

Provost's Biography

With more than 45 years of recognized academic and research experience, Dr. Georges Bahr was appointed as the Provost at the University of Balamand (UOB) in December 2018.

Prior to his appointment as Provost, he served as Professor of Immunology and Virology at the Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences, as Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, and subsequently as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Balamand.

Professor Bahr received a Bachelor and a Master of Sciences from the American University of Beirut in 1975, a PhD from the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in London University in 1980. He then obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists in London.

He started his scientific career at the Pasteur Institute in Paris developing the concept of immunotherapy in the management of chronic infections and tumors. His experimental findings were successfully translated, in 1986, into clinical testing for the immunotherapy of tuberculosis in Kuwait where he served as consultant to the Ministry of Public Health and as Associate Professor at the Medical School in Kuwait University. In the early nineties, Professor Bahr joined Sandoz Research Institute in Vienna as Head of Allergy Program, and his research was focused on the immunotherapy of chronic viral infections including HIV and Hepatitis C. After becoming the Head of the HIV Department at the Pasteur Institute in Lille in 1996, Professor Bahr's research targeted the identification of synthetic immunomodulators capable of blocking viral replication. This work has led to a series of patents and to the ongoing clinical evaluation of a new generation of immunotherapeutics. More recently, Professor Bahr has directed his research efforts towards the molecular analysis of the mechanism of action of synthetic immunomodulators and to the identification of novel cellular genes mediating innate immunity. His research activities were heavily funded by European academic and governmental institutions, as well as pharmaceutical industries, and had led to over 110 original publications and several book chapters.

Professor Bahr has been a member of the international review panel of several scientific and medical journals, a keynote speaker at prestigious conferences, organizer of international symposia, and inventor or co-inventor of 19 patents. He was awarded the Euroscience Rammal prize in 2004 for his scientific achievement. He served as external consultant to the strategic committee of international affairs at the French Academy of Sciences, a member of the scientific board of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, and member of the review and funding committee of the framework program 6 in life sciences at the European commission in Brussels.

The Provost is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and provides leadership to all academic areas to ensure that they reflect the mission of the institution. The Provost is an advocate for all academic programs, providing leadership to faculty and academic staff to ensure consistent quality standards in curricula and programs. The Provost ensures the practice of academic integrity of the University and advises the President on long-term planning, budgeting, curriculum, and program development. The Provost oversees compliance of the University with various accreditation agencies as well as state accreditation and regulation.