



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY^{OF} BEIRUT

RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL
OF NURSING

RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL OF NURSING NEWSLETTER 2023

Issue #10





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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSN) Newsletter of 2023! I took office as Dean January 2023, so let me start by introducing myself. My journey in academia at AUB started in the late 80s during the civil war, and was interrupted by my pursuit of graduate studies in the US.

I specialized in cardiopulmonary nursing and my Masters' degree was focused on critical care. During my PhD studies, I recognized the importance of reducing cardiovascular risk factors in adults to improve their health outcomes, regardless of whether or not they have cardiac illness. Therefore, my research addressed health behaviors including diet, smoking and patients' response to a heart attack in clinical and community samples, including nurses. Recently, I took a broader context-driven approach, where I examined out-of-hospital cardiac arrest management, from the perspective of lay people and health care providers.

As I taught across all levels and grew through the ranks, I garnered a comprehensive understanding of the school's programs and needs over the years, and assumed more administrative responsibilities from coordinator of programs, to convener of the Graduate Division, then Associate Dean of Academic programs. My earlier work with the Order of Nurses in Lebanon as council member and chair of the scientific committee paved the way for the revision of the Nursing Practice Act in Lebanon that was recently approved by the parliament. In 2018, I founded the Lebanese Cardiovascular Nursing Society to promote the role of cardiovascular nursing in the community. I use the international connections that I built through my participation in cardiovascular nursing councils in Europe and the USA, and my fellowship at the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Nursing to further develop our school and promote its international reach.

Now back to HSON, 2023 witnessed many events and challenges, displaying once more the Hariri School of Nursing paradox, or as they say 'when the going gets tough, the tough gets going'! As I took office, we have just received word from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that we were granted another accreditation for ten years.





This came as a culmination of the efforts of Interim Dean Dr. Laila Farhood as she worked diligently with her leadership team to keep the school offering quality education, providing financial assistance to needy students, and recruiting new faculty members despite the adversities that the country encountered in the period 2019 to 2022.

Come January 2023, the country remained unstable. Nevertheless, HSON continued to thrive. Our student numbers are increasing. We launched 2 programs: the blended MSN and online diploma in Nursing Administration and Management. We also got the approvals for the new MSN in Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and the online diploma in Nursing Education programs that will be launched next Fall 2024. These accomplishments could not have been possible if it were not for our dedicated and talented faculty and students.

Research initiatives at HSON continue to grow as our faculty members are venturing into relevant areas such as the nursing workforce, care of the chronically ill and their caregivers, mental health, nursing education, primary health care and community nursing. We were also able to recruit new faculty members.

I pride myself of the significant contributions of our nursing faculty at AUB, nationally, in the region and beyond. The year 2023 witnessed the launching of the AUB Scholars Activists for Impact and Learning (SAIL for change), an initiative by the Provost, which is housed at HSON. The founding Director of this initiative is our nursing professor Dr. Nuhad Dumit.

The Hariri School of Nursing won in the Faculty Challenge on Giving Day in December 2023 for the second year in a row; donations will be used for student scholarships and faculty development and research.

Another milestone was the creation of the Palliative Care Society chaired by Dr. Silva Dakessian, assistant professor, under the umbrella of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, which aims to promote the role of nurses in palliative care.

Our research is being recognized in the region by the Scientific Committee of Arab Nursing Faculties, which invited the school in August 2023 to host the Center for Excellence in Research that aims to promote nursing research in the region. I direct this center, with Drs. Gladys Honein and Myrna Doumit as members, in addition to nurse researchers from Lebanon and the region.

Moreover, Dr. Myrna Dumit was elected for another term as president of the Nursing and Midwifery Council at the Arab Board of Health Specialists.

Moving forward, we will capitalize on our talented faculty and students.

We aim to continue offering quality education, conducting impactful research, and serving our community in Lebanon and beyond.

Samar Nouredine, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN

Dean and Professor

Hariri School of Nursing,

American University of Beirut

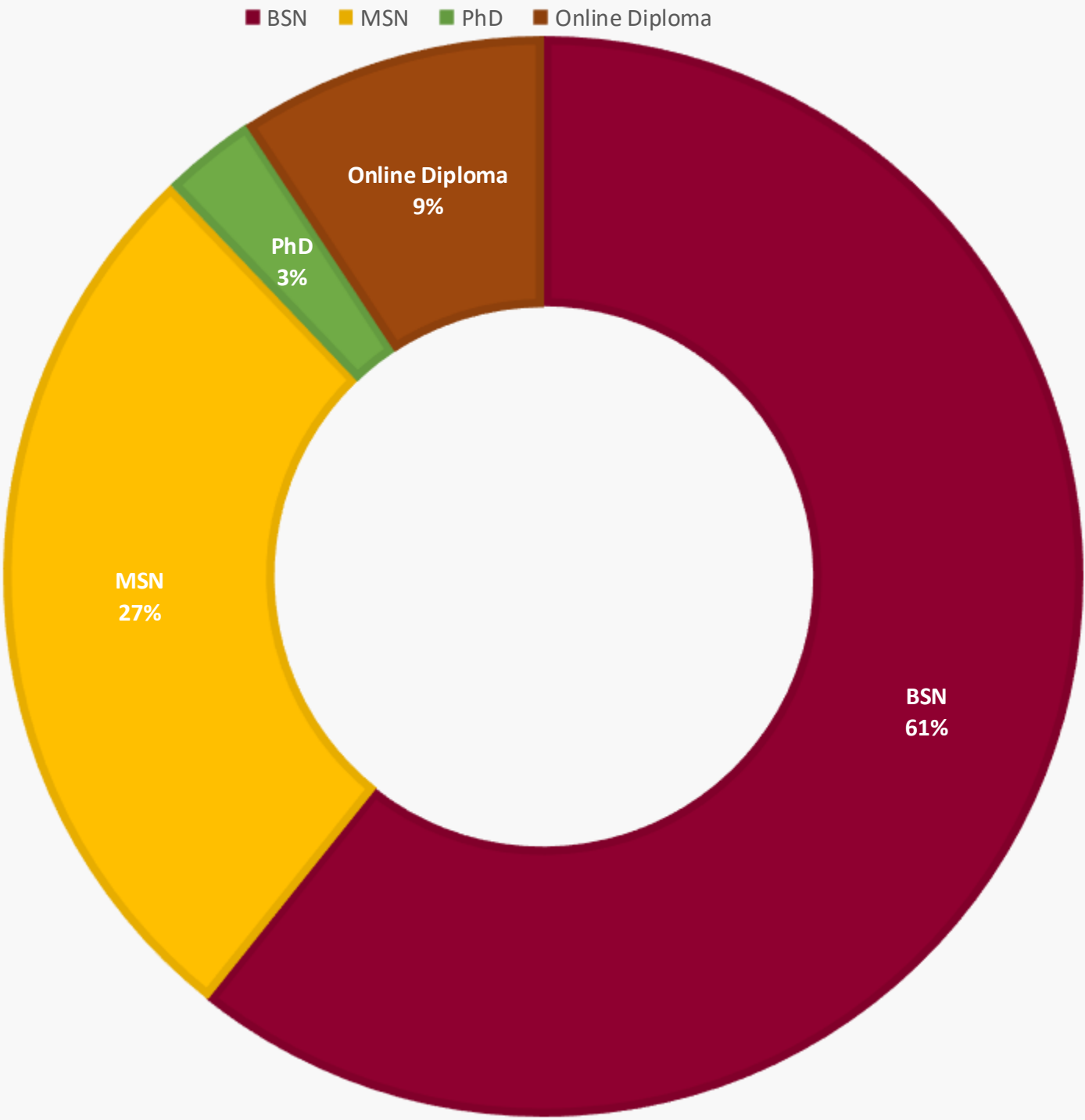


FAST FACTS 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Student Numbers in 2023

BSN	190
MSN	85
PhD	9
Online Diploma	29

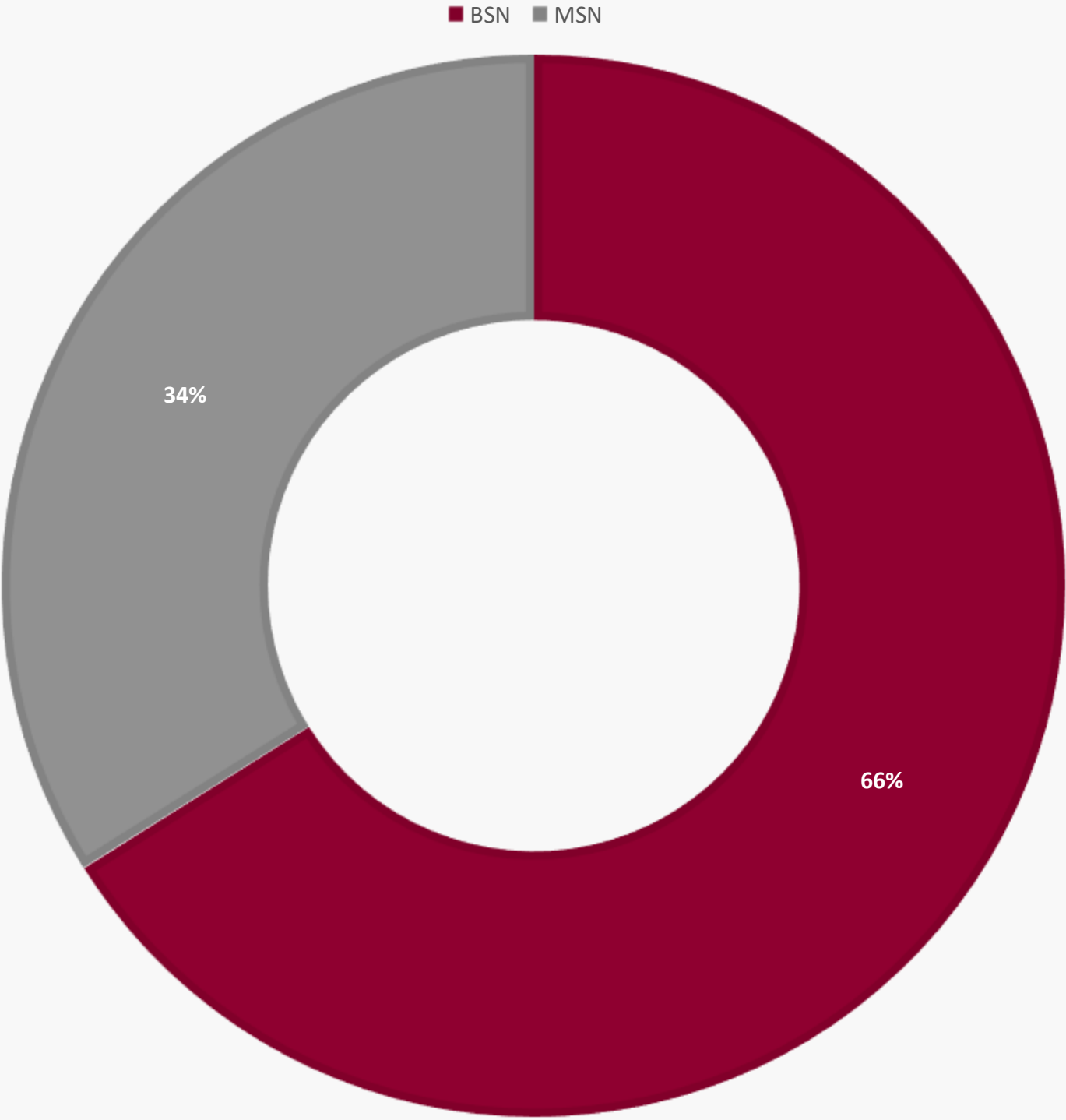
Total Enrollment



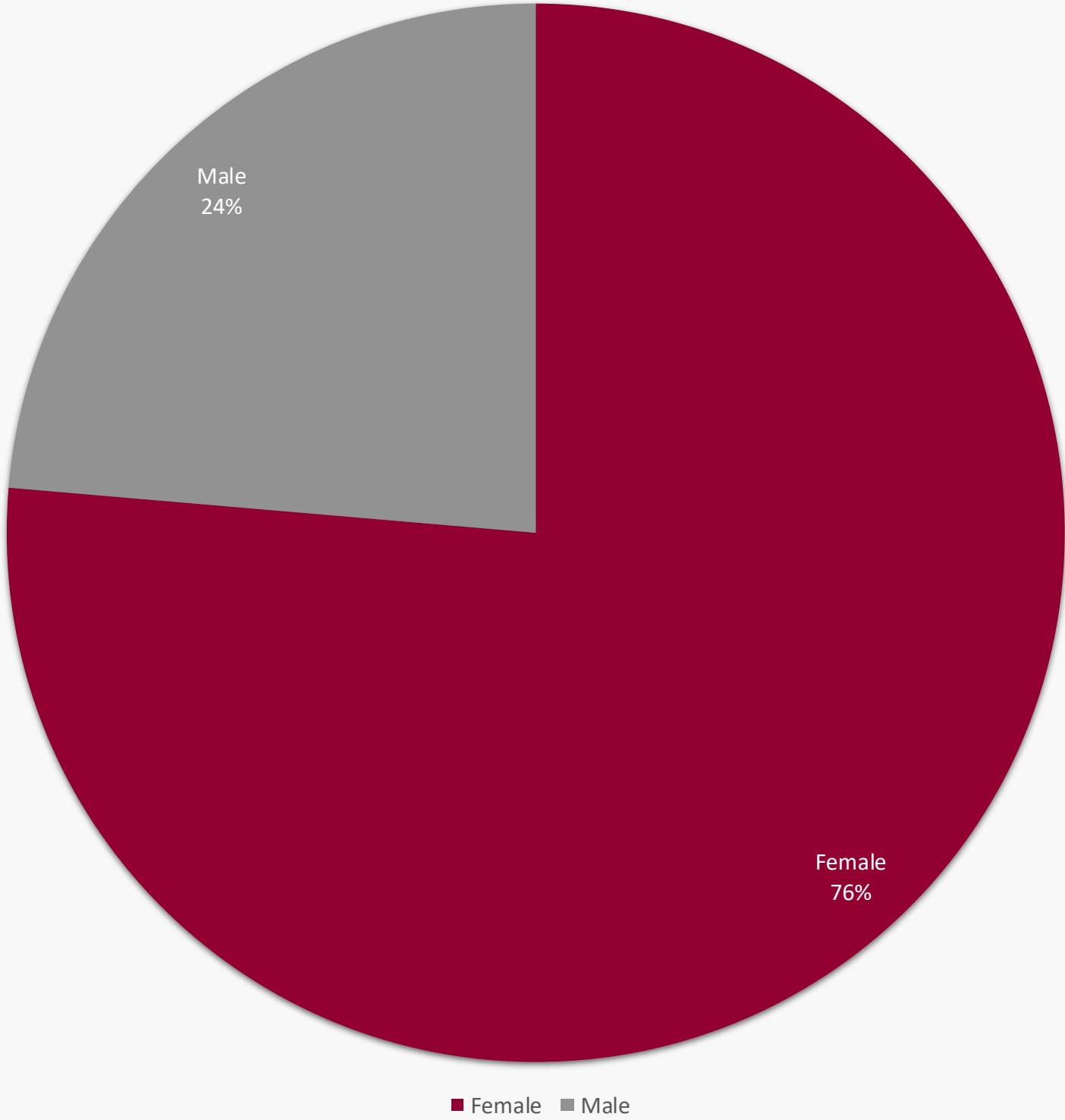


Total Graduates

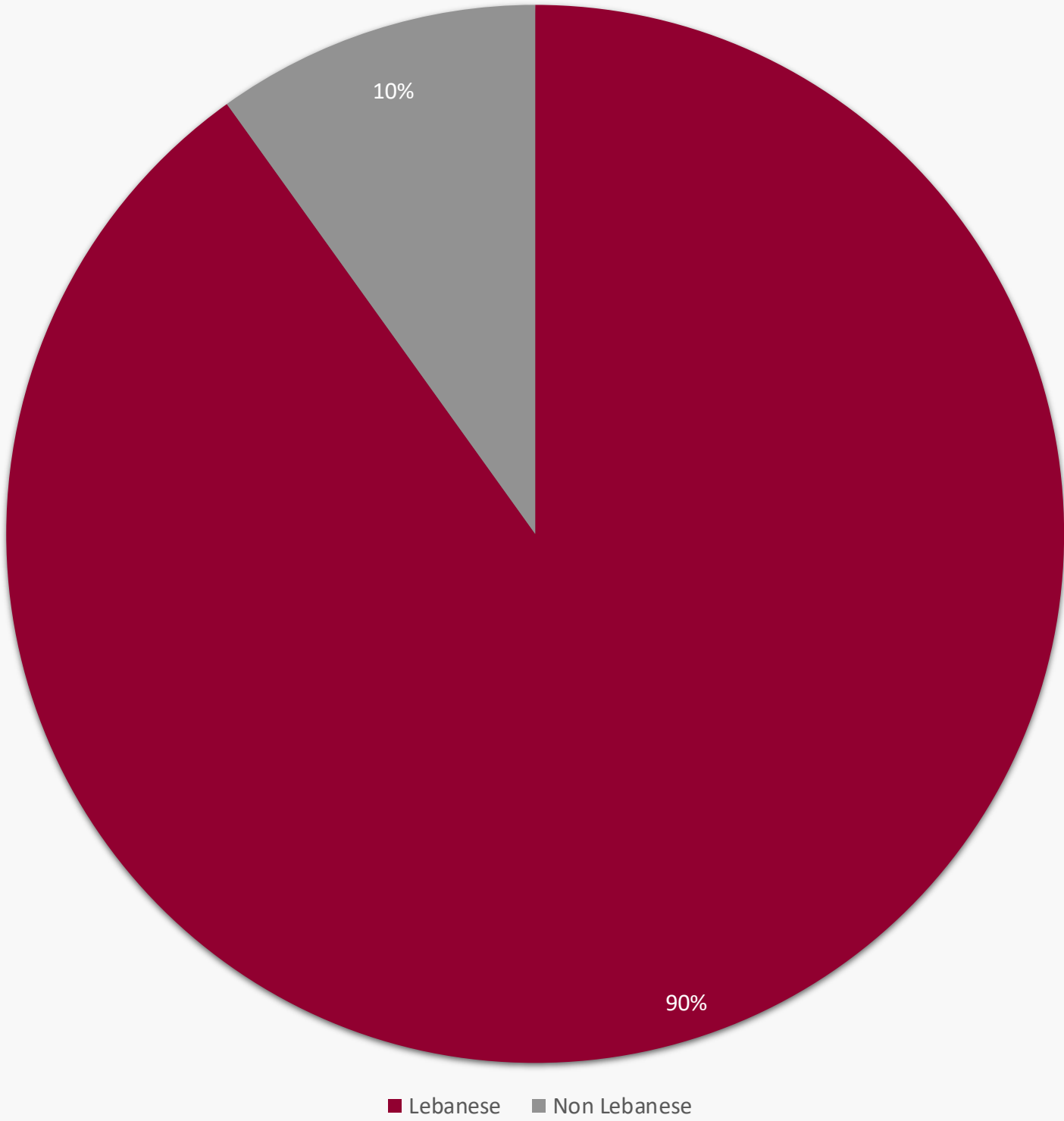
BSN	37
MSN	19



Gender



Nationality



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN 2023



RESEARCH DAY 2023

On May 19, 2023, the Hariri School of Nursing relaunched its Research Day organized by the Research Committee [Drs Houry Puzantian (Chair), Marina Adra, Myrna Doumit, Gladys Honein, and Angela Massouh] on the occasion of Nurses' Day under the theme 'Stronger Together', in collaboration with the Nursing Research and EBP Council (Chair, Mrs. Janane Hanna) at the AUB Medical Center, and the Chi Iota Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (President, Dr Silva Dakessian).

The event included a Keynote Speech and 2 workshops on **Implementation Science** by Dr. Suzanne Dhaini from Basel, Switzerland. An interactive poster session took place; moreover, 3 Masters students from AUB and Beirut Arab University presented their thesis work in a session led by the Chi Iota Chapter, STTI. Continuing education credits (ANCC) were provided to attendees. The event was well-attended by faculty (from HSON, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences), students, nurses at AUBMC, alumni working outside AUB and Lebanon (online attendance), Institutional Review Board staff, the Director and staff of the Kamal Shair Central Research Science Laboratory (faculty of Arts & Sciences), and colleagues from other universities/hospitals.

Special thanks to Miss Nisrine Ghalayini (HSON), Mrs Christine Helou (Clinical and Professional Development Center, Nursing Services), all faculty, staff, alumni, and students who helped make this event a success!







LION'S AWARD CEREMONY

Dean Nouredine was invited to address the nursing graduate awardees at the Lion's Club ceremony May 20, 2023.
The HSON award recipient was **Esra'a Daher**.





STUDENT AWARDS AND PINNING CEREMONY

On May 29, 2023, we held an award and pinning ceremony for the class of 2023. The program included talks by AUB President Fadlo Khuri, Dean Samar Nouredine; a testimonial by Mrs. Rola Khatib, Director of the Medical Lab Sciences; a welcome by Dr. Lina Badr, the President of the Nurses' Chapter of the Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB); and a speech by the student Jana Jadayel.

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE GIVEN:

The Women's Auxiliary Awards:

- The Mary Crawford (Florence Nightingale) Award: Jana Bilal Jadayel
- The Ann Smith Award: Ghinwa Haissam Hajjar
- The Nada Alameddine Kanso Award: Nour Salah Hijazi
- The Emily Asfour Award: Eman Mohammad Stayteh
- The Agnes Shamaa Award: Rashad Mazen Najjar
- The Helen Zarwi Award: Samira Omar Hilal
- The Najla Morston Award: Michelle Roy Peter Shukri
- The Jacqueline Rubeiz Award: Michelle Mansour Daou
- The Hanneh Shahine Award: Omar Tarek El Mahmoud
- The Leila Iliya Award: Mohamad Al Jawad Mustafa Zalzali

The Rouzan Al Najjar Awards:

- Joodi Maamoun Murhli (BSN IV student)
- Abbas Mohamad Zein (BSN III student)
- Adam Hisham Al Haraki (BSN II student)

The Abu Dhabi Chapter of WAAAUB Award

- Jana Bilal Jadayel

The Janet Jeries Haddadin Nursing Award:

- Mohammad Faisal Issa

The Salwa Mansur Jurdak Award

- Jineen Haitham Owaity

Finally, all the graduating students received the HSON pins.
The event was followed by a reception in the school of nursing lobby and garden.













GIVING DAY SUCCESS

HSON won the Faculty Challenge with the highest percentage of alumni donors.







NEW PROGRAMS IN 2023

- Blended MSN in Nursing Administration and Management
- Online Graduate Academic Diploma in Nursing Administration and Management



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**
**RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL
OF NURSING**

Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN)

**PEDIATRIC CLINICAL NURSE
SPECIALIST (NEW)**

39 CREDITS



COMING UP IN 2024

- MSN in Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Professional Online Diploma in Nursing Education





OUR PhD GRADUATES OF 2023



Dr. Melissa Makhoul defended her dissertation 'Pain Catastrophizing And Pain Resilience As Predictors Of Patient-Reported Outcomes In Individuals With Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain' August 30, 2023. She taught with us in the Fall semester of 2023-2024, only to be recruited as a post doc by Dr. Emily Bartley at the Pain Research & Intervention Center of Excellence (PRICE) at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. She is currently exploring pain resilience phenotypic profiles in surgical patients before and after arthroplasty.



Dr. Mahmoud Salam defended his dissertation titled 'Influenza Vaccine Uptake, Hesitancy and Their Determinants Among Lebanese Public Transportation Drivers During Covid-19' August 29, 2023. Dr. Salam spent many years in practice and research in The US and Gulf countries prior to his PhD at HSON. He describes his experience as HSON to 'have set me on the right track by advancing my nursing practice and refining my research identity. AUB prepared me well to the job market, as I found myself well equipped with knowledge and skills to assume both research and academic career responsibilities. Soon after his graduation, he was recruited as Assistant Professor by the at Alice and Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing, Lebanese American University. He is continuing his work around people's attitude towards vaccines, specifically those who are vulnerable and the unprivileged groups.

FACULTY NEWS



New Faculty members



Dr. Ola Sukkarieh joined HSON August 2023 as Associate Professor in the tenure track. She earned her BSN from the University of Balamand, her Master's in Public Health from AUB, and her PhD from Northeastern University, USA. Following years of practice, she joined the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing at the Lebanese American University (LAU) as one of the founding faculty members and grew through the ranks there. At LAU, Dr. Sukkarieh has taught and coordinated various didactic and clinical courses. She mentored many clinical preceptors. She served as a chair and member of various committees and served on many thesis committees in Nutrition and Public Health.

Dr. Sukkarieh's overarching research goal is to unfold diabetes self-management and its associated sociocultural values and practices. Her preliminary work on navigating diabetes fatalism in self-management served as building block towards exploring social determinants of health that affect the self-management and outcomes of adults with diabetes. She was co-investigator in an interdisciplinary NIH-R21 grant that explored the risk determinants of adults with type 2 diabetes in Lebanon, including researchers from AUB, LAU and the Medical College of Wisconsin, USA. Dr. Sukkarieh continues to explore innovative interventions in diabetes self-management education, particularly among the underserved communities, to promote health equity and optimize diabetes and cardiometabolic outcomes. Dr. Sukkarieh published in interdisciplinary peer reviewed journals and presented her work at local, regional and world renowned international conferences. She is currently academic editor in PLOS One, reviewer of a number of peer reviewed journals in diabetes, and member of the American Diabetes Association. Since joining AUB, she got involved in awareness activities on diabetes and presented on the topic.



Dr. Lina Badr joined HSON as full-time visiting professor September 2023. She received her BSN from AUB in 1973, Master's in Maternal Child Nursing in 1974 from Texas Women's University in the USA and PhD in 1984 from Boston University, USA. She later got Pediatric Nurse Practitioner certificate from UCLA, California in 1994. Her teaching career spans over many universities in Lebanon (AUB, the University of Balamand, and LAU), and the US (Curry College and the University of Massachusetts for 6 years, the University of California, Los Angeles for 16 years where she was director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program, and 14 years in the PhD program at Azusa Pacific University [APU]). Dr. Badr is tenured, emeriti professor at UCLA and at APU. Her expertise is in teaching Advanced Pediatric Nursing, and Research Methods and designs.

Dr. Badr's program of research is related to high-risk infants, chronic illnesses and neurodevelopment, with a focus on intervention and long-term follow-up. She received several NIH grants for her research and published over 100 research articles in peer reviewed journals.

She consulted in several Middle- Eastern countries such as Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, where new schools of nursing were being established. She chaired the task force for establishing the new School of Nursing at LAU and in writing the MSN curriculum for the MSN program at AUB. She served as the leader of nursing research at the American University of Beirut Medical Center for 6 years before joining the Hariri School of Nursing.



Miss Nour Abdallah joined HSON January 2023 shortly after earning her MSN in the Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist track. Her nursing practice is in coronary care and she worked as clinical preceptor at HSON before joining as full-time instructor. In her graduate studies, she focused on the care of older adults. She became Board Certified as Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS-BC) and is currently pursuing a graduate diploma in SHARP (Scholars in Health and Research Program) at AUB.



Dr. Marina Adra was appointed as convener of the Undergraduate Division end of 2022. She continues her research on older adults. She presented about '*the impact of social isolation and loneliness on older nursing home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon: A grounded theory study*' at the Nursing World Conference conducted at Boston, Massachusetts, USA.



Mrs May Khoury, Clinical Assistant Professor, resigned, seeking early retirement. Mrs. Khoury is a pillar in maternal child nursing in the school, having taught many generations of nursing students and participated in major curricular revisions. She is very liked by the students and faculty colleagues for her passion to teach and collegiality. She developed an interest in recent years in palliative care and engaged in related training and scholarly activities. In her farewell party, we saw her cry for the first time, for she is always optimistic. Mrs. Khoury spreads positive vibes she spreads that will be greatly missed



Mrs. Tamar Avedissian was able to secure a grant for her study entitled ‘The Association Between Parenting Behaviors and the Growth and Development of Children with Congenital Heart Disease’. Additionally, she obtained certification in 'Child Development: Behavior and Mental Health' from Stanford University. She was the primary author of a book chapter entitled 'Nurturing and Empowering Research Leadership Through Mentoring' to the book 'Mentoring in Nursing through Narrative Stories Across the World' by Springer International Publishing. She accomplished these achievements while pursuing her PhD studies and fulfilling her role as an advisor for the Nursing Student Society.



Dr. Silva Dakessian Sallian was promoted to Assistant Professor in the tenure track effective January 1, 2023, after her graduation in May 2023 with a PhD in Palliative Care from Lancaster University in Lancaster, UK. She had a podium presentation of her dissertation at the European Association of Palliative Care Congress, Rotterdam in June 2023. Dr. Dakessian Sallian is the founding president of the Lebanese Association of Palliative Care Nurses that was established in April, 2023, through the support of the Order of Nurses. In the same year, she participated in organizing the National Conference of Palliative Care that took place in October, 2023. Currently she spearheads the European Certification in Essentials of Palliative Care course-Lebanese version, (ECEPC) implemented through the Order of Nurses. This is the first palliative care certification at the national level delivered through a multidisciplinary team of experts. In her capacity as the President of the Chi Iota Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International, she led the Induction Ceremony of new members in October 2022, and is preparing for the 2024 Induction ceremony in upcoming May 2024.



Mrs. Danielle Damianos continues teaching theory and clinical courses mostly in maternal child and leadership nursing. She is also pursuing her PhD study with a focus on Nursing Professional Development. In the summer of 2023, she went to Canada where she completed a research residency with Dr. Darlaine Jantzen at Trinity Western University. She was also selected to serve as a judge for the 2023 Chapter Key Award by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The selection and the process took place during July-August, 2023.



Dr. Myrna Doumit had a busy 2023. She published 3 manuscripts related to palliative care and oncology nursing. was invited as main session speaker at the International Council of Nurses congress in Montreal Canada “Nurses together: a force for global health: the impact of nursing education on the nursing workforce”. She was also invited as panelist at the 2023 WHO Nursing and Midwifery Global Community of Practice on “International Nurses Day: Hope, Peace and Health Security”, the International conference on Cancer Nursing by International of nurses in Cancer Care on “Building Global Nursing Excellence for Tomorrow’s Cancer realities”. She was also a plenary speaker at the World Cancer Congress, in Geneva, Switzerland where she addressed “ Oncology Nursing Leadership Under Crisis” . She was also invited to the Regional Meeting on Health Workforce in EMR: from COVID-19 learnings to Action by WHO, EMRO in Egypt and as Panel discussant at the Asian pacific Action Alliances on Human Resources for Health.

She also presented her research in oral and poster presentations at the Sigma Theta Tau convention in Texas and the ICCN conference in Glasgow, UK. Dr. Doumit was re-elected as President of the Nursing and Midwifery council at the Arab Board of Health Specialists, and appointed by the Jordanian Scientific Research Support Fund/ Ministry of Higher education as advisory committee member for the Jordan Journal of Nursing Research. In Lebanon, she was invited to speak about “Interprofessional Education: A Patient- Centered and Collaborative Approach” at the conference organized by The Lebanese medical Students’ International Committee, the Lebanese Association of Dental Students and Lebanese Pharmacy Students’ Association, Lebanon. She was founding member and advisor for the Palliative Care Association of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.



Dr. Nuhad Dumit had a busy year as well. Soon after being appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at HSON, she was appointed by the Provost as Chair of the Council of Associate Deans at AUB. She received the Board Designated Professorship and continued her research on REfugees Act and Communicate for Health (REACH): Using Technology to Increase Health Literacy and Health Care Access for Local and Refugee Youth in Lebanon. She was invited to participate in a panel at the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, from October 15-17, 2023, held under the patronage of the Director-General of the World Health Organization Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Her presentation was about the use of digital technology in health promotion in humanitarian and forced migration settings, how digital divide and inequalities can be decreased in these settings, as well as utilizing youth-adult partnerships, youth participatory and co-design approaches, and social media tools to engage youth in health education and promotion initiatives in countries affected by forced migration. Another major achievement was her appointment as the founding director of the Scholar Activists for Impact and Learning for change cluster at AUB (SAIL for change) initiative under the Provost Office.

Housed at HSON, this initiative is a network of scholars across disciplines who are using their academic knowledge and collective expertise to design solutions for local challenges, strengthen private and public institutions, facilitate learning and capacity building, and seek growth opportunities for the communities of Lebanon. Recently in January 2024, Dr. Dumit was selected by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Board and the National Nurses Association (USA) to serve as a member on the ICN Education Experts (ICNEE) Advisory Committee.





Dr. Laila Farhood, Ph.D.; CNS, professor, after three years and a half as interim Dean, she kept the school functioning well in the darkest of times, relaunched the Bursary Program with AUBMC and led the school to another 10-year re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, was awarded the Board Designated Professorship and took a research leave to resume her research on psychiatric mental health issues in addition to her clinical work at the psychiatry department, FM.

She published an article on '*Sleepiness and Health-related Quality of Life among Kidney Transplant Recipients in a Low-Middle Income Country: A Cross Sectional Survey*' in Transplant International. She also presented at the World Psychiatric Association in Vienna, in September 2023, promoting "Psycho Social and Mental Health Care Through Community Based Educational Workshops for Teachers and Parent

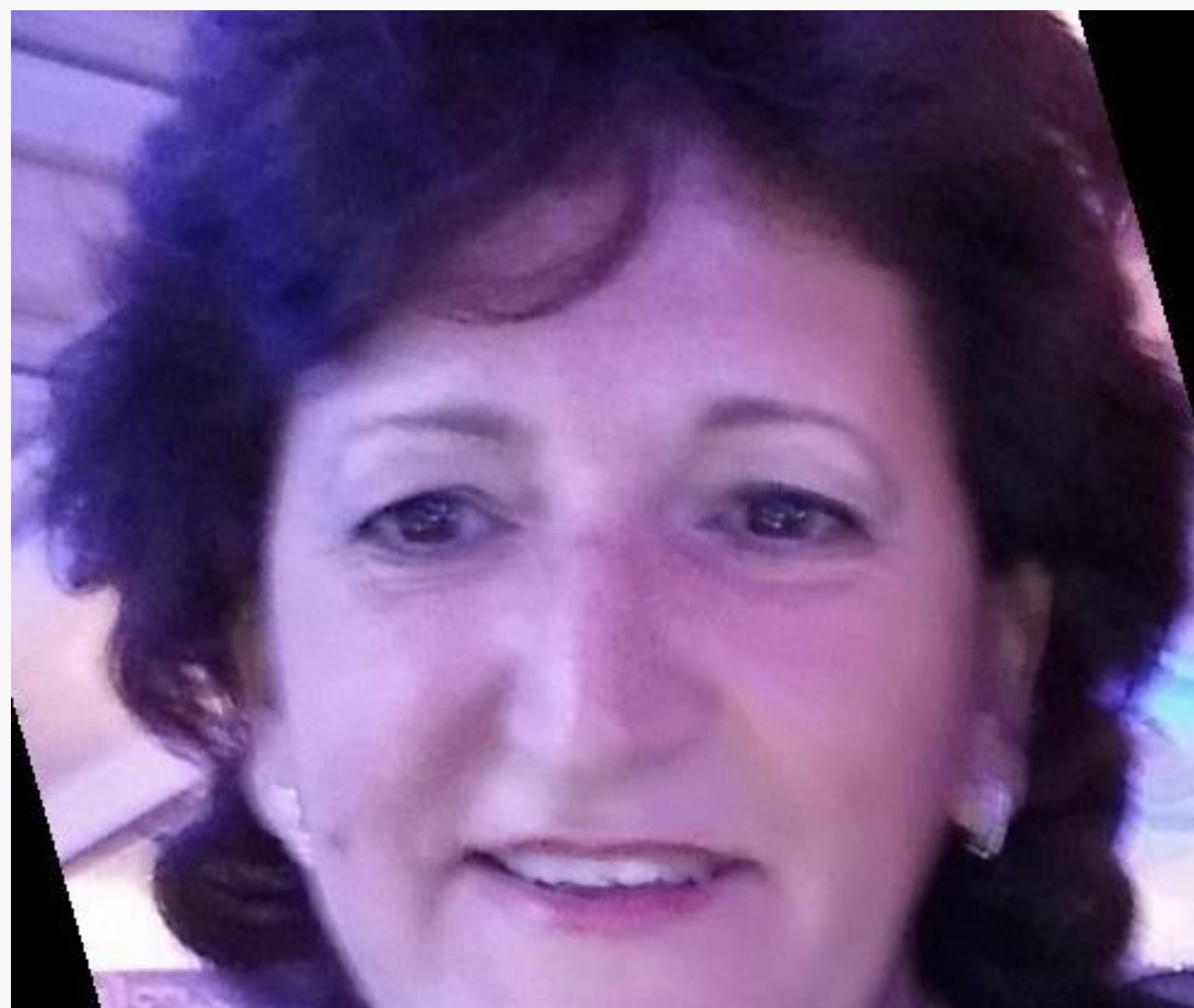




Dr. Gladys Honein was appointed convener of the Graduate Division January 2, 2023. She received the Farouk Jaber Research award for her study titled 'Towards a Program to EMPOWER Nurses (POWER) in Lebanon'. She also presented at the "Interdisciplinary World Health Congress on Post-Pandemic Readiness" in Casablanca. The Congress took place February 4- 8, 2024. Her presentation titled 'Health Equity in the post-pandemic Era- A Road to Social Justice' was presented as part of the concurrent sessions on February 6.



Dr. Lina Kantar is appointed Director of the Online Professional Diploma in Nursing Education that will be launched in the upcoming Fall. Her recent research activity titled "Clinical Teaching in Nursing: A Leveraging Tool" is published in the Journal of Nursing Education. Studies in progress include peer assisted learning and the integration of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination in nursing education.



Dr. Dina Madi presented her qualitative study on '*Use of a Mobile Intervention for Supportive Pain Management for Children and Adolescents with Cancer*' at the International Council of Nurses conference in Montreal, July 3, 2024. She also published the findings of this study in BMC Nursing.





Dr. Angela Massouh was appointed as the coordinator of the Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist track in the MSN program and as the American Association of the Colleges of Nursing champion for HSON to help facilitate the school's transition into competency-based education. She received the Director's Award for Outstanding Transformational Leader at the AUB Medical Center where she has a joint appointment as Leader for Research, Education and Innovation. She was also elected as fellow at the European Society of Cardiology. She continues with her international presentations with one abstract: '*Factors Associated with Somatic Symptoms Perception in Patients Living with Heart Failure*' published in the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, and another '*Caregivers' Growing Contributions to Heart Failure Self-Care: An Updated Systematic Review*' in Circulation.



Dr. Houry Puzantian continues her appointment as academic associate at the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. She is co-director of the Vascular Medicine Program (VMP), the academic and research arm of the Moufid Farra Heart, Vascular and Kidney Outpatient Center at AUBMC. The VMP encourages cross-campus collaborations aimed at reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases in Lebanon and the region. As chair of the Research Committee at HSON, she led many initiatives, from seminars to the Research Day in May with international speakers. She also established the biweekly round tables and set up the Research Encounter Room. She continues her research for which she has obtained a grant from the University Research Board for her study on A Comparison Between Oscillometric and Tonometric Assessment of Arterial Stiffness in Obese Individuals. She is co-PI on another grant received to fund graduate student work via the Middle East Partnership Initiative-Tomorrow's Leaders Graduate (MEPI-TLG) Program. She chaired the Research working group at the Lebanese Cardiovascular Nursing Society; research competencies were set for nurses. She functioned as local ambassador (Lebanon) on the working groups of the Vascular Aging Network funded by the European Cooperation of Science and Technology (COST Action). At the American Heart Association, Dr Puzantian was reelected to the Nominating Committee of the Council on Cardiovascular & Stroke Nursing, and invited to mentor early career physician scientists.



Ms. Emilie Succar continues her heavy involvement in many clinical courses. In the Fall semester she coordinated and taught the theory course N200 for the first time and the students loved her interactive teaching approach. As advisor for the sophomore class, students appreciate her listening to their concerns and supporting them.



Dr. Lina Younan was the lead faculty member in 2023 in converting the MSN in Nursing Administration and Management from an in-residence program to a blended program. She also initiated and directed the Online Academic Diploma in Nursing Administration and Management.

STAFF NEWS



PROMOTION

Mrs. Mira Abdallah: After serving as Administrative and Student Services assistant in the Dean's office since 2015, Mrs. Mira Abdallah was promoted in the summer to Student Services and Career Planning Officer



RECOGNITION

Mr. Rabih Daher, following his recent promotion to office assistant and his processing the colloquium papers at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) for nursing, nutrition and clinical psychology graduates, was sought after by the Registrar's office to represent AUB in processing papers of international students at AUB. This recognition came after he was sought after by the MEHE administration for his professionalism and organization.



RECRUITMENT

Three new staff members were hired this Fall: **Mrs. Abeer Hashem** as administrative assistant in the Undergraduate Division, **Mrs. Loyal Abi Jumaa**, Administrative and Student Services Assistant, and **Mrs. Joyce Nasr** as Simulation and Skills Laboratory coordinator.



Loyal Abi Jumaa



Abeer Hashem



Joyce Nasr



CONTINUING STAFF



Last but not least, **Mrs. Diana Chami**, the executive and financial officer of HSON, acquired a new responsibility as the accreditation officer of the school.



Miss Nisrine Ghalayini, Administrative Officer for the Graduate Division, has taken upon herself an additional responsibility as the quasi-communication officer of the school, managing regular and digital communication of events and news in social media.



RETIREMENT

The year 2023 marked the retirement of 2 of our essentials staff members.



Mrs. Janet Zinati left us after more than 40 years of service, where she witnessed and participated in the operations of the school as the secretary of the undergraduate division from the days when students used to fill registration cards and get them signed by course instructors from all over campus, to electronic registration on banner. She continued her development over the years to catch up with the changing deans of the division. Janet will be greatly missed for her meticulousness and diligence.



Miss Randa Farha who joined us in 2009 as we were establishing the Simulation Center as coordinator. She collaborated diligently with the faculty, students and the school administration in making sure the center is well equipped, and faculty and students are supported in their learning and teaching activities. As she got certified in simulation, she became a resource person not only for HSON but also for the faculty of medicine and the medical center whose students and staff used our facility for training. Miss Farha will be greatly missed for her energy and enthusiasm.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Our students were very active this year. They were involved in many activities on campus and beyond that were organized by the Nursing Student Society (NSS), which represents undergraduate and graduate nursing students at AUB.

The NSS activities aim to promote the students' professional development, maintain their well-being, and give back to their communities. Throughout this year, the NSS led multiple successful events, some of which are shown below

Earthquake Fundraiser

لننقذ قلوبهم

YOUR DONATION SAVES LIVES

Aftershocks, freezing temperatures and damaged infrastructure are hindering efforts to tackle the enormous humanitarian emergency triggered by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Southern Turkey and Northern Syria.

Humanitarian organizations working on the ground need our help.

FUNDRAISING

In February 2023, the NSS in collaboration with the Insight club raised funds for those affected by the catastrophic earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey. At their booth near the Saab Medical Library at AUB, they collected monetary and non-monetary items to support the victims and their families.



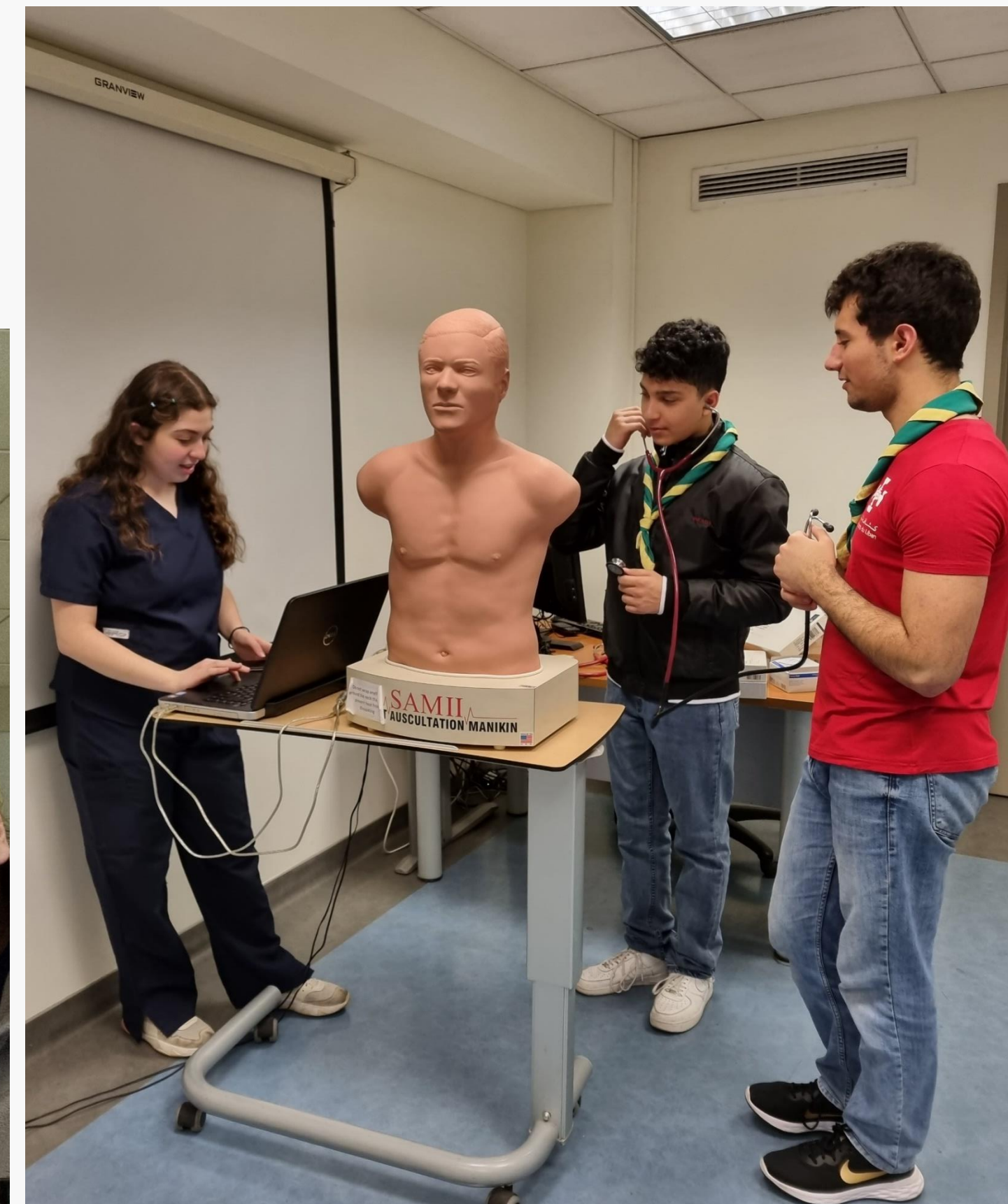
CARDIAC RESUSCITATION AND FIRST AID TRAINING

As February is the 'Heart' month as per the American Heart Association, the NSS students raised awareness about both heart failure and congenital heart disease by providing edutaining activities. On March 27 and 28 in 2023, the NSS and the Remy Rebeiz Young Heart Foundation worked collaboratively to raise awareness about sudden cardiac deaths. On campus, the team conducted free electrocardiogram (ECG) screening to 183 AUB students and the results were read by a cardiologist from the AUB Medical Center. Students with suspicious ECG readings were further referred to a cardiologist for follow-up. October is known for the month of CPR. The AUBMC and the NSS organized a three-day event and raised awareness to the AUB community about hands-only CPR. The team spread over various buildings across the AUB campus and AUBMC. Teaching students and visitors hands only CPR.





**The NSS also provided first aid training to the scouts,
and introduced them to the nursing profession.**
There were multiple exciting stations and scenarios that presented
the critical role of the nurse in caring for the sick.





SPORTS AND FUN

The NSS initiated a football match among the AUB students from various majors and cohorts. This match, conducted during the exam weeks, provided students with a break from their studies and fostered interactions with peers from various majors. It was an opportunity for the students to get to know each other through a friendly competition.





NURSES' DAY CELEBRATION

To celebrate Nurses' Day, the students conducted a happy gathering. They showed their pride to belong to the noble nursing profession, which has been voted to be the most ethical profession for consecutive years. The celebration that was attended by the Dean and faculty members, included a cake with the theme '*Stronger Together*' reflecting the importance of team work





HEALTH AWARENESS EVENTS

On the occasion of the international Alzheimer's and Dementia Day, the NSS invited Mrs. Nayiri Baboudijan, who shared her experience with her father and wrote an article entitled "*The Man in the Mirror: Reflections on Dementia Caregiving in Lebanon*". The day continued with competitive games testing the knowledge of nursing students about dementia and rewarding the winning team with a prize.

On October 23 and 27, 2023, the NSS helped the AUBMC department of Metabolic Bone Disorders raise awareness about osteoporosis. The students participated in running the knowledge quizzes and distributed brochures and leaflets developed by the International Osteoporosis Foundation to the visitors at the hospital.

For the past several years, the NSS has been dedicating a day for breast cancer awareness to show their support for women. The students held different types of activities this year also, including leaving pink fingerprints, teaching how to perform breast self-examination, playing crosswords and giving away pink ribbons.





AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

RAFIC HARIRI SCHOOL
OF NURSING

NEWSLETTER 2023

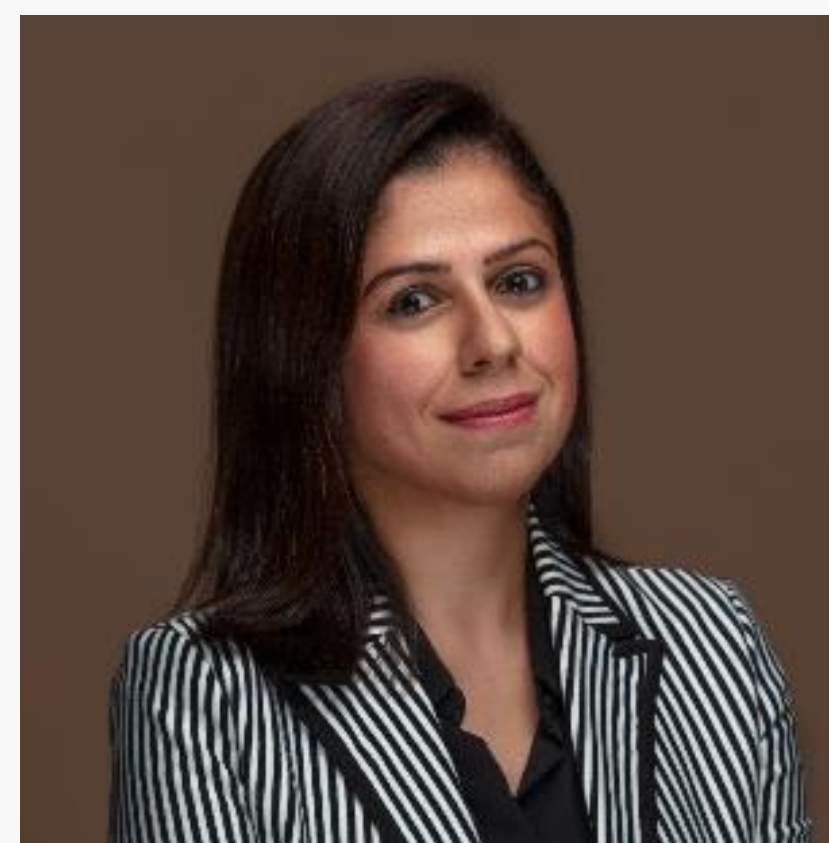
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ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Mohamad Saab BSN '2008, MSN '2013 was promoted to senior lecturer (equivalent to Associate Professor) at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, University College Cork, Ireland. He has recently secured Health Research Board Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Award (HRB DIFA) funding to the value of €391,369 in order to test the feasibility of a virtual reality (VR) intervention to promote awareness of testicular diseases among Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) players in Ireland. <http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/C014/msaab@ucc.ie>



Ema Janahi, MSN '2012, after teaching for many years at the College of Health Sciences in Bahrain, completed her doctorate in Education at Sheffield University, UK. She was appointed Director of Allied Health Sciences at Bahrain Polytechnic in 2023. She was also Gold Medalist of 2023 Abu Dhabi Master's Jiu-jitsu World Championship, her second hobby after diving!.



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Wael Assi, BSN '1990, is chief executive officer of Guidry & East, the largest transplant consulting firm in the US where he oversees the clinical operations and transplant finance consulting functions of the company. This promotion came after earning his MBA from Oklahoma City University in 1995 and a rich career of over 30 years working with transplant centers such as the Oklahoma Transplant Institute at INTEGRIS where he participated in the founding of the liver transplant center. He was also one of the founding directors of the transplant center the CHRISTUS Transplant Institute at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Healthcare in San Antonio, Texas, USA and later joined the University of California San Diego where he was instrumental in getting those centers their needed certification. He recently received the prestigious Heckenkemper Leader in Transplant Administration Award at the UNOS Management Forum that is presented annually to an individual for distinguished leadership in transplant administration.



Sana Karam, BSN '1991, was just named head of the radiation oncology department at the Washington University School of Medicine at St. Louis. Dr. Karam started her career as a nurse who received the Florence Nightingale award for her excellent academic achievement upon graduation from nursing school. After working in Lebanon, she left to the US where she completed her Master's in Nursing at the University of Maryland and continued to work as a nurse for many years. She maintained her passion for health care but switched to medicine where she earned her MD from Georgetown University, PhD in physiology and biophysics from the University of Washington and a postdoctoral fellowship in oncology at Johns Hopkins University. She is a seasoned translational researcher with multiple NIH grants, and a talented and dedicated educator and mentor who received the National Educator of the Year Award from the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology in 2019. This new appointment as department head makes us very proud and wishing her all the best.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This newsletter would not have been possible without the input of the whole HSON family.
Thanks to all the faculty, staff and students, namely the Nursing Student Society, for providing us with the information.
Special thanks to Miss Nisrine Ghalayini for working on the formatting of the Newsletter in its final shape.

STAY TUNED FOR 2024

THANK YOU



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