively, both from AUB. She is currently completing her executive MBA at the École Supérieures des Affaires (ESA) Business School, expected graduation in 2026.

Ms. Chedid has over 15 years of clinical and healthcare management experience. She began her career as a Registered Nurse at AUBMC before moving to Dubai, where she served as Nurse Manager in emergency settings at the International Modern Hospital and the American Hospital Dubai. Upon returning to Lebanon, she held progressive leadership roles at Bellevue Medical Center, including nursing quality manager, project manager, person-centered care coordinator, and associate executive manager where she led quality improvement, accreditation, and person-centered care initiatives.



Mrs. Talin Gulgulian joined HSON September 2024. Ms. Gulgulian is an expert nurse leader in neonatal and children's health population, with over 10 years of experience in direct patient care and 10+ years of academic experience.

She completed her MSN in Community Health Nursing (2010) at HSON. Her current research as she is pursuing a PhD in nursing education is focused on the role of debriefing in resuscitation education and training of health care professionals.

Ms. Talin Gulgulian is also an American Heart Association instructor in children and neonatal resuscitation and member of the National League of Nursing, which champions excellence in nursing education.



NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Mrs. Sarine Rita Malkdjian Assilian joined HSON as instructor in 2024. She earned her BSN with distinction from the University of Balamand in 2012 her MSN in adult gerontology – clinical nurse specialist track at AUB in 2021. She did her graduate clinical residency at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, USA. Her graduation project involved developing a clinical pathway for Lung Transplant patients. She began her career as a Registered Nurse in the Respiratory Care Unit at AUBMC, then transitioned during the COVID-19 pandemic to the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit. She later was promoted to Clinical Educator for the Critical Care Units. Mrs. Malkdjian's areas of interest include critical care nursing, clinical education, and bridging the gap between academia and practice.



Mr. Ammar Zahreddine joined HSON September 2024 as instructor. He holds a BSN from Makassed University in 1996, and MSN with double major in psychiatric/mental health nursing and community/ public health nursing from AUB in 2020. He has extensive experience in psychiatry, hematology, stem cell transplant and cellular therapy, following years of clinical and leadership roles at AUBMC and King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh, KSA, and held many positions as clinical nurse specialist, quality officer, nurse case manager, and clinical educator within specialized programs. He contributed to numerous research publications and international conferences, particularly in oncology nursing and stem cell transplant. His community health initiatives include HIV prevention and mental health support programs. His professional interests include mental health, palliative care, and advancing equitable healthcare practices.



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STUDENT ACTIVITIES 2024-2025



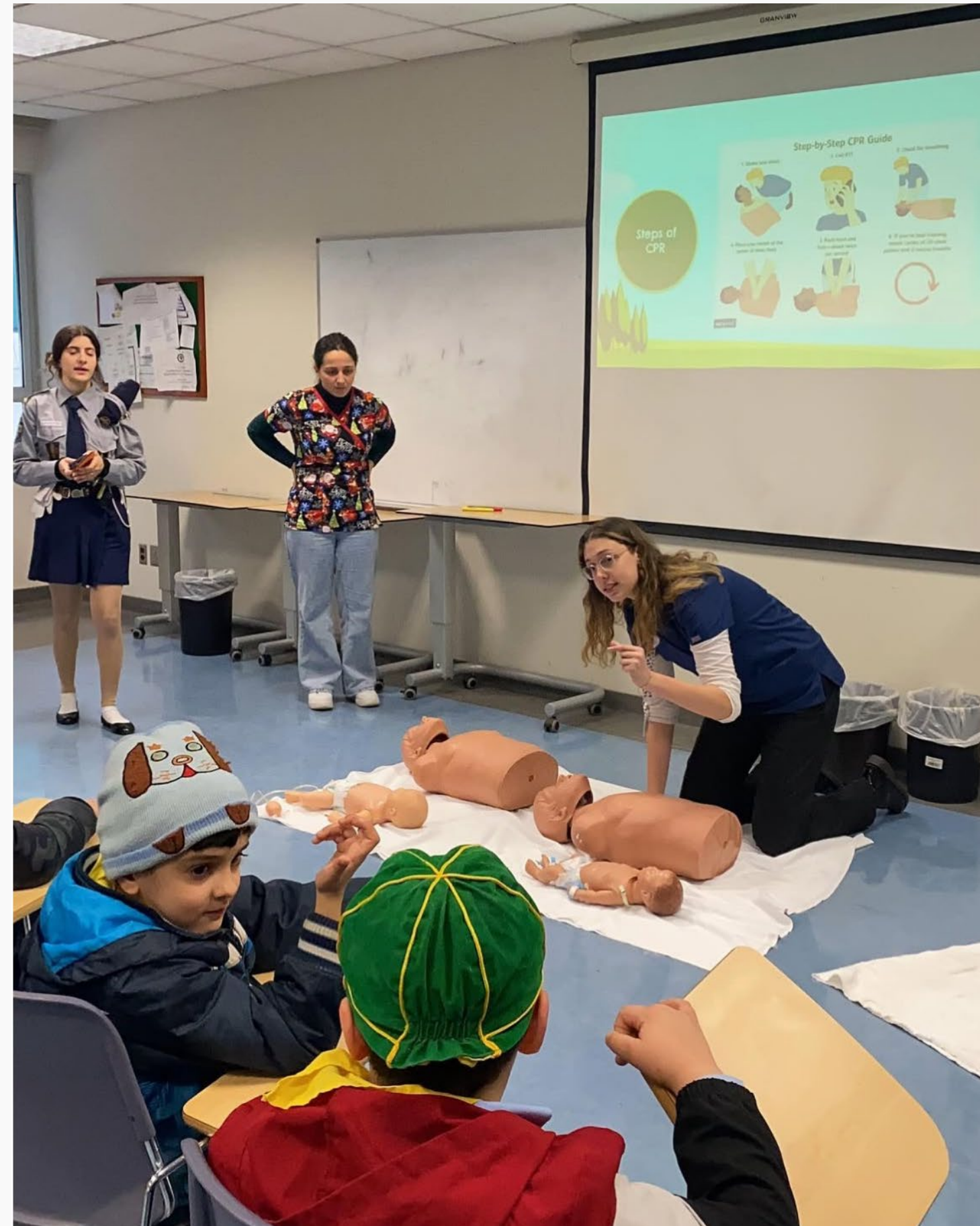
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

RESUSCITATION TRAINING

Our students were very active these past two years both during peaceful and war times.

Cardiac Resuscitation and First Aid Training

Every year, students continue to organize training sessions about cardiopulmonary resuscitation, emergency response, and first aid to AUB students, orientation leaders and dorm resident assistants, scouts and members of the community. Some of these events were conducted in collaboration with the Champs Fund, led by Dr. Mona Osman from the Family Medicine Department.





STUDENT ACTIVITIES HEALTH AWARENESS EVENTS

Brain awareness week

The NSS participated in Brain Awareness Week starting March 16, 2024 in collaboration with AUBMC. Nursing students volunteered in various activities across the main and medical campus, educating attendees on brain health and supporting the logistics of the event.

Mental Health Awareness week

The NSS collaborated with Embrace on November 13, 2024, to conduct a workshop focusing on mental health awareness. In partnership with UNICEF, the workshop provided valuable insights, and participating nursing students received certificates recognizing their commitment to mental health advocacy. In 2025, they invited the counseling center to offer a mental health session in the Green Oval.

World Heart Day

In 2024, and 2025, the NSS hosted awareness sessions at West Hall, that included educational sessions by HSON faculty, interactive games and activities related to heart health that were organized across upper campus locations.

Other health awareness activities

Nursing students also conducted breast awareness events, a session about Road safety in collaboration with the Business Students' Society, fundraising activity for colorectal cancer with the SAID nongovernmental organization with Dr. Gladys Honein, and events about prevention of diabetes mellitus on the World Diabetes Day under the guidance of Dr. Ola Sukkarieh





STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the war, nursing students helped the displaced. The NSS launched the "Responding with Care" initiative in collaboration with over AUB 20 clubs and societies where they provided health assessments and care to displaced individuals residing in shelters. The NSS also partnered with the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic at AUBMC to offer free healthcare services to displaced women, successfully assessing and treating 50 patients. Nursing students also performed a blood drive with AUBMC to ensure those injured get their needed treatment.



Nursing students visited older adults in nursing homes on the International Older Adults Day with Dr. Marina Adra where they engaged with residents through various activities, celebrating their contributions to society. Students also offered gifts to the residents during Christmas.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The nursing students hosted 40 orphans from Dar Al Aytam at the HSON Garden. Faculty members and nursing students came together to share a joyful evening with the children, where they distributed gifts and planned surprise activities. This event was attended by over 110 attendees, all with a beautiful spirit of coming together in supporting these children.





STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPORTS, FUN AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The NSS initiated friendly Football matches against other societies and clubs at AUB and an archery shooting event with the AUB Archery club. As usual every year, the NSS organized Christmas and Ramadan decorations at HSON, where nursing students adorned the premises with holiday decorations and enjoyed hot chocolate and treats with participation by the faculty. Our NSS was recognized by the Office of Student Affairs for their activities in 2024 through the Outstanding Student Organization Award.





ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2024-2025



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Zeina Khoury-Stevens BSN '1993 received her MSN in trauma and critical care from the University of San Francisco in 1995 and PhD in Nursing from the University of Maryland in 2006. She joined The Lebanese American University July 1, 2025 as the first Executive Vice President for Health Services, where she is tasked with developing and implementing a strategic vision that aligns clinical care with academic excellence and driving operational performance, financial sustainability and community impact, combining practice and academia to strengthen a multi hospital Academic Health System while overseeing both hospitals, clinics, with responsibilities towards the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy. This appointment comes after 20 years of international experience in healthcare leadership and nursing strategy in the US, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.



Sarah Abboud, BSN'1999, MSN '2007, earned her PhD (2014) and post doctoral fellowship (2016) at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. She was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 2024. She employs qualitative and community-based participatory research methods and develops evidence-based research programs and interventions to improve sexual and mental health outcomes among Arab immigrants in the US, including LGBTQ+ Arabs. She was inducted as fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2025. These achievements come after multiple grants and awards, most recently the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Faculty Award in 2024.



Dany Badreddine, BSN' 2005, MSN' 2008, earned his Doctor in Nursing Practice in Healthcare Management at Duquesne University with concentration in healthcare management and administration in 2011. He has over 20 years of experience in management that started at the American University of Beirut Medical Center as executive administrator. He moved after that to the United Arab Emirates where he was Hospital Director at the NMC Royal Hospital and Deputy Chief Operating Officer at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, in partnership with Mayo Clinic. He also served as Chief Executive Officer of Limitless Technologies and continues to contribute as a member of its advisory board, supporting innovation in HealthTech and InsurTech. In 2025, he was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Medical University Hospital, where he leads strategic growth, clinical quality, patient safety, operational efficiency, and financial performance.

STAY TUNED FOR 2026



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