



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BALAMAND**

# FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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## PREFACE

The year 2025 was a challenging year for FHS. The Lebanese economic and financial crisis, compounded with the military warfare on Lebanon, continued to impact our academic activities.

Despite these disruptions and challenges, we are very proud to announce that two of our academic programs Nutrition and Nursing have been accredited by US accrediting bodies namely ACEND and ACEN respectively. The Public Health and MLS departments are currently seeking accreditation by CEPH and AHPGS respectively. The Public Health Department launched and successfully completed in 2025 the 15 credit NIH Fellowship Program on Climate Change and Health as part of the broader GEOHealth Hub initiative.

All five FHS departments celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Faculty in 2025 by selecting a month to organize their activities. Nutrition selected March, MLS April, Nursing May, Public Health June, and Community Engagement July. FHS was also successful in receiving a number of intra and extramural research grants, a detailed list is summarized in this annual report.

We are also delighted to share the launch of a new program at FHS, Optic and Optometry, which received the MEHE approval and is awaiting the final site visit and approval to start.

We hope you will enjoy reading this annual report and we look forward to sharing additional significant milestones in the near future.

Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer  
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

## FHS implemented chair rotations every 3 years effective AY 25-26.

- **Public Health:** Dr. Myriam Mrad stepped down from the Chair position after 6 years of service and was succeeded by Dr. Jessica Saliba, effective September 2025
- **Medical Laboratory Sciences:** Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman will be succeeded by Dr. Mira El Chaar effective Jan 2026
- **Nutritional Sciences:** Dr. Mireille Serhan submitted her resignation after 16 years of service as chair and will be succeeded by Dr. Maud Rizk.
- **Nursing:** Dr. Mathilde Azar will continue as director for another term.
- **DOCE:** Dr. Habbouba Aoun will continue as director.
- **Optometry:** Dr. Elie Attieh was appointed Acting Program Chair
- **Assistant Deans:** Dr. Mireille Serhan for MC campus and Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman for SEG campus.
- **Center for Health Research:** Dr. Myriam Mrad was appointed as Director assisted by Dr. Dima Mnayer.

## FHS Promotions

FHS is proud to announce the promotion of the following faculty members:

- Dr. Nivine Abbas, Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman, and Dr. Mathilde Azar were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor
- Dr. Maud Rizk promoted to Assistant Professor
- Dr. Emile Whaibeh promoted to Senior Lecturer

## FHS FACULTY

Abbas, Nivine Ph.D., Social Sciences and Environmental Studies,  
University of Twente, The Netherlands

Abdel Rahman, Abir Ph.D., Public Health & Psychological Sciences,  
University of Strathclyde, Scotland

Abdo, Elias Ph.D., Molecular Biology,  
University of Montpellier France II,

Abou Lteif, Ghada M.S., Biology,  
American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Abu-Saad Huijer, Huda	Ph.D., Curriculum & Instruction, Nursing Science, University of Florida, Gainesville
Aoun, Habbouba	Doctorate of Public Health, Atlantic International University, U.S.A.
Azar, Mathilde	Ph.D., Health Sciences, University of Dundee, U.K
Christine Azar	Ph.D., Public Health & Epidemiology Paris-Est University, France
Baysari (AL), Charbel	Ph.D., Medical Microbiology, Lebanese University, Ph.D., Human Pathology Infectious Disease, Aix Marseille, France
Chabbani, Sana	Ph.D., Education, Université Saint Joseph, Lebanon
Daccache, Caroline	Ph.D., Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics Maastricht University, The Netherlands
Daher, Mira	Ph.D., Agricultural & Food Sciences, Université Saint Esprit, Kaslik, Lebanon
Dassouki, Zeina	Ph.D., Hematology & Oncology, Université Paris Diderot, France
Deghel (EL), Maria	M.S., Microbiology, Université Saint Joseph, Lebanon
Dib, Liza	M.S., Microbiology, Lebanese University, Lebanon
El Chaar, Mira	Ph.D., Molecular Microbiology, University of Cambridge, U.K.
Finianos, Jessica	Ph.D., Health Psychology, University Rovira, Spain
Germanos, Peggy	M.S., Nursing, St. Joseph University, Lebanon
Greige, Layal	M.S., Immunology and Microbiology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Habib, Hiba	M.S., Nursing, St. Joseph University, Lebanon
Haddad, Lara	Ph.D., Immunology, University of Aix-Marseille II, France
Hourani, Rabab	Master Business Administration, Ecole Supérieure des affaires ESA, Lebanon
Jaalouk, Lina	M.S., Health Promotion Management, Marymount University, U.S.A.
Saada, Jurdì	MSc., Epidemiology & Biostatistics, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Kazzi, Samir	MS, Microbiology University of Balamand, Lebanon
Kobrossy, Micheline	M.S., Occupational Health, University of Birmingham, England
Maarawi, Thérèse	M.S., Chemistry, University of Balamand, Lebanon
Mrad, Myriam	Ph.D., Epidemiology & Public Health, Université Pierre et Marie Curie- Paris VI, France
Mnayer, Dima	Ph.D., Safety & Quality of Natural Plant Products Université d'Avignon et des pays de Vaucluse, France
Maysam, Moussa	Ph.D., Regenerative Medicine Université St Joseph, Lebanon
Rouaiheb (El), Hiba	M.S., Food Technology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Rizk, Maud	Ph.D., Medicine, Cancerology, Genetics & Hematology University of Burgundy, France
Saliba, Jessica	Ph.D., Biology and Chemistry for Health Sciences (Pharmacochemistry and Biomolecules) Université Montpellier I, France
Skaff, Diana	DBA Walden University, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Serhan, Mireille	Ph.D., Food Engineering and Biotechnology, National Polytechnic Institute of Lorraine, France
Shoucair, Gretta	M.S., Food Technology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Tohme, Jessy	M.S.. Medical Laboratory Sciences, University of Balamand, Lebanon
Wakim, Zeina	D.E.A., Social Sciences, Lebanese University, Lebanon
Whaibeh, Emile	Ph.D., Biological and Medical Sciences, USJ, Lebanon

## FACULTY RECRUITMENT

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Skaf, Diana	DBA Walden University, Minnesota, U.S.A.
Daccache, Caroline	Ph.D., Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics Maastricht University, The Netherlands
Kazzi, Samir	M.S., Microbiology University of Balamand, Lebanon

## FHS STAFF

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Atallah, David	IT Assistant
Chaddad, Rita	Students Services Officer
Constantine, Catherine	Executive Officer
Khalil, Mayssa	Secretary
Khamis, Youssef	Office Assistant
Khater, Paul	IT Supervisor
Khoury, Joelle	Financial Project Coordinator
Lahoud, Cecile	Executive Secretary
Makhoul, Sethrida	Receptionist

## PART-TIME FACULTY

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Abdulsater, Sabeen	M.S., Public Health University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Abi Hanna, Jowy	MPH University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Abou Tarieh, Rima	Ph.D., Public Health - Health System & Policy Saint Joseph University Of Beirut, Lebanon
Rayes, Ahmad	Ph.D., Philosophy Paris Graduate School - Innovative Knowledge Institute
Abdo, Habib	M.B.A University Saint Joseph, Lebanon
Accary, Claudine	Ph.D., Pharmacology National College Of Veterinary Medicine, France
Mansour, Ali	Ph.D., Human Pathophysiology University Of Picardie Jules Verne – Amiens
Abi Nader, Alicia	MPH Environmental & Occupational Health University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Awad, Aline	Ph.D., Human Biology Saint Joseph University Of Beirut, Lebanon
Radi, Alissar	MD, MPH, Family Medicine Specialist, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Azar, Nagham	MD, Family Medicine University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Dernaika, Fouad	M.S., Pharmacy Lebanese American University, Lebanon
Chamieh, Hala	Ph.D., Biochemistry

	University Of Grenoble, France
Damaj, Raghida	Ph.D., Physiology & Molecular Genetics University Of Renne, France
Ghotmi, Nadine	Ph.D., Physiology Marseille University, France
Hamade Eva	Ph.D., Biochemistry University Lyon 1, France
Hammouche, Shaza	Ph.D., Molecular Biology University Of Loraine, France
Hatijian, Berj	Ph.D., Environmental & Occupational Toxicology University Of Newcastle Upon Tyne, England
Houkayem, Jihad	D.E.A. Finance Saint Joseph University, Lebanon
Hotet, Racha	EMBA LAU, Lebanon
Ismail, Zouhair	Master, Business Admission Saint Jose State University, U.S.A.
Jreije, Jocelyne	M.S., Computer Sciences University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Kamel, Rima	Ph.D., Physiologie University D'Angers, France
Masri, Nancy	Dr. In Pharmacy Lebanese University, Lebanon
Melki, Pamela	Ph.D., Toxicology & Environmental Sciences University Of Littoral Cote D'opale, France
Naddaf, Youssef	Master Of Science University Of London, UK

Nemer, Denise	MPH
	University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Tamim, Rabih	PharmD
	Saint Joseph University, Lebanon
	MBA
Yazbeck, Krystel	ESA, Lebanon
Youssef, Lara	M.S., Biomedical Sciences
	University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Bou Ghader, Tamara	MPH
	University of Balamand, Lebanon
Daaboul, Dina	Ph.D., Microbiology
	Paris Saclay University, France
Zeaiter, Darine	M.S., Hospital Management
	Islamic University, Lebanon
Dano, Dominique	Ph.D., Health and Life Sciences
	Lorraine University, Lancy, France
Nammour, Georges	MD, Health and Welfare
	Holy Spirit University Kaslik, Lebanon
Chaya, Hady	M.S., Nursing
	Antonine University, Lebanon
Hammoud, Sabah	Ph.D., Medical Sciences
	Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Atrach, Hussein	Ph.D., Biotechnology
	Lebanese University, Lebanon
	Beirut Arab University
Dankar, Imane	Ph.D., Agriculture
	Lebanese University, Lebanon

Chalouhi, Jack	M.A., Law Lebanese University, Lebanon
Ichtay, Jana	MPH - Public Health University Of Balamand, Lebanon
Chalhoub, Jessica	M.S., Private law Lebanese University, Lebanon
Razzouk, Jibrail	MD, Medicine American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Bassil, Marcel	Ph.D., Molecular Physiology University of Montreal, Canada
Chamoun, Marianne	M.S., Nursing Laval University Quebec, Canada
Daher, Marie-Claude	M.S., Public Health Ecole Des Hautes Etudes En Santé Publique, France
Zahran, Mayssam	M.S., Quality & Health Care Management Lebanese University, Lebanon
Habayeb, Mazen	Ph.D., Molecular Biology Umea University, Sweden
Abi Rached, Mireille	MBA USJ - Paris Dauphine - Sorbonne
Assi, Moubadda	M.S., Epidemiology American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Abou Hamdan, Mohammad	Ph.D., Neuroscience Aix-Marseille University - Marseille – France
Youssef, Mona	Dr. Infectious Disease American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Bou Arbid, Murielle	M.S., Cancerology

Lebanese University, Lebanon

Hajj, Nadine

PMP Diploma - Project Management  
American University Of Beirut, Lebanon

Mahfouz, Nadine

MPH, Public Health  
Université Saint Joseph, Lebanon

Houkayem, Najate

Master of Management  
USJ, Lebanon

Malaeb, Norma

MSN  
University of Balamand, Lebanon

Yazbeck, Rafka

M.S., Molecular Chemistry  
Lebanese University, Lebanon

Hallab, Rami

M.S., Food technology – Quality Assurance  
University of Reading, UK

Kosseifi, Rita

Master Professional, Management santé et hôpitaux  
USJ, Lebanon

Zebyane, Rola

Diplome - Obstetrical Ultrasound  
Lebanese University, Lebanon

Sfeir, Romy

MPH, Public Health  
Lebanese University, Lebanon

Hajjar, Rosine

Ph.D., Psychology  
Lebanese University, Lebanon

LT, Nursing

Makary, Rouba

Lebanese Red Cross

Abdel Khalek, Salwa

M.S., Food Safety & Quality Management  
Notre Dame University - Louaize Zouk Mosbeh,  
Lebanon

Souayfane, Zeina

Ph.D., Pharmacology

Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France

Arzouni, Soha

MPH

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Farah, Soleil

Doctorate of Business Administration

Université Jean Moulin

Khoury, Victoria

M.S., Clinical Psychology

University of Balamand, Lebanon

Barek, Zahraa

General Medicine

University of Balamand, Lebanon

## **PART-TIME PRECEPTORS**

Ayranji, Rosario

B.S., Nursing

University Of Balamand, Lebanon

Ailabouni, Christine

B.S., Nursing

Lebanese Red Cross, Lebanon

Ghadban, Reem

B.S., Nursing

Lebanese University, Lebanon

Karam, Fadia

B.S., Laboratory Sciences

Lebanese University, Lebanon

Saint Georges University, Lebanon

Serhan, Yara

B.S., Nursing

Mina, Jennifer

B.S., Nursing

Lebanese University, Lebanon

Khoury, Mary

B.S., Nursing

University of Balamand, Lebanon

Mary Khoury

B.S Nursing

University of Balamand

Al Hakim, Reem

B.S., Nursing

University of Balamand, Lebanon

Slim, Rosette	B.S., MLS Notre Dame du Liban, Lebanon
Demerdjian, Vosgui	B.S., Nursing University of Balamand, Lebanon
Azar, Nadine	B.S., Nursing Lebanese German University, Lebanon
Badran, Ghandoura	B.S., Medical Laboratory Lebanese University, Lebanon
Matta, Charbel	B.S., Nursing Holy Spirit University Kaslik, Lebanon
Khalil, Daniella	B.S., Nursing Sciences Lebanese University, Lebanon
Hadchity, Darine	B.S., Nursing University of Balamand, Lebanon
Younes, Gabriella	B.S., Midwifery Lebanese University, Lebanon
Bachawaty, Mary	B.S., Nursing University of Balamand, Lebanon
Daccache, Peggy	T.S., Nursing Dekwaneh Technical School, Lebanon Universite St Joseph
Badr, Rana	B.S., Nursing Lebanese University, Lebanon
Daou, Ranine	B.S., Nursing Holy Spirit University Kaslik, Lebanon
Kablawi, Youssef	B.S., Nursing Islamic University, Lebanon

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** is First International Researcher to Receive the Prestigious Friends of the National Institute for Nursing Research (FNINR) Ada Sue Hinshaw Award. She officially received the award during the **FNINR NightinGala**, which took place on **October 15, 2025**, in Washington, D.C.  
<https://www.balamand.edu.lb/news/AllNews/Pages/Details.aspx?FilterField1=ID&FilterValue1=728>
- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** ranked among the top 2% of researchers worldwide, according to an international study by AD Scientific Index, # 1 at University of Balamand, and Number 11 in Lebanon.
- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** was appointed Adjunct full professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, U.S.A.
- **Dr Charbel Al-Bayssari** ranked Top 500 scientists in Lebanon and Top 12 in Balamand.
- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** was invited to give Keynote addresses at International Association for the Study of Pain, ISPP congress on Pediatric Pain in Glasgow Scotland.
- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** was nominated for the ICN Reimann Award for 2025.
- **Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer** was invited by University of Maastricht, Netherlands as external examiner of Ph.D. dissertations 2025.
- **Dr. Myriam Mrad** was invited to take part in the Exposome Moonshot Forum held May 12 - 15, 2025, in Washington, DC.
- **Dr. Mireille Serhan** awarded the BEST UAE POSTER AWARD for her research entitled: “Pet food safety at risk? Investigating toxic metal contamination in Lebanon and the UAE” at the 19th Dubai International Food Safety Conference, which took place on November 17-19, 2025 in Dubai.

## **Accreditation of Academic Programs**

### **Nursing**

The BSN and MSN Nursing Programs underwent their initial accreditation site visit by ACEN, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, which was conducted virtually from October 28 to November 1, 2024, due to the unstable situation in the country at that time. Following the visit, the Nursing Program received ACEN's final report, confirming unconditional compliance with all accreditation standards. The official accreditation letter for both BSN and MSN was received in April 2025. Achieving accreditation is a significant milestone for the Nursing Program, demonstrating their commitment to excellence in education by adhering to high standards of quality, rigor, and relevance in nursing education.

### **Nutritional Sciences**

The University of Balamand's Nutritional Sciences Program has officially received candidacy for accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) as of February 14, 2025.

ACEND recognizes the program's compliance with the ACEND accreditation standards. This candidacy status allows students enrolled from this date onward to graduate from an ACEND-accredited program, ensuring they receive the highest standards of education. This prestigious recognition highlights the University's commitment to institutional credibility and reflects the Nutritional Sciences Program's commitment to provide quality nutrition and dietetics education.

### **Public Health**

The Public Health Department is working towards achieving accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), a US accrediting body. The program submitted the Initial Application (IAS) and received acceptance in January 2025. They are currently working on the self-study in preparation of the site visit planned for 2026.

### **Medical Laboratory Sciences**

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program is seeking accreditation by the Accreditation Agency for Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS), a German accrediting body. Pre-application to be submitted early 2026.

## **FHS STRATEGIC PLANS**

The updated 2025 Strategic Plan for the FHS outlines major achievements, ongoing priorities, and key developmental goals across the Faculty's academic, research, and community missions. Over the 2022–2025 period, FHS has advanced significantly in curriculum modernization, accreditation, faculty development, research capacity, infrastructure, and public health engagement.

## **Curriculum Reform and Academic Development**

FHS revised and modernized academic programs across all departments to align with international standards and competency-based education. Standardized syllabi were adopted, and program learning outcomes were streamlined. A major strategic milestone is the planned launch of the Optometry Department, further expanding the Faculty's academic portfolio. However, student recruitment into selected tracks remains a challenge due to limited public awareness and perceived career barriers. The plan emphasizes enhanced career guidance, targeted outreach, and improved visibility of emerging professional pathways such as health consultancy, informatics, and public health analytics.

## **Accreditation and Quality Assurance**

Accreditation remains a central pillar of the strategic plan. The BS and MS Nursing programs secured full ACEN accreditation through 2029; the Nutrition program received ACEND candidacy status; the Public Health department entered the full CEPH application phase; and MLS initiated its eligibility process with AHPGS. These achievements strengthen the Faculty's academic credibility while underscoring challenges in multi-campus coordination and staff workload. Ongoing goals include sustaining compliance, improving documentation systems, and expanding quality assurance capacity.

## **Faculty Development and Recruitment**

The strategic plan highlights major strides in attracting international recognition, including Fulbright and AAAH awards, the recruitment of postdoctoral fellows, and the expansion of global collaborations. Persistent challenges include national shortages of PhD-level faculty, particularly in Nursing, and limited structured opportunities for faculty training in instructional design and digital pedagogy. Upcoming priorities include expanded faculty development workshops, strengthened mentoring programs, and clearer workload allocation models.

## **Student Success and Enrollment**

FHS continues to maintain strong student outcomes, with high retention, graduation, and colloquium success rates (95%–100%). Strategic initiatives such as Open Days, shadowing programs, and targeted marketing have improved visibility. However, socioeconomic constraints (tuition costs, limited scholarships, and lack of student housing at SEG) continue to impact enrollment. The plan prioritizes international scholarship partnerships and collaboration with external entities to explore housing solutions near underserved campuses.

## **Research Productivity and Capacity Building**

Research output remains a core component of the strategic plan. FHS faculty produced an average of 19 publications annually and secured competitive funding from WHO, NIH, and Roche Diagnostics, in addition to six intramural grants. Key challenges

identified include high faculty teaching loads, publication costs, inflation-driven laboratory limitations, and the need for expanded seed funding. Strategic goals include establishing the Center for Health Research, supporting grant writing, and upgrading laboratory capabilities.

### **Community Engagement and Public Health Impact**

Community engagement continues to be a flagship strength. In partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA, and ITF, the Faculty delivered more than 300 outreach activities, including COVID-19 awareness, psychosocial support, elderly health programs, and Mine Risk Education workshops. Over 50 capacity-building sessions for healthcare professionals were led by Nursing Department. The ongoing war has temporarily reduced new project initiation due to mobility and funding constraints. Strengthening the integration of community engagement within academic programs remains a future priority.

### **Infrastructure, Resources, and Multi-Campus Development**

Major infrastructure improvements include the post-blast relocation of DEK labs, establishment of an MLS lab in SEG, and upgrades to molecular biology and cell culture facilities. Implementation of equipment SOPs and maintenance protocols strengthened operational efficiency. Remaining gaps include the absence of dormitories at SEG and increasing transportation burdens for students and faculty. Strategic actions include exploring external partnerships for housing and advocating for transport support mechanisms.

### **Governance, Partnerships, and Internationalization**

The Strategic Plan emphasizes enhanced governance and global engagement. The launch of the International Advisory Board and International Alumni Committee has strengthened academic networking and institutional visibility. Several new MOUs with hospitals and NGOs have expanded clinical training sites and scholarship opportunities. The forthcoming Center for Health Research is positioned to advance interdisciplinary collaboration and attract external funding.

## **International Advisory Board**

The IAB continues to advise the Dean on FHS current programs and new developments and gave valuable feedback regarding the above.

- Antonia Villaruel, Ph.D., Dean of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. (Chair).
- Rana A. Hajjeh, M.D., Director, Program Management, WHO/EMRO, Cairo, Egypt (Co-Chair).

- Annemie Schols, Dean Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences, University of Maastricht, the Netherlands.
- Patricia Davidson, Ph.D., Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong, Australia.
- Ellen McKenzie Ph.D., Dean Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A.
- Richard Calderone, Ph.D., Professor Microbiology, Georgetown University, U.S.A.
- Abraham Goldberg, Ph.D., Director, James Madison Center for Civic Engagement, U.S.A.

## Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program

The Ph.D. proposal was completed, approved by the UOB administration, and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) for further approvals.

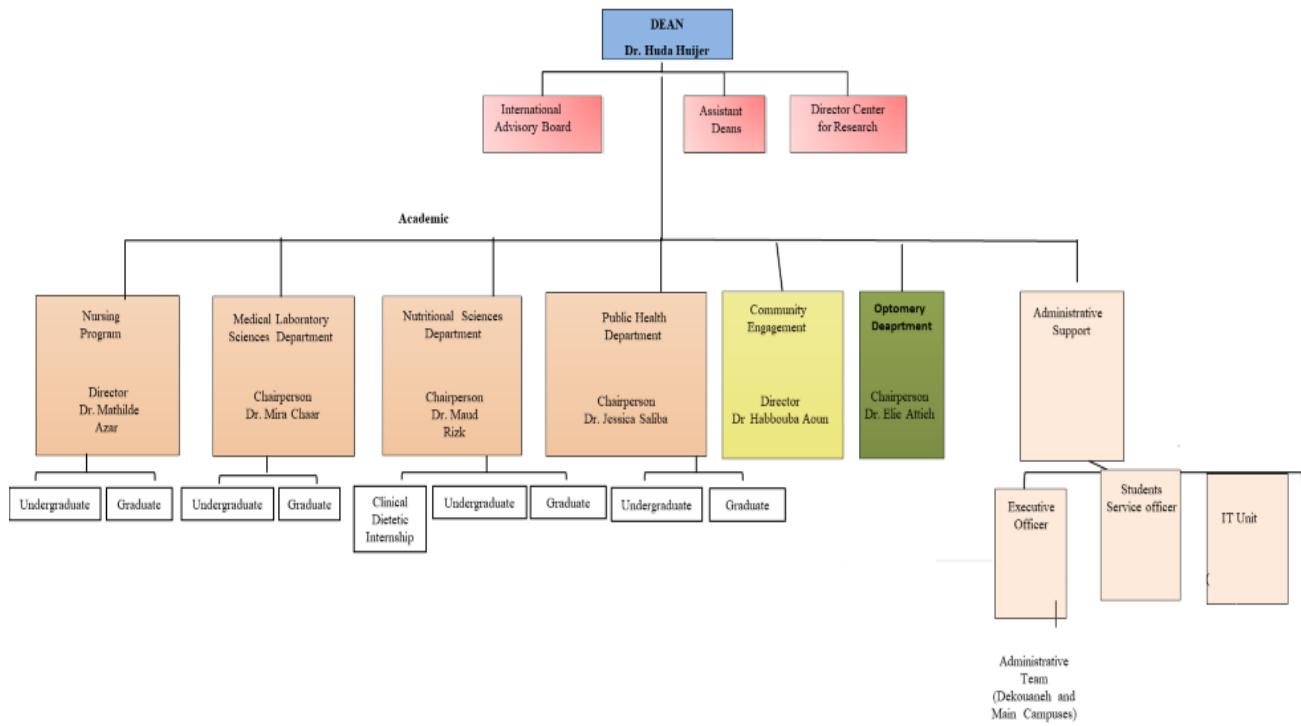
An interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in health sciences will help Lebanon retain its best talent by providing advanced research training in the country thus providing FHS graduates with an alternative to enrolling in Ph.D. programs in the USA or Europe.

A multidisciplinary and international Ph.D. Steering Committee was appointed and the launch is awaiting final approvals by the MEHE.

## FHS NEWSLETTER

- FHS launched its first newsletter September 2021. [Home \(balamand.edu.lb\)](http://www.balamand.edu.lb)
- Newsletter # 2 was launched May 2022. [Home \(balamand.edu.lb\)](http://www.balamand.edu.lb)
- Newsletter # 3 was launched October 2022. [Home \(balamand.edu.lb\)](http://www.balamand.edu.lb)
- Newsletter # 4 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter4>
- Newsletter #5 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter5>
- Newsletter #6 was launched in September 2024 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter6/Pages/default.aspx>
- Newsletter # 7 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter7>
- Newsletter # 8 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter8>
- Newsletter # 9 <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/Newsletter9>

# FHS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# **FACULTY ACTIVITIES**

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **NURSING PROGRAM**

The Nursing Program offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in English in two fields of specialization: Adult Care and Neonatal and Child Care. It also offers a TS-BSN ladder program that bridges between technical and university education. The program is competency based and offered on three campuses (Al Kurah, Beirut, and Souk El Gharb).

The Nursing Program works in partnership with Saint George Hospital University Medical Center (SGHUMC) and Mount Lebanon Hospital – University Medical Center. It has also developed MOUs with different experiential learning settings in Beirut, the North, the Chouf region and the Jabal areas, where students can practice at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of health care.

The BSN and MSN Nursing Program have been accredited by ACEN, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The virtual site visit took place in Oct/Nov 2024, and the exit report was positive indicating that all 5 standards and criteria were met with no compliance issues. Final accreditation decision received in April 2025.

Number of current registered students: 77

Undergraduate students: 67

Graduate students: 10

Number of Alumni: 488

### **NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

Since its establishment in 2008, the department has emphasized the role of nutrition in the health and well-being of people. The Department of Nutritional Sciences at FHS offers a 3-year Undergraduate program that leads to a Bachelor of Science: BS in Nutritional Sciences with tracks in “Nutrition and Dietetics” and “Premed”, a Diploma in “Clinical and Dietetics Internship” and a minor in Nutritional Sciences.

The Department has applied and achieved candidacy status from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®). This accreditation enhances the credibility of the study program and provides evidence of the department's commitment to high standards of education. The hybrid site visit took place in April 2024; program was accredited in January 2025.

Number of current registered students: 36

Number of Alumni Nutritional Sciences: 187

Number of Alumni Clinical & Dietetics Internship: 18

## **MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

The Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) department offers a comprehensive academic and professional training program that prepares students for diverse careers in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, the healthcare industry and related fields. The department provides two academic tracks:

1. Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science:
  - o Regular Track
  - o Pre-med Track (fulfilling admission criteria to the Faculty of Medicine)
2. Master in Clinical Laboratory Sciences offered in two different concentrations:
  - o Molecular Biology and Infectious Diseases & Immunology
3. Professional Master Degree in Laboratory Management

Students gain practical experience in state-of-the-art facilities like Saint George Hospital University Medical University Center (SGHUMC), Mount Lebanon Hospital University Medical Center (MLH), and other major hospitals in the north governorate and across the nation through eight credit module in clinical training.

Due to the MLS multidisciplinary approach, graduates can pursue postgraduate studies in fields of Clinical Laboratory Sciences such as Molecular Biology, Infectious Disease and Immunology, Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Physiology, Forensic Toxicology, Laboratory Management, Epidemiology, Public Health and Quality Assurance. MLS is the largest department in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), enrolling 381 students. The program's exceptional admission rate (around 88%) of graduates into the Medical School further attests to its effectiveness in getting students ready to perform well on the MCAT and rank among the best students in the Faculty of Medicine.

Total number of currently registered students is 381:

- Undergraduate: 343
- Graduate: 38

Total number of Alumni 1,151:

- BS Medical Laboratory Sciences: 1,058
- MS Clinical Laboratory Sciences: 50
- MS Laboratory Management: 43

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The undergraduate degrees offered by the Public Health Department are recognized in the region for their unique structure, based on the acquisition of solid theoretical knowledge in various Public Health domains and the development of professional and technical skills. Students may select a BS degree in Public Health & Development Sciences; Health Promotion; or follow a Public Health BS degree with a Pre-Med Track. Students may also opt for a dual degree (2 BS Degrees) in both Public Health & Development Sciences and Health Promotion.

The graduate Master of Public Health (MPH) Program prepares students to assume professional roles and be involved in preventing injuries, responding to disasters,

encouraging healthier lifestyles, protecting against environmental hazards, contributing to the development of policies, and taking part in important decision-making processes. The MPH Program Department currently offers 2 tracks: Community Health; and Occupational and Environmental Health.

Total number of current registered students: 67

Number of Alumni: 339

MPH Program: 21

## **NEW PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF OPTOMETRY**

The Optometry Department offers a rigorous and innovative academic and professional training program that prepares students for careers in vision care, eye health, and related fields. The program objective is to graduate highly competent optometrists capable of performing comprehensive eye examinations, diagnosing vision problems, managing refractive errors, prescribing corrective lenses, and providing preventive and rehabilitative visual care.

### **Bachelor of Science in Optometry**

The Bachelor of Science in Optometry at the University of Balamand is a comprehensive four-year program designed to prepare students for successful careers as qualified primary eye care professionals. Our curriculum integrates scientific knowledge, clinical training, and hands-on experience. In addition, the program provides a strong academic foundation for those interested in pursuing advanced studies or research in vision science and related disciplines.

Graduates of our program will be qualified to pursue careers in diverse professional settings, including:

- Optometrists in private clinics or optical centers
- Eye care professionals in hospitals, medical centers, and ophthalmology clinics
- Specialists in vision rehabilitation and low vision care
- Pediatric or geriatric optometry experts
- Contact lens consultants
- Representatives or consultants for optical companies
- Clinical research assistants in vision science
- Academic assistants or laboratory instructors in health sciences programs
- Managers of optical shops or vision care businesses

For those wishing to advance their education, our program lays a solid academic foundation for graduate studies in fields such as:

- Advanced Optometry and Vision Science
- Ophthalmology (Medical Specialization)
- Public Health, with a focus on Community Eye Care
- Biomedical Sciences, particularly Visual Neuroscience and Ocular Pathology

- Health Education and Research

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

The mission of the Department of Community Engagement is to strengthen partnerships, enhance quality of life, and foster collaboration between residents, schools, nonprofits, and government entities. It focuses on outreach, transparency, and building meaningful connections that empower communities.

Director: **Dr. Habbouba Aoun**

Team Members: **Habbouba Aoun, Greta Shoucar, Micheline Kobrossy, Sanaa Chabbani, Zeina Saliba, and Cecile Lahoud.**

## **FHS STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

The FHS fostered a vibrant student life at all three Campus sites throughout the last academic year. While the Fall 2024 semester was marked by war and consequently very few events took place, the Spring semester witnessed an exceptional rebound. Regardless of the challenges, the University hosted over 200 events during the academic year – with more than 60 of them taking place at the Dekwaneh Campus, despite it being the most affected campus during the war. The exceptional work of FHS clubs during the last academic year was recognized with several awards:

- Club of the Year: Music Club
- Rising Star: The Cinephiles Club
- Community Engagement: Easter Smiles Event (2gether, Helping Hands, PreMed & Music Clubs)
- Teamwork: Nutri Club
- Poster Challenge Award: Creative Arts Club
- Professional Development: Heart of Healthcare Event (Medical Lab Club)
- Awareness Initiatives Award: Zero Waste Symposium
- Campus Life Contribution: 4Development Club
- Impact Award: Her Path, Her Power (Nursing Student Society)

In addition, FHS students demonstrated excellence in athletics, earning multiple MVP awards:

- Padel Men: Rawad Haddad (Medical Laboratory Sciences Student)
- Football Men: Cyrille Khalil (Public Health Student)
- Tennis Men: Elias Daoud (Medical Laboratory Sciences Student)

## FHS STUDENT-RELATED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – 2025

### Introduction:

Throughout 2025, FHS students actively engaged in a variety of community-oriented initiatives, demonstrating their commitment to public health, disease prevention, and social responsibility. These activities were organized through student societies and clubs, in collaboration with local municipalities, healthcare institutions, Church parishes and NGOs, across DEK, SEG, and Main Campuses.

### DEK Campus – Spring Semester 2025

- April 24, 2025 – Blood Drive: Organized by the Medical Lab Club in collaboration with the Blood Bank of the Lebanese Red Cross.

### DEK Campus – Fall Semester 2025–2026

- October 4–5, 2025 – Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign: Organized by the Nursing Student Society at Chekka Municipality.
- October 14, 2025 – Blood Drive: Organized by the Medical Lab Club in collaboration with the Blood Bank of the Lebanese Red Cross.
- October 18, 2025 – Breast Cancer Awareness Participation: FHS students participated in the campaign organized by the Barbara Nassar Foundation at the Forum de Beyrouth parking area.
- November 8, 2025 – Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign: Organized by the Nursing Student Society at St. George Orthodox Church, Broumana.
- November 15, 2025 – Diabetes Awareness Campaign: Organized by the Medical Lab Club, offering free Fasting Blood Sugar and HbA1c testing at the Municipalities of Mansourieh, Dayshounieh, and Mkalles.

### Main Campus – Fall Semester 2025–2026

- October 4–5, 2025 – Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign: Organized by the Nursing Student Society at Chekka Municipality.
- November 7, 2025 – Hygiene Awareness Campaign: Organized by the Healthy Minds Club at Wahat El-Farah – Bkeftine – El-Koura

### SEG Campus – Fall Semester 2025–2026

- November 27, 2025 – Sweet Tooth to Understand Diabetes: Organized by the Nursing Student Society at Khaled Jumblatt Middle School

# **FACULTY TEACHING**

## **MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

**Spring 2024-25**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
CLAS304	Research Methods	3	Abir Abdel Rahman/Sabah Hammoud
CLAS308	Biotechnology	3	Marcel Bassil/Hala Chamieh
CLAS313	Research Techniques	3	Mayssam Moussa/Hala Chamieh
CLAS321	Medical Microbiology	3	Mira Chaar/Dina Daaboul/Mona Youssef
CLAS327	Principles Of Infectious Diseases Control	3	Charbel Bayssari
CLAS339	Protein Biochemistry and Proteomics	3	Ali Mansour/Eva Hamade
CLAS346	Laboratory Financial Management	3	Jihad Hokayem
CLAS350	Laboratory Management Internship	4	Staff
CLAS351	Database Management and Laboratory Information Systems	3	Ahmad Rayes
CLAS355	Laboratory Marketing Strategies	3	Najate Houkayem
CLAS357	Managing Laboratory Equipment and Set up	3	Rima Abou Tarrieh
CLAS359	Quality Control in Industries	3	Egnard Abou Haidar/Abdo Habib
CLAS371	Introduction to Forensics	3	Staff
CLAS399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff
MLAB211	Clinical Chemistry I	3	Pamela Melki
MLAB214	Basic and Clinical Immunology	3	Chaza Harmouche/Lara Haddad/Nadine Ghotmi/Mohamad Abou Hamdan
MLAB215	Basic and Clinical Hematology	4	Layal Greige/Lara Youssef

MLAB221	Clinical Chemistry II	3	Zeina Dasouki /Layal Greige/Eva Hamade /Ghada Abou Lteif
MLAB223	Clinical Bacteriology	3	Elias Abdo/Mira Chaar
MLAB224	Medical Parasitology and Mycology	2	Charbel Bayssari /Mira Chaar
MLAB225	Clinical Bacteriology Laboratory	1	Charbel Bayssari/Murielle Bou Arbid/Elias Abdo/Samir Kazzi/Raymond Hajj
MLAB226	Histotechnology Applications	2	Georges Nammour
MLAB230	Molecular Biology	3	Chaza Harmouch/Hyam Soufi/ Zeina Souayfane/Mayssam Moussa
MLAB232	Medical Virology	2	Elias Abdo/Mira Chaar
MLAB233	Toxicology	2	Zeina Dassouki/Pamela Melki
MLAB249	Phlebotomy, Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine	2	Zeina Dasouki/Liza Dib/Layal Greige/Salwa Abdel Khalek/Ghada Abou Lteif
MLAB251	Applied Clinical Chemistry	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB252	Applied Clinical Hematology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB253	Applied Clinical Bacteriology and Mycology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB254	Applied Clinical Parasitology and Body Fluids Analysis	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Ghada Marej
MLAB255	Applied Clinical Immunology and Endocrinology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej/Staff
MLAB256	Applied Blood Banking	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB257	Applied Anatomic Pathology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB258	Techniques in Molecular Biology and Assisted Reproduction	1	Layal Greige/Zeina Souayfane/Mayssam Moussa
MLAB260	Advanced Topics in Quality Assurance	1	Rima Abou Tarrieh
MLAB350	Advanced Clinical Practicum	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Abir Abdel Rahman

## Summer 2024-25

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
CLAS304	Research Methods	3	Abir Abdel Rahman
CLAS359	Quality Control in Industries	3	Abir Abdel Rahman
CLAS399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff
MLAB214	Basic and Clinical Immunology	3	Lara Haddad
MLAB224	Medical Parasitology and Mycology	2	Mira Chaar
MLAB230	Molecular Biology	3	Hyam Soufi/Chaza Harmouch/Zeina Souayfane/Rima Kamel
MLAB232	Medical Virology	2	Staff
MLAB233	Toxicology	2	Claudine Accary/Zeina Souayfane
MLAB249	Phlebotomy, Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine	2	Jessy Broumana Tohme/Salwa Abdel Khalek
MLAB251	Applied Clinical Chemistry	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Ghandoura Badran/Staff
MLAB252	Applied Clinical Hematology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Staff/Ghandoura Badran
MLAB253	Applied Clinical Bacteriology and Mycology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Staff/Ghandoura Badran
MLAB254	Applied Clinical Parasitology and Body Fluids Analysis	1	Layal Greige/Jessy Tohme/Staff
MLAB255	Applied Clinical Immunology and Endocrinology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Ghandoura Badran
MLAB256	Applied Blood Banking	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Jessy Tohme/Ghandoura Badran/Staff
MLAB257	Applied Anatomic	1	Layal Greige/Jessy

	Pathology		Tohme
MLAB258	Techniques in Molecular Biology and Assisted Reproduction	1	Samir Kazzi
MLAB350	Advanced Clinical Practicum	4	Abir Abdel Rehman

## Fall 2025-26

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
CLAS301	Laboratory Organization, Management and Quality Assurance	3	Ahmad Rayes/Mireille Rached
CLAS312	Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3	Sabah Hammoud
CLAS320	Cellular and Molecular Biology	3	Rima Kamel/Mayssam Moussa
CLAS321	Medical Microbiology	3	Zahraa Barek/Dina Daaboul
CLAS336	Genomics	3	Nadine Mahfouz/Katia Ghandour Maalouf
CLAS346	Laboratory Financial Management	3	Jihad Houkayem
CLAS350	Laboratory Management Internship	4	Staff
CLAS359	Quality Control in Industries	3	Rima Abou Tarieh
CLAS360	Research Methodologies and Biostatistics	3	Sabah Hammoud
CLAS399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff
MLAB211	Clinical Chemistry I	3	Zeina Dasouki/Claudine Accary/Eva Hamade/Pamela Melki
MLAB213	General Microbiology	3	Charbel Bayssari/Elias Abdo/Mira Chaar
MLAB214	Basic and Clinical Immunology	3	Lara Haddad Kassab/Elias Abdo
MLAB221	Clinical Chemistry II	3	Eva Hamade
MLAB223	Clinical Bacteriology	3	Elias Abdo
MLAB224	Medical Parasitology and Mycology	2	Charbel Bayssari/Elias Abdo/Mira Chaar
MLAB226	Histotechnology Applications	2	Zeina Soayfane/Mazen Habayeb
MLAB230	Molecular Biology	3	Mayssam Moussa
MLAB232	Medical Virology	2	Mira Chaar
MLAB233	Toxicology	2	Pamela Melki
MLAB249	Phlebotomy, Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine	2	Layal Greige/Zeina Dassouki/Liza Dib
MLAB251	Applied Clinical Chemistry	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou

			Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB252	Applied Clinical Hematology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Marej
MLAB253	Applied Clinical Bacteriology and Mycology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Marej/Murielle Bou Arbid
MLAB254	Applied Clinical Parasitology and Body Fluids Analysis	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej / Fadia Karam
MLAB255	Applied Clinical Immunology and Endocrinology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB256	Applied Blood Banking	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Marej/Peggy Fares
MLAB257	Applied Anatomic Pathology	1	Layal Greige/Ghada Abou Lteif/Ghada Marej
MLAB258	Biology and Assisted Reproduction	1	Layal Greige/Mayssam Moussa/Staff
MLAB260	Advanced Topics in Quality Assurance	1	Abir Abdel Rahman
MLAB350	Advanced Clinical Practicum	1	Abir Abdel Rahman/Staff

## NURSING PROGRAM

### Spring 2024-25

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
NURS211	Introduction to Nursing Practice	4	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib
NURS242	Nursing Care of Adults II	5	Mary Bachawaty/Ziad Assaad/Diana Skaff/ Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib/Darine Zeayter/Rosario Ayranji/Christine Azar
NURS244	Nursing Care of Children	5	Peggy Germanos/Mathil Azar/Reem Hakim/Norma Malaeb/Marie Khoury/Nadine Hajj
NURS245	Nursing Care of the Elderly	2	Yara Serhan/Christine Ailabouni
NURS250	Leadership and Management in Nursing and Health	5	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Mathilde Azar/Daniella Khalil/Diana Skaff
NURS251	Internship	10	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib
NURS303	Advanced Health Assessment of the Neonate and Child	3	Staff

NURS314	Management of Adult with Acute and Chronic Conditions	4	Staff
NURS398	Project	3	Staff
NURS399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff

### Summer 2024-25

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
NURS212	Legislation and Nursing	1	Jack Chalouhy/Staff
NURS214	Service Training I	2	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib
NURS215	Service Training II	2	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Christine Azar
NURS216	Health Assessment	2	Peggy Germanos/Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib
NURS246	Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing	4	Marianne Chamoun/Hadi Chaya
NURS398	Project	3	Staff
NURS 399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff

### Fall 2025-26

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
FHSC202	Introduction to Human Anatomy	2	Jibrayel Razzouk/Naghm Azar/Zeina Soayfane
FHSC211	Pathophysiology	3	Maysam Zahran/Diana Skaff/Jibrayel Razzouk/Hiba Habib/Naghm Azar
FHSC229	Pharmacology	2	Fouad Dernaika/Nancy Masri/Rabih Tamim
FHSC280	Information Technology and Health Sciences	2	Jocelyne Jreije/Soleil Farah
FHSC282	Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3	Jowy Abi Hanna/Saada Jurdi/Alicia Abi Nader
FHSC288	Research in Health Care Sciences	3	Christine Azar/Abir Abdel Rahman/Mathilde Azar
NURS210	Introduction to Professional Nursing	2	Rabab Hourany/Hiba Habib/Christine Azar
NURS241	Nursing Care of Adults I	5	Darine Zeayter/Hiba Habib/Christine Azar
NURS247	Nursing Care in Perinatology and Gynecology	4	Gabriella Youness/Rita Kossaifi/Mathilde

			Azar/Rola Zebyane /Jessica Barbour/ Romy Sfeir
NURS248	Nursing Care of Adults in Critical Condition	4	Diana Skaff/Denise Nasr/Mayssam Zahran/Youssef Kiblawi/Staff
NURS249	Nursing in the Community	5	Jessica Finianos/Rabab Hourany/Diana Skaff/Marie Therese Zokra
NURS311	Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology in Adult Care	3	Naghm Azar
NURS313	Advanced Health Assessment of the Adult	2	Christine Azar/Naghm Azar
NURS398	Project	3	Staff
NURS399	Master's Thesis	6	Staff

## NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

### Spring 2024-25

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
NUSC200	Basic Human Nutrition	3	Hiba Rouaiheb
NUSC202	Lifecycle Nutrition	3	Hiba Rouaiheb
NUSC208	Public Health Nutrition and Food Hygiene	3	Reine Khalil
NUSC209	Basic Nutrition and Diet Therapy	3	Reine Khalil
NUSC211	Nutrition Counseling and Communication	3	Maud Rizk
NUSC214	Therapeutic Nutrition II	3	Maud Rizk
NUSC215	Therapeutic Nutrition II Lab.	1	Maud Rizk
NUSC220	Community Nutrition I	3	Hiba Rouaiheb
NUSC239	Applied Food Analysis	3	Serhan, Mireille/Dima Mnayer
NUSC241	Special Topics in Nutrition and Food	2	Mira Daher/Iman Dankar/Rami Hallab
NUSC300B	Practicum II	15	Staff
NUSC302	Seminars in Clinical Dietetics II	3	Mira Daher

### Summer 2024-2025

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
NUSC200	Basic Human Nutrition	3	Hiba Rouaiheb

## Fall 2025-26

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
NUSC201	Human Nutrition and Metabolism	3	Hiba Rouaiheb/Mira Daher
NUSC203	Food Microbiology	3	Maria El Deghel
NUSC204	Food Chemistry	3	Pierre Obeid
NUSC208	Public Health Nutrition and Food Hygiene	3	Hiba Rouaiheb
NUSC210	Food Service Management	3	Mireille Serhan/Racha Hteit
NUSC212	Therapeutic Nutrition I	3	Maud Rizk
NUSC213	Therapeutic Nutrition I Lab.	1	Maud Rizk
NUSC240	Applied Food Processing	3	Mireille Serhan
NUSC300A	Practicum I	15	Mira Daher
NUSC301	Seminars in Clinical Dietetics I	3	Mira Daher

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Spring 2024-25

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
MPHP301	Biostatistics	3	Assi Mouabada
MPHP302	Epidemiology	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP305	Social Behavioral Determinants of Health in a Global World	3	Alissar Radi
MPHP306	Basic Theories of Health Promotion	3	Dominique Dano
MPHP308	Public Health Ethics	1	Nivine Abbas
MPHP310	Occupational Toxicology and Risk Assessment	3	Emile Whaibeh
MPHP312	Health Services and Management	3	Habib Abdo
MPHP315	Research Design	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP316	Community Health Assessment	3	Habbouba Aoun
MPHP320	Selected Topics in Community Health	3	Nivine Abbas
MPHP322	Management of Accidents and Incidents Investigations	3	Suha Arzouni
MPHP341	Practicum I	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP350	Practicum II	3	Jowy Abi Hanna
PDHP201	Environment, Health, and Development	3	Nivine Abbas/Emile Whaibeh

PDHP224	Gender and Development	3	Nivine Abbas/Saada El Jurdi
PDHP227	Occupational Health and Hygiene	3	Alicia Abi Nader/Jana Ichtay/Berj Hatjian
PDHP245	Issues in Community Health and Development	3	Youssef Naddaf
PDHP247	Economics in Environment, Health, and Development	3	Caroline Daccache
PDHP248	Quality Management Systems	2	Marie Claude Daher/Alicia Abi Nader

## Summer 2024-2025

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
MPHP304	Health Economics	3	Caroline Daccache

## Fall 2025-2026

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	TEACHING FACULTY
FHSC269	Health Care Management and Administration	3	Caroline Daccache/Marie Claude Daher/Denise Nemer
MPHP301	Biostatistics	3	Moubadda Assi
MPHP302	Epidemiology	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP303	Environmental Health Sciences	3	Myriam Mrad
MPHP305	Social Behavioral Determinants of Health in a Global World	3	Alissar Radi
MPHP308	Public Health Ethics	1	Nivine Abbas
MPHP309	Public Health Policy, Law and Advocacy	2	Berj Hatjian/Youssef Naddaf
MPHP315	Research Design	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP317	Community Program Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation	3	Sabeen Abdulsater
MPHP341	Practicum I	3	Jessica Saliba
MPHP350	Practicum II	3	Jowy Abi Hanna
PDHP214	Family Health	3	Lina Jaalouk/Saada Jurdi/Sabeen Abdulsater
PDHP219	Introduction to Public Health	3	Lina Jaalouk/Saada Jurdi
PDHP226	Sanitation and Resource Management for Public Health	3	Emile Whaibeh/Alicia Abi Nader/Myriam Mrad
PDHP231	Public Administration and Policy in Lebanon	3	Nivine Abbas/Youssef Naddaf
PDHP237	Public Health Communications in the Arab World	3	Lina Jaalouk/Saada Jurdi

PDHP238	Environmental Management in Public Health Practice	3	Emile Whaibeh/Alicia Abi Nader/Berj Hatjian
PDHP242	Public Health and Urban Environment	3	Nivine Abbas
PDHP249	Toxicology and Human Health Risk Assessment	3	Emile Whaibeh/Alicia Abi Nader/Myriam Mrad

## STUDENTS THESES AND PROJECTS

Name	Defense Date	Project or Thesis	Project Title	Project/Thesis Committee
Shaymaa Mohamad Ali Al Sharif	3 June 2025	Thesis	Vitamin C Enhances The Anticancer Effect Of Doxorubicin In Combination With Jania Rubens Extract.	Zeina Dassouki, Abir Abdel Rahman, Lara Haddad, Maysam Moussa, Nadine Darwiche
Leila Khalifeh	2 May 2025	Project	Social Behavioral Change Project: Inclusion Of Children With Disabilities	Jessica Saliba, Myriam Mrad, Jowy Abi Hanna
Sarkis Kerkemzian	28 May 2025	Project	Follow-Up On Water Alerts For Hepatitis A In Keserwsn And Jbeil	Emile Whaibeh, Myriam Mrad, Jowy Abi Hanna
Ali Al-Hadi Hussien Sherri	2 May 2025	Project	Training On Ethics Of Public Health And Humanitarian Aid	Emile Whaibeh, Myriam Mrad, Jowy Abi Hanna
Reem Samhoun	2 May 2025	Project	Climate Related Illnesses Registry In Lebanon	Myriam Mrad, Jessica Saliba, Jowy Abi Hanna
Amanda Said	10 June 2025	Thesis	Nurses' Perception While Dealing With Tracheostomized Patients	Mathilde Azar, Nivine Abbas, Christine Azar, Mirna Fawaz
Nour Raya	2 May 2025	Thesis	Educational Material On Palliative Care For Heart Failure And Advanced Dementia At Sanad Hospice Care	Myriam Mrad, Jessica Saliba, Jowy Abi Hanna
Christina. J. Saliba	13-Aug-25	Thesis	Serological And Molecular Prevalence Of Chikungunya	Micheline Hajjar, Charbel Al Bayssari, Elias Abdo, Mira El Chaar

			Virus And Usutu Virus Among Blood Donors In Lebanon	
Josiane Haddad	23-Sep-25	Thesis	Exploring The Barriers To Cultural Communication Experienced By Non-Arabic Speaking Nurses Caring For Saudi Patients In Critical Care Areas	Mathilde Azar, Nivine Abbas, Odette Lahoud, Diana Skaff
Kelly Rabbat	25-Aug-25	Thesis	Seroprevalence Of Dengue And West Nile Virus Among Blood Donors In Lebanon	Rita Feghali, Charbel Al Bayssari, Elias Abdo, Mira EL Chaar
Maria-Talar Telfeyan	26-Sep-25	Project	Assessing Nurses' Knowledge In Delirium	Mathilde Azar, Diana Skaff, Christine Azar, Rola Bou Serhal

# STUDENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

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**Table 1: FHS enrolment statistics in the last 6 years**

### FHS STUDENT ENROLLMENT

	Fall 2019-20		Fall 2020-21		Fall 2021-22		Fall 2022-23		Fall 2023-24		*Fall 2024-25		*Fall 2025-26	
Applications	411		471		778		982		786		570		551	
Accepted Applications	212		270		374		463		605		425		408	
Newly enrolled	161		218		254		282		219		161		150	
Overall enrolled	<b>640</b>		<b>678</b>		<b>799</b>		<b>843</b>		<b>864</b>		<b>786</b>		<b>639</b>	
Yield	75.94%		80.74%		67.91%		60.91%		36.20%		37.88%		36.76%	
International Students	5.47%		6.05%		5.65%		6.98%		7.29%		9.54%		9.23%	
Gender	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
% Gender	72%	28%	70%	30%	71%	29%	74%	%	72%	28%	70%	30%	77%	23%

MAJOR	Fall 22-23	Spring 22-23	Summer 2023	Fall 23-24	Fall 24-25	Fall 25-26
BS - Nursing	123	124	96	116	94	62
BS - Nursing (PreMed) - E						5
BS - Nursing - F	21	21		12	1	
BS - Nutritional Sciences	41	45	22	41	46	35
BS - Nutritional Sciences (PreMed)						2
BS - Medical Laboratory Sciences	404	425	268	465	420	282
BS - Medical Laboratory Sciences (PreMed)						60
BS - Public Health and Development Sciences	71	73	45	79	74	53
BS - Public Health and Development Sciences (PreMed)						4
MS - Nursing	18	20	15	20	15	14
MS - Clinical Laboratory Sciences	41	43	5	36	28	36
MS - Clinical Laboratory Sciences (Lab Management)	28	20	5	22	23	9
Master - Public Health	67	58	16	38	16	21
Clinical and Dietetics Internship	10	10		10	3	18
FHS - Majorless	4	3	1	9	7	2
SOP - SOP Health Sciences	5	2	1	7	7	5
PMED - Premedical Program - Dekouaneh	15	11		10	27	25
SP - Special Health					2	2
SP - Special MPH					3	2
SP - Special Postgraduate MLS						1
FS - Freshman Sciences -Al Kurah	1					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>638</b>

CAMPUS	Fall 22-23	Spring 22-23	Summer 2023	Fall 23-24	Fall 24-25	Fall 25-26
Balamand - Al Kurah	225	233	129	262	265	237
Dekouaneh	492	482	255	469	392	316
Souk Al Gharb - Aley	132	140	90	133	113	85

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING

The drop in student numbers for this academic term can be due to the following:

- Financial and economic crisis have had an impact on enrollment at all universities in general
- Competition with other universities in the area that are cheaper than UOB
- There is a need to improve public understanding of FHS academic programs namely nursing, nutrition, and public health due to misconceptions
- Lack of prompt and timely information to potential students and parents regarding tuition increases and FAID early in the process
- Inadequate use of a marketing strategy on social media to promote UOB programs compared to competing universities in the area.
- UOB has been in general absent on social media especially in announcing accreditations and major achievements of programs to attract new applicants
- School visits were not done and should be prioritized
- UOB should consider signing MOUs with a number of high schools in the different catchment municipalities

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Balamand is committed to the principles of tolerance and compassion, and is therefore dedicated to graduating health care professionals who are well-rounded, critical thinkers and life-long learners. Hence, the faculty played an important role in the university wide recruitment process. The committee is multidisciplinary, ensuring representation from various programs within the Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as key administrative and recruitment personnel:

MLS: 3 faculty

Nutrition: 2 Faculty

PDHP: 2 Faculty

Nursing: 1 Faculty

DOCE department: 1 Faculty

FHS Dean's office: 1 staff

Representation from the recruitment team: 1 staff

The three open doors occurred in the following dates:

Koura Campus: Oct 16 and Oct 17

SEG Campus: Oct 21

DEK Campus: Oct 29, Oct 30 and Oct 31

Akkar Campus: Nov 6 and Nov 7

The faculty utilized various locations and strategies to showcase its programs and student activities:

- DEK Campus (Dekwaneh):
  - Faculty members maintained a physical presence in the Salle polyvalente.
  - Each department had a dedicated booth set up in front of the FHS building to showcase activities related to their specific programs.
- Koura Campus:
  - All departments ensured a simultaneous physical presence in two separate locations: the glass room and the faculty lobby.
  - The purpose was to perform activities related to students (likely demonstrations or interactive sessions).
- SEG Campus:
  - FHS represented its programs along with the student clubs. Highlighting clubs is often used to demonstrate the student experience and extracurricular life.
- Akkar Open Door:
  - The Nursing program specifically represented the entire FHS at this event, indicating a targeted presence.

This comprehensive approach ensured that prospective students across different geographical areas and campuses had the opportunity to learn about all FHS departments and programs.

FHS strategy to be involved in school visits:

- Weekly Scheduling: The schedule of school visits is distributed weekly to all Student Recruitment Committee members and department representatives. This ensures timely planning and preparation.
- Department representatives are required to indicate their availability, suggesting a flexible and coordinated approach to assigning faculty for each visit.

- Total Visits: In 2025 FHS has participated in 14 school visits. These visits were distributed between the departments, ensuring that faculty expertise relevant to potential students was present at each event.

FHS was involved in international recruitment activities, a faculty member participated in NAJAH exhibition Abu Dhabi which is the leading international student recruitment fair in Abu Dhabi, yearly supported by the Ministry of Education, students have the chance to explore some of the world's most prestigious universities. Engage with 100+ universities from over 20+ different countries including the UK, US, Canada, Australia and the MENA region. UOB and few other prestigious Lebanese universities were part of this event. Around 17 000 students visited this event.

One FHS faculty has been engaged in school visits in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharja, and Al Ain. Recruitment activities have recently expanded to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), with school visits now taking place in Jeddah and Riyadh.

## FHS 30TH CELEBRATIONS

- **Medical Lab:** The MLS department held a number of activities in April 2025:
  - ✓ *Antibiotic Awareness Campaign* at Mount Lebanon Hospital University Medical Center (MLHUMC).
  - ✓ *Blood Drive* at DEK campus in partnership with the Lebanese Red Cross.
  - ✓ *White Coat Preview* MLS pre-med students arranged a white coat preview, with UOB residents to discuss residency programs and their requirements.
  - ✓ *Town Hall Meeting* with the President of the Syndicat des Biologistes du Liban, Dr. Germanos.
  - ✓ *Open Health Day* at SEG campus in close collaboration with MLHUMC and the Souk El Gharb Municipality. A total of 456 visitors received free medical checkups by MLHUMC healthcare professionals.
  - ✓ *Open Door Event* at Koura campus which welcomed approximately 1200 students. The MLS department also hosted high school students for shadowing activities.
  - ✓ Throughout April, a continuous *Social Media Campaign*, aiming to raise awareness and celebrate the vital role of medical laboratory professionals. Infographics were regularly posted, each focusing on a different theme:
    - Week 1: Hematology-*Theme*: "Laboratory scientists unlock the secrets of blood to save lives."
    - Week 2: Core Lab-*Theme*: "Medical Laboratory - Because we care, we diagnose with precision."
    - Week 3: Microbiology-*Theme*: "The frontline in the fight against infectious diseases - Identification, Isolation, Diagnosis."
    - Week 4: Pathology-*Theme*: "Making sense of stains, slides, and specimens."
- **Nutrition Department** held several activities in March 2025 including:
  - ✓ Body composition assessment for Faculty and Staff at DEK on March 18.
  - ✓ Body composition assessment for Faculty and Staff at KOURA on March 20.
  - ✓ Body composition assessment for Students at KOURA on May 6.
  - ✓ Alumna Talk Ms. Batoul Toutounji at KOURA on April 3.

The department plans to conduct a Workshop, in collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Dietitians March 2026.

- **Nursing:** On May 2025, the Nursing Program organized a symposium on “Palliative Care”, a specialized area in health care that aims to relieve pain and other symptoms in patients with serious illnesses. The symposium featured two international guest speakers who joined online. Dr. Judith A. Paice, a global expert in cancer pain management from Northwestern University in the U.S., who shared her insights based on years of experience. She was followed by Dr. Rima Saad from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, who spoke about pediatric palliative care and her work in supporting children and families in difficult times. A panel discussion followed, moderated by Dr. Rana Yamout, Director of the Palliative and Supportive Care Program at AUBMC. She was joined by Ms. Janane Hanna from AUBMC and Ms. Farah Demachkieh from SANAD. The panel explored the current and future roles of nurses in palliative care in Lebanon and the importance of collaboration across health professions.

The event concluded with a symbolic gesture of appreciation to all 17 hospitals across Lebanon where UOB nursing students complete their clinical training. It ended on an emotional note with a tribute to a UOB nursing graduate who tragically lost her life while on duty in the Beirut port explosion.

- **Public Health:** The FHS Department of Public Health organized the “Health, Emergency Action & Leadership in Crisis Management HEAL Forum” on June 3, 2025 under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Joseph Aoun, and in collaboration with the Lebanese Army Military Healthcare. The forum was a great celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The conference was attended by the representative of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Lebanon General Joseph Aoun Minister of Agriculture Dr. Nizar Hani, the representative of Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolph Haykal Major General Hassan Aoude, Army Director of Military Medicine Brigadier General Dany Bcherrawy; UOB President Dr. Elias Warrak; Dean of FHS Dr. Huda Huijer, Chairperson of the Public Health Department Dr. Myriam Mrad, along with leaders from the health, academic, and military sectors, as well as deans and directors from the university. The event sought to facilitate dialogue among key players in the health sector, reflect on lessons learned from recent crises, and propose innovative solutions to strengthen the resilience of Lebanon’s healthcare system for future emergencies.

The program included lectures and panel discussions focused on strategic topics in health crisis management, such as the impact of conflict on the healthcare system, the importance of strategic planning, infrastructure development, climate-related health crises, and leadership in high-pressure environments. A number of health experts participated in the sessions, along with Minister of Public Health Dr. Rakan Nassereddine, Representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor. Lectures were also delivered by Dr. Nassim Taleb and Mr. Carlos Ghosn.

In her remarks, Dr. Mrad highlighted the uniqueness of the event, stating: “What makes this conference special is the collaboration with the Lebanese Army, which represents the nation. It also brings together experts from diverse backgrounds and emphasizes the value of partnership, with the goal of developing recommendations that can help improve public health, because health is a right for everyone.”

Dr. Huijer emphasized the faculty’s continued excellence: “This year we proudly celebrate 30 years since the founding of

the faculty- three decades of service education and research in Lebanon's most essential and challenging fields." She added: "Despite the many compounded crises Lebanon has endured the Public Health department continues to be a beacon of excellence not only in its commitment to service and education but most notably in its research productivity, particularly in the critical and emerging fields of environmental health and climate change."

Dr. Warrak spoke about the need to rebuild the healthcare system: "Given all the tragedies and experiences Lebanon has been through, we must become a country that learns from hardship in order to overcome it. This requires community awareness along with strategic planning by those in decision-making roles. We must invest in modern infrastructure, train healthcare workers to handle crises, and build emergency response systems using new technologies."

His Excellency Minister of Agriculture Dr. Nizar Hani, representing his Excellency the President of the Republic of Lebanon, said: "The decision by UOB and the Lebanese Army to organize this forum was no coincidence. This academic institution has always played a leading national and intellectual role in supporting scientific initiatives and creating space for constructive dialogue among experts, policymakers, and international partners." He added that crises should not be met with random decisions, but with vision, planning, and good governance.

"The forum's focus on leadership during crises, public-private partnerships, and strengthening health infrastructure provides a roadmap for building a national healthcare system based on innovation, fairness, and preparedness, not just reactive measures."

- **The Department of Community Engagement** held a conference titled "Social Responsibility as a Gateway to Sustainable Cities and Green Environment" on July 2025 at SEG campus.

## **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

### **CENTER FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (CHR)**

The Faculty of Health Sciences embarked on an exciting new venture in September 2022 with the launch of the Center for Health Research. This center was established with the primary goal of advancing and enhancing research activities within the faculty, fostering a collaborative and informed community, and promoting capacity building among students and faculty. The center serves as a hub of knowledge and expertise, aiming to boost the Faculty of Health Sciences to new heights in research excellence.

The Center for Health Research aims to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaboration, encouraging faculty members to share their latest research findings and insights with their colleagues through the "Lecture Series". These engaging lectures create a platform for faculty to delve into diverse topics, exchange knowledge, and generate valuable discussions that enrich the collective understanding within the Faculty.

Secondly, the center recognizes the importance of international perspectives and expertise in the field of research. To this end, it organizes the "Methodology Corner," a lecture series where national and internationally renowned experts are invited to share their insights on various research-related topics. These sessions serve as valuable learning opportunities for students and faculty alike, enabling them to gain exposure to cutting-edge methodologies and best practices.

**Lecture Series and Methodology Corners:** In line with its commitment to advancing health sciences research, the center has conducted several compelling lectures under the "Lecture Series" and "Methodology Corner". These sessions featured speakers who explored a diverse array of topics relevant to the field.

Spring 2025

Date	Speaker	Topic	Recorded session Link
Feb 27, 2025	Dr. Myriam Mrad	Program of Research	
Mar 4, 2025	Dr. Margret Handley & Dr. Jean Bikomeye	Implementation Sciences and Climate Change	
Mar 13, 2025	Dr. Margret Handley & Dr. Saria Hassan	Implementation Sciences and Public Health Emergency Preparedness	
Apr 29, 2025	Dr. Margret Handley & Dr. Jean Bikomeye	Implementation Science, Public Health and Community Intervention	
May 6, 2025	Dr. Guenia Zgheib	Beyond the screen: Designing engaging online courses	
Nov 25, 2025	Mrs. Roula Mouawad	The intersection between media and public health, emphasizing strategies for effective communication, accurate messaging, and public engagement	

**FHS Funding:** FHS has attracted support from a number of external funders including NIH, IOM, WHO, the Ministry of Health, the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (LNCSR), Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, UOB Research Board (URB), the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, UNICEF, UNDP, Investigator start-up funds, University of Maryland, Dubai Health Authority (DHA), USJ Research Fund, and seed money. A number of research projects were recently completed, and many undertaken jointly with researchers from other disciplines.

**GEOHealth Hub on Climate Change and Health in the Middle East and North Africa** is the fruitful outcome of a national, regional, and international faculty collaboration. Funded by the National Institutes for Health, the GEOHealth Hub is one of seven Global Environmental and Occupational Health hubs dedicated to high priority health research, data management, curriculum and material development, training activities, and policy support. This program is an international consortium focused on climate change and its impact on health.

The University of Balamand, the Jordan University of Science and Technology – JUST, the Mohamed VI University for Health Sciences, the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Environmental Health, the University of California San Diego, the University of California Berkeley, along with the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and WHO's Center for Environmental Health Action (CEHA) partnered to address the impacts of climate change on health, water, and air pollution and identify gaps and areas of development in environmental and public health through research, training, and capacity building.

The University of Balamand's program is led by Dr. Myriam Mrad, consortium, and country principal investigator. Dr. Myriam Mrad and her multidisciplinary team are working on various projects under the GEOHealth Hub such as the impact of air pollution on respiratory, cardiovascular, and skin allergic diseases' health outcomes in Beirut, Lebanon among vulnerable groups, the effects on environmental exposures on Lebanese pregnant women and infants, and healthcare system's resilience to climate change.

The Public Health Department at the Faculty of Health Sciences received an administrative supplement fund approximately \$71,000 USD from the University of California San Diego through funding from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) to participate in the first-of-its-kind graduate level fellowship in Climate Change Research and Action. The Country's Principal Investigator for this program is Dr. Myriam Mrad who led in the training of 15 Lebanese decision makers from ministries and organizations through hands on training on research methods, applications, and skills to address climate change related health outcomes. This fellowship was successfully concluded in June 2025.

Another grant was also received by the Public Health Department, led by the **PI** Dr. Myriam Mrad from the University of Chicago, the Energy Policy Institute (EPIC). This project marks a milestone as it creates a new unique approach in dealing with air pollution and health effects. The AWAIR project is a partnership between University of Balamand and the Health and Environment Response Agency (HERA) aiming to breathe new life into air quality monitoring in Lebanon by promoting data-driven policies, raising public awareness, and encouraging community involvement. Through the reactivation of a reference grade monitoring station and the deployment of multiple low-cost PM 2.5 sensors in schools, universities, hospitals, primary healthcare centers, and social spaces including embassies, municipalities, and commercial areas across Lebanon, air pollution data will be made publicly available. The AWAIR Project will highlight the health, environmental, and economic impacts of air pollution via social media campaigns, community events, and partnerships with schools and universities. An interactive online platform will be created to provide real-time air quality data and educational resources. By empowering communities to monitor air quality, citizens can propose local solutions, strengthening public health advocacy and supporting long-term clean air initiatives. The AWAIR project was successfully launched in November 2025.

## FHS RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mathilde Azar

**Online Graduate Students' Perceptions of COI, Community of Inquiry: Survey with University of Balamand Students**

This study examined the relationship among teaching, social, and cognitive presences within the CoI framework among 149 students in six online undergraduate courses. Overall CoI was positively perceived (mean = 3.58), with teaching presence rated highest among engineering majors. Findings highlight the value of the CoI model in strengthening online and traditional higher education.

**Co-PIs:** Sara Salloum and Guenia Zgheib

**Funding:** UOB Research Grant

**Status:** Submitted to the International Journal of Educational Researchers

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mathilde Azar

**Sexual life of breastfeeding women**

Assess the determinants of female sexual functioning and breastfeeding. The study includes a systematic review and a quantitative survey. A systematic review was conducted and 61 articles out of 2015 were retained for data extraction, critical appraisal, and synthesis. As for the survey, a questionnaire was developed to study female sexual functioning of 340 breastfeeding women. Findings from this study will contribute to the body of knowledge and provide more momentum among healthcare providers and other experts to promote perinatal sexual health.

**Co-PIs:** Christine Azar, Nagham Azar, Samah Tawil, Peggy Germanos, Rita Hindoyan, Thilo Kroll

**Funding:** UOB Research Grant

**Status:** Data extraction and article appraisal is ongoing. Quantitative data collection was initiated in July, however, the response rate is very minimal due to the sensitivity of the topic and non-collaboration of the physicians.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mathilde Azar

**Students perception of academic advising: A mixed method study**

This study examines nursing and allied health students' perspectives and challenges in accessing academic advising. The quantitative design measures students' overall perspective of their advisors' primary academic, social, and personal role, using a validated questionnaire (Aljohani et al., 2023). The qualitative design will provide a deep and broad understanding of the topic using 15 individual interviews and 5 focus groups. The results will provide evidence about students' perception of academic advising highlighting the challenges they perceive and the way their viewpoints vary according to their different backgrounds.

**Co-PIs:** Diana Skaff, Christine Aar, Hiba Chakhtoura, Rabab Hourany, Mirna Fawaz

**Funding:** UOB Research Grant

**Status:** The proposal submitted for IRB approval.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mathilde Azar

**Nurse educators perception of the advantages and challenges of academic accreditation: Qualitative study**

The purpose of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of nurse educators in relation to the accreditation of nursing education. The proposed research will employ a qualitative research methodology utilizing a phenomenological design. Data will be collected from two accredited universities by two different accreditation agencies. Thematic analysis will be employed for data analysis. Findings intend to function as a significant resource for research and policy formulation, ensuring that accreditation methods maintain high standards while also addressing the professional and educational requirements of all beneficiaries involved.

**Co-PIs:** Mirna Fawaz

**Funding:**

**Status:** Writing the proposal for IRB approval.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mathilde Azar

**Helpseeking Behaviour for sexual problems**

Assess the facilitators and barriers to seeking professional assistance for sexual problems, using a case-control study.

**Co-PIs:** Rola Bou Serhal

**Funding:**

**Status:** Writing the proposal.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Virulence-Associated Genes Analysis and Molecular Typing of Klebsiella pneumoniae and Escherichia coli Strains Isolated From Patients With Bacteremia**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2025

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Evaluating the Effect of Ziziphus Jujuba plant on Multi-Drug Resistant E. coli**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Funding:** No Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Evaluating the Effect of Ziziphus Jujuba plant on Multi-Drug Resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Screening for Antibacterial Activity of Selected Plant Extracts used in Lebanon on Multidrug-Resistant Escherichia coli Isolates**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** Completed; article under review

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Charbel Al Baysari

**Intestinal Carriage of ESBL producing bacteria in Domestic pets (Dogs and Cats) in North Lebanon.**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed May 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Charbel Al Baysari

**Intestinal Carriage of Carbapenemase producing bacteria in Domestic pets (Dogs and Cats) in North Lebanon**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Charbel Al-Bayssari

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** Ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Serological and molecular prevalence of Hepatitis E virus among blood donors in Lebanon**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2025

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Seroprevalence and Risk Assessemnt of Arboviral infections among blood donors" (Grant number: RGA/FHS/23-24/022)**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Elias Abdou

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed June 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Assessing Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Carriage in Mothers and Newborns at Birth**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:**

**Status:** ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Virulence-Associated Genes Analysis and Molecular Typing of Klebsiella pneumoniae Strains and Escherichia coli strains Isolated From Patients With Bacteremia**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2025

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mira El Chaar

**Molecular Characterization of Pseudomonas aeruginosa from Bacteremia Patients**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed April 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Zeina Dassouki

**The cytotoxic effect of Jania Rubens extract: Promising antineoplastic role in combination therapy**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2025

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Zeina Dassouki

**Linuron Herbicide' Effects on Human Cells: A Focus on some Solid Cancers**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa and Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** No funds

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Zeina Dassouki

**Natural Biomolecules as Potential Adjuvants to Chemotherapy: Combination and Sensitization**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa and Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Zeina Dassouki

**Effectiveness of a Cancer Patient Navigation Program in promoting screening for breast cancer among at-risk women from vulnerable communities in North Lebanon**

**Co-PIs:**

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Effect of Mesenchymal stem cells and their secretome in comparison**

**Co-PIs** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Cisplatin chemotherapy on ovarian cancer cell lines**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Charbel Khalil

**Funding:**

**Status:** ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Effect of Jania Rubens Algae extract on an invitro model of Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Funding:** No funds

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Linuron Herbicide' Effects on Human Cells: A Focus on some Solid Cancers**

**Co-PIs:** Dr. Zeina Dassouki

**Funding:** No funds

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Dima Mnayer

**Healthy Gluten-Free Products Potential (HGFP2): Technological aspects and Consumer preferences**

Wheat allergies are increasing in frequency in Lebanon, they are mainly related to gluten, a protein found in wheat. People are finding relief from their problems by switching to a wheat-free diet. Our project aim to Assess the need and perceptions of Lebanese.

**Co-PIs:** Mireille Serhan, Maud Rizk, Mira Daher, Hiba Rouaiheb, Maria El Deghel

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** Ongoing. Two years (2024-2025) and (2025-2026)

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Effect of Mesenchymal stem cells and their secretome in comparison with cisplatin chemotherapy on ovarian cancer cell lines**

**Co-investigators:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Effect of Jania Rubens Algae extract on an in vitro model of inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**Co-investigators:** Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** UOB Grant

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Natura Biomolecules as potential adjuvants to chemotherapy : combination and sensitization**

**Co-investigators:** Dr. Zeina Dasouki and Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** UOB grant

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Linuron Herbicide effects on human cells: A focus on some solid cancers**

**Co-investigators:** Dr. Zeina Dasouki and Dr. Lara Haddad

**Funding:** No grant

**Status:** To be completed spring 2026

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Effets of oxLDL and/or Cardiovascular drugs such as statins and angiotensin receptor blockers on the development and stemness of human lung cancers:are they harmful, neutral or protective**

**Co-investigators:** Dr. Mirna Chahine

**Funding:** UOB grant

**Status:** To be completed December 2026

**Principal investigator:** Dr. Mayssam Moussa

**Attitudes of Lebanese healthcare professionals versus the general population toward implantable neutral interface technologies for neuroenhancement and neurorestoration**

**Co-investigators:**

**Funding:** No Grant

**Status:** To be completed Fall 2026

**Principal investigator:** Mira Daher

**Application of Artificial intelligence in Nutrition**

This study aims to explore the application of AI in nutrition while highlighting its opportunities and challenges.

**Co-investigators:** Rawaa Chedid (UOB student)

**Funding:** None

**Status:** Article submitted for publication, currently under review

**Principal investigator:** Mira Daher

**Research involvement and evidence based practice among Lebanese Dietitians**

The purpose of this study is to assess the levels of research involvement among Lebanese dietitians and to investigate the perception, attitudes and knowledge of evidence-based practice among them.

**Co-investigators:** Mireille Serhan, Carole Serhan

**Funding:** UOB grant

**Status:** Ongoing, data collected. Data analysis and article writing in progress

**Principal investigator:** Mira Daher

**Job satisfaction and workload perception among Lebanese Dietitians**

The aim of this study is to review and compare factors and challenges affecting job satisfaction among health care providers and among dietitians.

**Co-investigators:** Mireille Serhan, Maud Rizk, Dima Mnayer, Hiba Roueiheb, Maria El Deghel

**Funding:** NONE

**Status:** Article submitted for publication, currently under review

**Principal investigator:** Mira Daher

**Job satisfaction and workload perception among Lebanese Dietitians**

The purpose of this study is to assess the levels of job satisfaction and workload perception, along with the factors influencing them, among Lebanese Dietitians

**Co-investigators:** Mireille Serhan, Carole Serhan

**Funding:** None

**Status:** Ongoing one article published in International Journal of Health Planning and management doi: 10.1002/hpm.70015

- One article submitted for publication, currently under review

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mireille Serhan

**Biogenic amines in dairy products**

The purpose of this study is to assess the technological and environmental effects on the occurrence of biogenic amines in commonly consumed cheeses in the East Mediterranean.

**Co-investigators:** UOB (Iman Dankar) and LAU (Hussein Hassan).

**Funding:** UOB funding

**Status:** Ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mireille Serhan

**Safety and toxicity of breakfast cereals**

The purpose of this study is to assess the chemical and microbiological safety of breakfast cereals.

**Co-Investigators:** Hussein Hassan, Elias Akoury, Nissrine Alwan, and Maria El Deghel.

**Funding:** UOB and LAU (allocated budget for graduate research) and ADU (intramural grant for Dr. Nissrine Alwan)

**Status:** Ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mireille Serhan

**Dairy Consumption Pattern and Perceptions (DCP2): A regional study across the Levant, Gulf and North African Countries**

The purpose of this study is to assess the patterns and perceptions of dairy consumers in the Levant, Gulf and African countries

**Co-Investigators:** Hussein Hassan

**Funding:** UOB funding and LAU (allocated budget for graduate research)

**Status:** New intramurally funded project.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Nivine Abbas (First and corresponding author)

**Factors influencing the participation of adolescents in research related to sexual and reproductive health in the Arab Region**

The purpose of this study is to explore the factors that influence the participation of adolescents in research related to sexual and reproductive health in the Arab Region.

**Co-Investigators:** Maryam Aly, Henry Silverman

**Funding:** No Fund

**Status:** Article under review

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Nivine Abbas (corresponding author)

**Exploring the Drivers of Hesitancy towards COVID-19 Vaccine among Syrian Refugees Residing in Mount Lebanon: A Qualitative Study**

This study aimed to explore the reasons for Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy among middle-aged adults of Syrian Refugees in Mount Lebanon. A qualitative study design and an ethnographic approach were adopted.

**Co-Investigators:** Masa Al Fakih , Lara Obeid, Emile Whaibeh

**Funding:** No Fund

**Status:** Article submitted

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Nivine Abbas (corresponding author)

**Global Smoking Policies review**

This review will include a historical global overview of smoking policies as well as important smoking policy measures. It will also include some case studies of success or limited success. It will additionally cover problems and barriers, lessons learned, and suggestions.

**Co-Investigators:** Jessica Saliba, Myriam Mrad, Reem Samhoun (MPH student), Hilda Saab (MPH student)

**Funding:** No Fund

**Status:** Ongoing

**Principal Investigator:** Jessica Saliba

**The effect of novel imidazoquinoline compounds on stem cells**

The purpose of the study is to investigate if novel immunomodulatory imidazoquinoline agents compromise stem cells, in terms of stem cell pool, molecular profile and ability to differentiate.

**Co-Investigators:** Carine Masquefa-Deleuze and Pierre-Antoine Bonnet

**Funding:** Awaiting funding

**Status:** Pilot study completed

**Principal Investigator:** Jessica Saliba

**Effect of smoke exposure cessation on lung epithelial cells and stem cells**

The purpose of the study is to investigate whether the damage caused by the exposure of lung epithelial cells and stem cells to novel smoking modalities is reversible.

**Co-Investigators:** Marwan El-Sabban (AUB)

**Funding:** UOB grant (RGA/FHS/22-23/002)

**Status:** Study ongoing, 2 papers published, more expected in 2026.

**Principal Investigator:** Marwan El-Sabban (AUB)

**Epigenetic regulation of Cx43 expression and inflammatory biomarkers in laboratory models of inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer**

The purpose of the study is to unveil mechanisms by which chronic intestinal inflammation might lead to mutations and malignancy in the colon.

**Co-Investigators:** Jessica Saliba

**Funding:** AUB intramural grant

**Status:** Ongoing / First paper published in the World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Principal Investigator:** Marwan El-Sabban (AUB)

**Development of an in vitro model mimicking the blood-brain barrier for drug discovery**

The purpose of the study is to develop a 3D in vitro model using exclusively human cells composing the blood-brain barrier; with the purpose of creating a platform for drug delivery to the brain and central nervous system as well as unveiling mechanisms of cancer cell metastasis to the brain.

**Co-Investigators:** Jessica Saliba and other AUB faculty

**Funding:** AUB intramural grant

**Status:** Ongoing/ First manuscript published in IJMS

**Principal Investigator:** Abdullah Shaito and Jessica Saliba

**Evaluation of the effect of different smoking modalities on cellular differentiation in human stem cells and a zebrafish model**

The purpose of the study is to investigate how the different smoking modalities available affect cellular differentiation and embryonic survival and development.

**Co-Investigators:** Marwan El-Sabban (AUB)

**Funding:** Funded by Qatar University

**Status:** Ongoing

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

### Current Projects

- HAMAP/UOB –FHS- DoCE- Landmines Resource Center/ LMAC EORE Project (2025-2026) – National Online KAP Survey - Dec 2025- 2026
- LMAC Training: participated in Workshop on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) titled “Lessons Learnt from the last emergency in Lebanon - Nov 2025
- MEHE Trainings UNICEF LTA Project: The project was set to train all the “35” School Health Supervisors in Training of Trainers skills (TOT), Social and Behavior Change (SBC), key school health topics. With the introduction of new services related to the interconnection between public schools and primary healthcare centers, the aim is for the latter to become the heart of the school community. The health supervisors will in turn cascade the training to 1,200 School Health Educators, as each works at the school level, ensuring sustainable, scalable knowledge transfer to promote children’s health and well-being (Sept - Oct 2025)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Workshop celebrating FHS 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary - July 15, 2025
- Club Fair and Health Day 2025 celebrating FHS 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Localization of Mine Action in the crisis and post-crisis response in South Lebanon - HAMAP: Increase explosive ordnance risk awareness (EORE) message diffusion through outreach activities (for example: social media, billboard, or community leaders training to reach 30,000 beneficiaries for radio messages and 50,000 beneficiaries/week for billboards ( Jan – April 2025).
- CHWs training- UNICEF- LTA: UNICEF is supporting the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health in introducing the concepts of the integrated primary health care approaches. “Community Health Workers” play an active role in community outreach and visiting households to enhance accessibility to services and utilization of basic health services. DoCE trained two hundred forty “Community Health Workers” on their role and on the content of their job description, in addition to community engagement, social behavior change and interpersonal skills (April 2024 - June 2025).
- Capacity Building for The Team of Health Workers-PHC-PSU- Training of CHWs and other health personnel with different modalities in the Eight Governorates- UNICEF LTA: UNICEF collaborated with Primary Health Care (PHC) centers to incentivize existing staff to conduct outreach activities or recruit new personnel to meet demand. UNICEF is committed to strengthening community outreach by enhancing linkages between health services and communities, while also providing training for outreach teams. The Department of Community Engagement (DOCE), in partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health, and the Order of Midwives, has jointly designed and delivered eleven workshops (Jan-June 2025)

## FHS PUBLICATIONS

### 2025 (30 publications)

1. **Finianos, Jessica, Abu-Saad Huijer, Huda**, Miró, Jordi. (2025). Professional education about pain in children and adolescents and current treatment practices among healthcare professionals working in Lebanon: a survey study BMC Medical Education 25 (1) . <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-025-07146-2>
2. Makhoul, Melissa, Noureddine, Samar, **Abu-Saad Huijer, Huda**, Bartley, Emily J., Booker, Staja Q., Uthman, Imad. (2025). Pain Self-Management in Individuals With Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain During Lebanon's Overlapping Crises Pain Management Nursing 26 (2) . <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmn.2024.09.003>
3. Mercante, Anna, Siden, Harold, Baker, Justin Nathaniel, Papadatou, Danai, **Abu-Saad Huijer, Huda**, Zernikow, Boris, Hauer, Julie, Benini, Franca. (2025). Insights From the International Consensus on Neuro-Irritability in Pediatric Palliative Care: Expanding the Known, Challenging the Unknown Neurology: Clinical Practice 15 (5) . <https://doi.org/10.1212/CPJ.00000000000200525>
4. Al Bayrakdar, Amani, Puzantian, Houry, Noureddine, Samar, **Abu-Saad Huijer, Huda**, Nasrallah, Mona, Joiner, Kevin L, Martyn-Nemeth, Pamela, Tfayli, Hala. (2025). Experiences and Health Outcomes of Emerging Adults with Type 1 Diabetes: A Mixed Methods Study Nursing Research 74 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1097/NNR.0000000000000781>
5. Nawfal Dagher, Tania, Hadjadj, Linda, Bittar, Fadi, Fenianos, Fadi, Abdo, Elias, Rolain, Jean-Marc, **Al-Bayssari, Charbel**. (2025). Clonal dissemination of an NDM-2-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii* ST103 clone resulting in an outbreak in an intensive care unit of a Lebanese tertiary care hospital Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance 40 (). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgar.2024.11.016>
6. Nasr, Ramona, Swaidan, Eman, Haddad, Chadia, Jreije, Wissam, **Abdel Rahman, Abir**, Karam, Joanne. (2025). Self-care practices and diabetes distress among type 2 diabetic patients in Lebanon amidst a multi-crisis context Discover public health 22 (1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12982-025-00728-x>
7. **Abdel Rahman, Abir**, Kassem, Nada O F, Edwards, Marc, Abboud, Juliana, Abdallah, Bahia. (2025). An Exploratory Qualitative Study of Beverage Sweetening Practices in Middle Eastern Families Inquiry 62. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00469580251359507>

8. Rifi, Mariam, Radwan, Zeina, Sari-Chmayssem, Nouha, Kassir, Rayan, Fajloun, Ziad, **Abdel Rahman, Abir**, El-Sabban, Marwan, Prévostel, Corinne, Dassouki, Zeina, Mawlawi, Hiba. (2025). Exploring the Antineoplastic Properties of the Lebanese *Jania rubens* Against Colorectal Cancer Metabolites 15 (2). <https://doi.org/10.3390/metabo15020090>
9. Nasr, Ramona, Swaidan, Eman, Hachem, Samah, Yazbek, Noura, Rizk, Mahdi, **Abdel Rahman, Abir**, H Alami, Nael. (2025). Immunization safety monitoring: addressing vaccine hesitancy and enhancing coverage in crisis-affected regions- insights from Lebanon, Ukraine, and Sudan Therapeutic Advances in Vaccines and Immunotherapy 13 (). <https://doi.org/10.1177/25151355251380220>
10. Adarmouch, Latifa, Elgamri, Alya, **Abbas, Nivine H.**, Sleem, Hany, Silverman, Henry. (2025). Description and Impact of the 20-Year Fogarty International Center/NIH Middle East Research Ethics Training Initiative Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15562646251316711> (In press)
11. Dableh, Saydeh, Frazer, Kate, **Azar, Mathilde**, Hamadeh, Randa, Kroll, Thilo. (2025). Maximizing older people's access to primary health care centers in Lebanon: a co-design approach Health Promotion International 40 (3). <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daaf077>
12. Dableh, Saydeh, Frazer, Kate, **Azar, Mathilde**, Kroll, Thilo. (2025). The Experience of Accessing Primary Healthcare Centres in a Lebanese Community: Perspectives of Older People, Family Members and Service Providers Health Expectations 28 (5). <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70449>
13. **Daccache, Caroline**, Hiligsmann, Mickaël, Evers, Silvia M A A, Rizk, Rana, Karam, Rita. (2025). Barriers to and facilitators of implementing the Lebanese Health Economic Evaluation Guideline: An initial exploration Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14737167.2025.2559092> (In press)
14. **Daher, Mira**, El Darazi, Elham, Kacim, Mohammad, Hobeika, Maya, Sacre, Yonna. (2025). The Effect of Non-Nutritive Sweeteners' Consumption on Body Weight: A Randomized-Controlled Trial Food Science and Nutrition 13 (7). <https://doi.org/10.1002/fsn3.70691>
15. **Daher, Mira**, Serhan, Carole, **Serhan, Mireille**. (2025). Job Satisfaction of Registered Dietitians Across Workplace Settings and Sectors in Lebanon: A Cross-Sectional Study International Journal of Health Planning and Management.

16. **Haddad, Lara**, Chender, Amira, Roufayel, Rabih, Accary, Claudine, Borges, Adolfo, Sabatier, Jean Marc, Fajloun, Ziad, Karam, Marc. (2025). Effect of Hottentotta judaicus Scorpion Venom on Nociceptive Response and Inflammatory Cytokines in Mice Using Experimental Hyperalgesia Molecules 30 (13).  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules30132750>
17. Ghamrawi, Ahed, Basso, Rasha, Shakik, Nour, **Haddad, Lara**, Nasr, Zeina, Harmouch, Chaza. (2025). Wharton's Jelly Mesenchymal Stem Cells: Shaping the Future of Osteoarthritis Therapy with Advancements in Chitosan-Hyaluronic Acid Scaffolds Stem Cells and Development 34 (45659).  
<https://doi.org/10.1089/scd.2024.0033>
18. **Whaibeh, Emile**, Eid, Bassam, Abi Hanna, Jowy, Aouad, Norma, Haddad, Joyce, Abi Tayeh, Georges, **Mrad, Myriam A.** (2025). Cord blood lead screening in Lebanon: findings from the environmental exposures in Lebanese infants (EELI) study Environmental Pollutants and Bioavailability 37 (1).  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26395940.2025.2524084>
19. **Mnayer, Dima**, Joubrane, Karine. (2025). Development and evaluation of an alternative protein-rich legume-based snack Heliyon 11 (10).  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2025.e43412>
20. **Rizk, Maud**, Roux-Levy, Cécile, Bernard-Chabert, Brigitte, Bronowicki, Jean-Pierre, Richou, Carine, Habersetzer, François, Jouve, Jean-Louis, Hebert, James R, Shivappa, Nitin, Boutron-Ruault, Marie-Christine, Diab Assaf, Mona, Hillon, Patrick, Cottet, Vanessa. (2025). Association between the dietary inflammatory index and the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in a cirrhotic population Clinical Nutrition 44 ().  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2024.11.021>
21. Saab, Charles, Saleh, Mounzer, Obeid, Joelle, Saghir, Hala, Abdel-Samad, Rana, **Saliba, Jessica**, Atallah, Paola. (2025). Prevalence of hyperglycaemia, prediabetes and type-2 diabetes mellitus in the adult Lebanese population: results of the PREDICT study BMC Public Health 25 (1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-24059-3>
22. Karam, Mario, Aqel, Sarah, Haider, Mohammad Z, Fathima, Aseela, Charafedine, Adib, Daher, Mira Abou, Shaito, Abdullah, El-Sabban, Marwan, **Saliba, Jessica**. (2025). Beyond the Injury: How Does Smoking Impair Stem Cell-Mediated Repair Mechanisms? A Dual Review of Smoking-Induced Stem Cell Damage and Stem Cell-Based Therapeutic Applications Stem Cell Reviews and Reports 21 (5).

23. Saliba, John, **Saliba, Jessica**, El-Sabban, Marwan, Mhanna, Rami. (2025). A Biomimetic Human Multi-Cellular In Vitro Model of the Blood-Brain Barrier International Journal of Molecular Sciences 26 (8). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26083592>

24. Hassan, Hussein F, El Khoury, Celine, Haydous, Fatima, Dimassi, Hani, Abdallah, Maria Abou, **Serhan, Mireille**, Akoury, Elias. (2025). Cornflakes as a source of dietary metal exposure in Lebanon: a risk assessment study RSC Advances 15 (42). <https://doi.org/10.1039/d5ra05243b>

25. Dankar, Imane, Melhem, Amal, **Serhan, Mireille**, Hassan, Hussein F.. (2025). Microbial and processing factors affecting biogenic amine formation and accumulation in dairy: a narrative review Applied Food Research 5 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.afres.2025.101376>

26. Haydous, Fatima, Hassan, Hussein F., Shehab, Aya, Alwan, Nisreen, **Serhan, Mireille**, Dimassi, Hani, Akoury, Elias. (2025). Pet food safety at risk? Investigating toxic metal contamination in Lebanon and the UAE RSC Advances 15 (28). <https://doi.org/10.1039/d5ra02790j>

27. Zoghbi, Maria Al, **El Deghel, Maria, Serhan, Mireille, Mnayer, Dima**. (2025). Development of Healthy Gluten-Free Double-Layer Pita Bread: Nutritional, Technological, and Sensorial Properties Journal of Food Processing and Preservation 2025 (1) . <https://doi.org/10.1155/jfpp/3811480>

28. Dankar, Imane., Eid, Anasya, Hassan, Hussein, **Serhan, Mireille** (2025). Biogenic Amines in Cheese: Health Risks, Regulatory Perspectives and Analytical Advances. Journal of Food Processing and Preservation, Article ID 1925862. <https://doi.org/10.1155/jfpp/1925862>.

29. Hassan, Hussein, Assi, Ranim, Alkhatib, Raceel, El Darra, Nada, Khatib, Sami, El khoury, George, **Serhan, Mireille**, Abiad, Mohamad, Alwan, Nisreen, Bassil, Maya (2025). Unmasking Hidden Gluten: Evaluating the Compliance of Gluten-Free Products and Consumer Exposure in Lebanon. Journal of Food Protection, 2025, 100655, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfp.2025.100655>

30. Said Fares, Kassandra, Hani Abi Tayeh, Georges, **Whaibeh, Emile**, Jihad Louis,

Romy, **Jaalouk, Lina Y**, Matar Matar, Yara, **Mrad, Myriam A.** (2025). The role of diet and food supplements in infertility management in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: A narrative review International Journal of Reproductive BioMedicine 23 (1). <https://doi.org/10.18502/ijrm.v23i1.18188>

## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

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### **Huda Abu-Saad Huijer**

- Caroline Daccache, A health Economic Evaluation Guideline in Low and Middle-Income Countries; A Case Study from Lebanon. Maastricht University, The Netherlands. Dissertation defended May 2025.
- Reem Rabah, Exploring Person-Centered Care in Primary Health care Centers in Lebanon, St. Joseph University, Lebanon. Dissertation defended November 2025.

### **Abir Abdel Rahman**

- Ramona Nasry, Ph.D. dissertation of Ecole Doctorale Lebanese University. Macrolides Usage as Anti-Inflammatory Agents in the Treatment of Community-Acquired and Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia: Evidence from a Systematic Review and a Lebanese Cohort Study. December 2025

### **Mathilde Azar**

- Organization of the first FHS International Conference, Vice Chair
- Organization of the third International Medical Congress at UOB, Member of the scientific committee
- Organization of a symposium on Palliative Care on the occasion of May 16 (Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NP, Accreditation, and Nurses Day), Chair.

### **Nivine Abbas**

- Participated in the Joint regional conference “The 1st Climate Change and Health in the Arab Region (CCHAR) Conference” and “The 10th International Conference on Ethics in the Middle East and North Africa Region (ICE-MENA), Amman Jordan.
- Participated as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Public Health Program at the Health, Emergency Action, and Leadership in Crisis Management Forum – HEAL, under the slogan "Building Back Stronger".

### **Caroline Daccache**

- Developing the Lebanese Costing Manual Project, Technical Manager – ongoing
- Strategic Framework for the Establishment of a National Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Entity in Lebanon Project, Reviewer & Strategic Advisor - Presented
- Precision Oncology Policy Report, National Expert & Co-Author – ongoing

### **Lara Haddad**

- Ph.D. project in collaboration with Universite de Strasbourg in France and myself and Dr. Chaza Harmouche at UOB in Lebanon, Safar Grant just started in October 2025

### **Zeina Dassouki**

- Ph.D. Accomplishment of a Co-Supervised Student in the Biomedical Sciences Program, Faculty of Medicine at AUB, 01/08/2025

**Dima Mnayar**

- ADI Ranking 2025, one of top 1000 scientists in Lebanon.
- External Reviewer for the Dean Thomas Sutherland Prize for the academic year 2024-2025, annual award offered to the MS graduate at FAFS, AUB.

**Mireille Serhan**

- Organization of the first FHS International Conference, Chair of Scientific Committee
- Doctoral Thesis Reviewer, Aix Marseille University, France, December 4, 2025.

## SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES & SCHOLARLY LECTURES

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### **Abir Abdel Rahman**

- Poster presentation: Macrolides as Anti-Inflammatory Agents in Community - Acquired and Ventilator Associated Pneumonia: A systematic review and Meta-Analysis, 01/10/2025, USEK (3rd prize)

### **Mathilde Azar**

- Help-seeking behaviour for sexual problems: qualitative study, May, 2025 , Third international Medical Congress-UOB

### **Christine Azar**

- Advancing health care research in the Arab region: Towards a collaborative nursing research agenda / Patterns of medication errors involving pediatric population reported to the French Medication Error Guichet, 29/10/2025, AUB

### **Mira El Chaar**

- Serological and Molecular Prevalence of Hepatitis E Virus among Blood Donors from Lebanon. Oral presentation at the Congress of the Syndicate of Clinical Biologists in Lebanon (SDBL), 01/07/2025, Bannes Hospital Center
- Serological and Molecular Prevalence of Hepatitis E Virus among Blood Donors from Lebanon. Hep-Dia meeting, 01/05/2025, Amsterdam

### **Mira Daher**

- Neuro Nutrition Conference: Exploring the Impact of Nutrition and Nervous System/Lecture Name: MIND diet, April 15, 2025 – Sainte famille University Batroun
- Conference: Fueling the Golden Years: Nutrition and Beyond/Lecture Name: Nutrition and Cognitive Health, : Exploring the Potential of the MIND Diet, May 28, 2025 SGUB

### **Caroline Daccache**

- Pathways Towards Universal Health Coverage: Challenges and Opportunities 01/02/2025, Lebanon
- Advancing HTA in the MENA Region: Promoting Equity, Efficiency, and Innovation in Healthcare, 01/09/2025, Tunisia. The Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) Middle East and North Africa. Regional Meeting.
- The Reform Prescription: Reshaping the Pharmaceutical Sector for Access, affordability, and accountability. National Workshop on Reforms in the Pharmaceutical Sector, 01/10/2025, Lebanon. Event organized by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Zeina Dassouki**

- Oral presentation "Provision of Palliative Care Services in Lebanon" at the National Palliative Care Conference 2025, 01/10/2025, AUB
- Accepted abstract at EACR congress: Synergistic antineoplastic Effects of Jania rubens Extracts with Conventional Chemotherapy in Colorectal Cancer, 01/06/2025, Lisbon
- Accepted abstract at EACR congress: Characterization of the profile of cancer among vulnerable communities at Sanabel Nour in North Lebanon: an NGO setting, 01/06/2025, Lisbon

**Jessica Fenianos**

- HSON – Nursing Conference, Beirut

**Lara Haddad**

- Lectures in Human Physiology, March - April 2025, University of La Sapienza – Roma
- Seminar in Immunology, March - April 2025, University of La Sapienza - Roma

**Dima Mnayar:**

- 1st International Congress on Sustainable Food, Green Chemistry and Human Nutrition. Lecture Name: Development of Healthy Gluten-Free Double-Layer Pita Bread: Nutritional, Technological, and Sensorial Properties.  
Oral speaker: Dr. Dima Mnayer, 7-9 April 2025, Dubrovnik-Croatia

**Mireille Serhan**

- Exploring next generation resilient dairying, organized by Hannah Dairy Research Foundation (HDRF) and the Journal of Dairy Research (JDR), November 24-25, 2025, Virtual attendance.
- Guest speaker at Universidade Positivo (Brazil) on “Sustainability in food production in Lebanon: integrating biotechnology and the circular bioeconomy” for MSc and PhD students in industrial biotechnology.

## EDITORIAL POSITIONS

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### **Huda Abu-Saad Huijer**

- Associate editor and later member of Editorial Board, International Journal of Nursing Studies
- Editorial Board, Journal of Transcultural Nursing
- Editorial Board, Journal of Nursing Scholarship
- Editorial Board, Japanese Journal of Nursing Science
- Editorial Board, Nursing Children and Young People
- Editorial Board, Annals of Palliative Medicine
- Review Editor, Frontiers in Pain Research

### **Maud Rizk**

Reviewer: Frontiers in Nutrition Journal (FRONTIERS)

### **Mathilde Azar**

- Academic Editor PLOS Global Public Health

### **Mira Daher**

- Reviewer: Frontiers in Nutrition Journal (FRONTIERS)

### **Dima Mnayar**

- Reviewer, Food reviews International

### **Mireille Serhan**

- **Editorial Board Member** for *Societal Impacts* journal from Elsevier. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/societal-impacts/about/editorial-board> (**SCOPUS INDEXED**)
- **Editorial Board Member** for *Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development* from AEES publications. <https://www.aessweb.com/journals/5005/info/eb>
- Peer review record I Clarivate Web of Science (38 manuscripts in 2025).
- Societal Impact, Scientific Reports, Applied Food Research, Food Microbiology, British Food Journal, Food and Humanity, International Journal of Gastronomy and Food Science, Frontiers in Nutrition, Health Sciences Reports, Nutrition and Food Science, Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Plos One, Journal of Dairy Research, Clinical Nutrition ESPN, Journal of Insects as Food and Feed

### **Caroline Daccache**

- Reviewer: Value in health regional issues
- Reviewer Frontiers in Public Health

### **Abir Abdel Rahman**

- Reviewer PLOS journal
- Reviewer Scientific Reports

**Charbel Al-Bayssari**

- Reviewer NMNI
- Reviewer Burns
- Reviewer IJAA
- Reviewer Antibiotics MDPI

**Elias Abdo**

- Reviewer ScholarOne Manuscripts

**Zeina Dassouki**

- Co-Editor Frontiers in Oncology, research collection "Acid-Base Modulation in Cancer: From Mechanism to Therapy."

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

**HUDA ABU-SAAD HUIJER**

- Member, Harvard Global Equity Initiative-Lancet Commission on Global Access to Pain Control and Palliative Care (GAPPCP).
- Founding President, Chi Iota Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing in Lebanon.
- Consultant, WHO EMRO on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Vice-President, National Committee on Pain Relief and Palliative Care (Appointed by Minister of Health); Chair, Research Committee.
- Past president, Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain.
- Member, Advisory Board of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.
- Member, Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing in Lebanon.
- Advisory Board, Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice, and Research Center (SANERC), Koc University, Turkey.
- Member of International Association for the Study of Global Pain Advocacy Working Group.
- Board member, Research Center for the Scientific Society of Arab Nursing Faculties.

**MATHILDE AZAR**

- IRM member MUBS

**MAUD RIZK**

- Member Lebanese Order of Dietitians
- Member of the Nutrition Colloquium Committee – MEHE

**MIRA DAHER**

- Member Lebanese Order of Dietitians
- Member at the Disciplinary council

### **DIMA MNAYAR**

- Member, Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects, Beirut, Lebanon (ID#28038) (2004)

### **MIREILLE SERHAN**

- Member, Journal of Dairy Research Community (Hannah Dairy Research Foundation and Journal of Dairy Research) (November 2021-present).
- Invited Member, Abu Dhabi University Global initiative (November 2021- Present).
- Member, International Association of Food Protection (IAFP), Iowa, USA, (June 2019-Present).
- Member, European Federation of Food Science and Technology (EFFoST), (2018- Present).
- Member, Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects, Tripoli, Lebanon. (ID# 6535), (2009-Present).

### **NIVINE ABBAS**

- Committee member elected as the new Executive committee members of the ISEE EM Chapter (Nov 2025)
- Session moderator Invited to be a moderator in a conference titled "Sport Medicine: A multidisciplinary Approach", organized by Beirut Arab University (26 April 2025)
- Member of a thesis committee or president of committees for several MS students in the Psychology Department, in the Nursing program, and in the Public Health department at UOB.

# SERVICE TO FHS AND UOB

## FHS STANDING COMMITTEES

FACULTY COUNCIL	STRATEGIC PLAN	UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM	RESEARCH
<b>Dean Huijer</b>	Dr. H. Aoun	Ms. P. Germanos	Dr. D. Mnayer
Dr. M. Azar	Dr. M. Azar	Dr. M. Rizk	Dr. C. Bayssari
Dr. A. Abdel Rahman	Dr. N. Abbas	Ms. L. Greige	Dr. M. Azar
Dr. J. Saliba	Dr. D. Mnayer	Dr. E. Whaibeh	<b>Dr. M. Mrad</b>
Dr. M. Rizk	Dr. H. Aoun	Dr. C. Daccache	Dr. M. Rizk
Dr. H. Aoun	<b>Dr. M. Chaar</b>	Dr. Elias Abdo	Dr. M. Moussa
Dr. E. Attieh		<b>Dr. N. Abbaas</b>	

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE	GRADUATE STUDIES	PRE-MED	STUDENT OUTCOME
Ms. S. Jurd	Dr. L. Haddad	Mrs. G. Abou Lteif	<b>Dr. J. Saliba</b>
Ms. H. Chaktoura	Dr. C. Bayssari	Mrs. H. Chaktoura	Dr. M. Moussa
Ms. R. Chaddad	Dr. M. Azar	<b>Dr. L. Haddad</b>	Mrs. R. Chaddad
Mrs. R. Hourany	Dr. M. Mrad	Mrs. L. Greige	Dr. N. Abbas
<b>Ms. L. Jaalouk</b>	Dr. M. Serhan	Dr. M. Mrad	Dr. M. Rizk
Ms. H. Rouaiheb	Dr. H. Aoun	Ms. H. Rouaiheb	Mrs. H. Chaktoura
Dr. N. Abbas	<b>Dr. J. Saliba</b>		
Mrs. T. Maarawi			

WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA	STUDENTS' RECRUITMENT
Ms. Liza Dib	Ms Layal Greige
Mr. D. Atallah	Dr. M. Daher
Dr. D. Skaff	Ms Hiba Rouaiheb
Ms. Maria El Deghel	Ms. Rita Chaddad
Dr. E. Abdou	Dr. Diana Skaff
<b>Dr. E. Whaibeh</b>	Ms. L. Jaalouk
Ms. Gabriella Najem	Dr. Emile Whaibeh
	Mrs. G. Abou Lteif
	Mrs. J. Tohme
	<b>Dr. A. Abdel Rahman</b>

# FHS FACULTY MEMBERS SERVING ON UOB COMMITTEES

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## **FHS UOB COMMITTEES 2025**

### **Admissions Committee**

Mrs. Layal Greige

### **Administrative Committee**

Dr. Maud Rizk

### **Scholarships Committee**

Dr. Myriam Mrad

Ms. Hiba Rouaiheb

Dr. Elias Abdo

### **Library Committee**

Dr. Nivine Abbas

### **Recruitment Committee**

Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman

Dr. Myriam Mrad

Dr. Mira Daher

### **University Wide Curriculum Committee**

Mrs. Peggy Germanos

Dr. Dima Mnayer

Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman

### **Commencement Committee**

Dr. Zeina Dassouki

### **Ranking Committee**

Dr. Mathilde Azar

### **Online Teaching & Assessment Committee**

Dr. Jessica Saliba

### **Internationalization & Engagement Committee**

Dr. Habbouba Aoun

**UOB Senate**

Dr. Elias Abdou

Mrs. Hiba Habib

**UOB SP**

Dr. Mira El Chaar

**UOB Quality Assurance Committee/ACQUIN**

Dr. Mireille Serhan

**UOB Research Committee**

Dr. Mira El Chaar

**UOB Promotion Committee**

Dr. Myriam Mrad

Dr. Jessica Saliba

**IRB**

Dr. Nivine Abbas

Dr. Abir Abdel Rahman

**UOB Code of Conduct Committee**

Dr. Mireille Serhan

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

Dr. Mira El Chaar

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

FHS plans to continue placing more emphasis on research and scholarly productivity, expanding current undergraduate and graduate academic programs, establishing market-driven online diploma and certificate programs, and more actively recruit top caliber students.

FHS will continue to put emphasis on the following strategic goals:

- Supporting current faculty in applying for promotion
- Developing strategic plans for short and long-term recruitment of top-caliber students
- Achieving accreditation for all academic programs and in particular for Public Health and Medical Lab Sciences and in near future for Optometry
- Developing and launching the Nutrition graduate program
- Launching the nursing program at the Akkar campus
- Launching the new FHS Optic and Optometry program
- Launching the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program upon MEHE approval
- Creation of academic Centers of Excellence
- Launching online diploma/certificate programs of relevance to the health care sector such as Health Informatics, Climate Change and Health, Health Economics and Outcome Research, and Lab Management among others
- Establishing strategic partnerships locally and internationally
- Engaging the community of interest in FHS academic programs
- Establishing scholarships and endowed funds to sustain current & new programs