

Annual Report 2023-2024

Faculty of Health Sciences

I. REFLECTION

Reflecting on the academic year 2023-2024, the Faculty of Health Sciences at Beirut Arab University has navigated a transformative journey marked by notable achievements and steadfast commitments. At the forefront of our endeavors was the successful renewal of our AHPGS accreditation status, a testament to our unwavering dedication to upholding rigorous academic standards and ensuring the highest quality of education for our students. In tandem with our accreditation efforts, we have significantly expanded our international collaborations through student and faculty exchange missions, fostering cross-cultural knowledge sharing on a global scale. These partnerships have not only enriched the academic experiences of our students and faculty but have also opened avenues for significant research collaborations that transcend geographical boundaries, thus positioning our faculty as a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation. Central to our mission is the constant pursuit of enhancement in the teaching and learning process. Embracing technology and pedagogical advancements, we have implemented a range of innovative approaches to engage and inspire our students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their chosen fields. By fostering a dynamic and interactive learning environment, we are nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals who are not only academically proficient but also agile and adaptable in the face of evolving healthcare challenges. Moreover, our commitment to community engagement remains an integral part of our identity as a socially responsible institution. Over the past year, we have intensified our outreach campaigns and community programs, aiming to address pressing health issues and contribute meaningfully to the well-being of society. Through these initiatives, we are not only extending the impact of our work beyond our campus but also instilling in our students a sense of social responsibility and a deep-seated commitment to serving the community. As we look ahead to the future, it is clear that the Faculty of Health Sciences at BAU will continue to play a vital role in shaping the healthcare landscape in the region and making a positive impact on the health and well-being of the community it serves.

II. TEACHING & LEARNING

- The faculty of health sciences has attained reaccreditation status from AHPGS for the upcoming five years.
- Moodle use has been sustained for student-instructor communication, assignment deliveries, reflections, and discussions.
- Implementation of internationalization in education through different activities, where experts from the Institute of Human Genetics in Montpellier, France, delivered a series of five interactive e-Labs on key advanced techniques live via Zoom from their platforms to Master students in the Microbiology and Immunology program. The international e-Labs were integrated into two courses: Advanced Clinical Laboratory Immunology and Biomedical Techniques. Students were able to learn techniques as if they were on the platform in France. In addition to improving students' online learning skills and updating them with new technologies, this learning/teaching method allows them to interact and get in touch with international laboratories.
- Student-centered approaches and innovating teaching methodologies have been implemented such as TBL (Team-Based Learning), PBL (Problem-based learning), Gamification (Kahoot and Poll Everywhere), flipped classrooms, role playing, community-based learning, transformative learning, experiential learning, character analysis, and video-based learning.
- Research work was incorporated in teaching and learning, through giving an assessment based on publication shared with the students, followed by class presentations and grading based on a rubric. Latest research on relevant topics were inducted into various courses in attempt to update students' knowledge with most recent evidence.
- Guest speakers from relevant ministries were invited to share their experience with senior students.
- Students were engaged in field visits to the orders of their respective professions to gain insight into the labor market, and get to know their roles, and benefits as future professionals.
- Advising was done both collectively and on case-by-case basis to ensure enhanced awareness about study plans and discuss collective concerns.
- Students were provided with extra support through providing them with extra advising sessions, counselling through office hours.
- Nursing students were supported to engage in ERASMUS+ exchange missions at LSMU in Lithuania.
- An 18-hr course entitled "Elderly care for non-healthcare professionals was offered by the faculty through CEC every Saturday between February 25th and March 9th, 2024

- A 36-hour course entitled “Nursing skills for technical institute students” was offered by the faculty every Thursday and Friday between February 22nd and March 22nd. The course was supported by NGOs “Arab Union for Specialized Women” and “Sanad”.
- A 20-hr CCPE course entitled “Data Management and Analysis for Health Science Research” was offered, starting October 20, by our faculty to all students, researchers, and healthcare professionals.
- The physical therapy department is preparing all required documentation for submission to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to establish a physical therapy program at the Tripoli campus.

Clinical training:

- The nursing and medical laboratory departments have signed an agreement with Dar Al Ajaza that establishes collaboration on the levels of clinical practice and future research.
- Through the “BAU clinic for Nutritional and weight Management”, students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nutrition were involved in shadowing clinical activities for weight management.
- The AHA BAULS ITC initiated a new center at Saint Georges University.
- A new site has been inaugurated in Casablanca, Morocco under the supervision of BAULS ITC
- THE AHA BAULS ITC monitored the renewal of the following centers: the AUB AHA center, the Bellevue AHA center, the Zuleikha hospital AHA center in Sharjah.
- The AHA BAULS ITC conducted monitoring visits in Kuwait and Oman.
- A new training agreement was accomplished with Makassed hospital.
- The AHA Clemenceau Medical Center Hospital added a new ACLS discipline.

III. ACHIEVERS

- Dr. Mirna Fawaz has been listed in the top 2% ranking of the most influential researchers in the world according to Stanford University ranking (October 2023).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani was accepted into the visiting scholar’s program at the University of Illinois Chicago, where he is currently collaborating with various scholars on joint research projects (June 2024).
- Dr. Fatima Saleh has been awarded the Competitive research grant by the University of Sharjah Research Board Led by the principal investigator Dr. Jalal Taneera, associate professor at the College of Medicine, on the research proposal entitled "Development of Three-Dimensional In Vitro Cell Culture Models of INS-1 pancreatic β -Cells for pharmaceutical and functional studies".

- Dr. Fatima Saleh was granted a teaching mobility scholarship within the JAMIES Project International Credit Mobility Erasmus+ Program and visited the University of Minho in Portugal. During her stay from February 26th to March 1st, Dr. Fatima had the opportunity to deliver lectures on Pharmacology & Toxicology to Biochemistry & Applied Biology students using Team-Based Learning (TBL) and Case-Based Learning (CBL) teaching methodologies.
- Dr. Rami Abbas participated in a meeting in Vienna - Austria between July 5-9, 2023 in partial fulfillment of the Erasmus Plus Projects [ICU and ICARE].
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab was selected as a Member of the ‘Assurance-Qualité et Accréditations’ of C2R Moyen-Orient within the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), representing Beirut Arab University (BAU)."
- Dr. Nada EL Darra, Co-Pi with Prof. Shadi Albarqouni as PI has been awarded a grant of approximately 40,000 Euros from the DAAD Ta'ziz Program. The project entitled "Affordable AI and Collaborative Federated Learning for Global Healthcare," unites esteemed partners from the University of Bonn in Germany and Beirut Arab University in Lebanon.
- The AHA BAULS ITC received an appreciation certificate from the AHA international conference and Bethlehem AHA centers for providing support in preparing teaching center faculty members (February 2024).
- Eight FHS students participated in an environmental activity organized by the Faculty of Engineering in Tripoli, in collaboration with NGO “Tahreej”. The activity aimed at educating and training students on firefighting in different settings (January 2024).

Nursing Department

- The nursing staff and students of FHS-Tripoli participated in an event organized by the Emergency and Relief CORPS- Lebanese Succor association in collaboration with the Lebanese army on Saturday (September 2023).
- Undergraduate senior nursing students provided BLS training at the Antonin International School students as part of the AHA center and department's community outreach (September 2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz was selected as an editorial board member of Diabetes Journal (March 2024).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz served as a speaker at the 8th International Nursing Congress in Turkey (May 2024).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz served Speaker at the 14th International Nursing Forum, Bahrain (May 2023).
- Dr. Ibrahim Kadamani delivered an oral presentation titled: “Effect of Simulation-based Interprofessional Education on the Development of Inter-professional Competencies among Healthcare Students at BAU” at the “All Together Better Health ATBH XI, the 11th International Conference on Interprofessional Practice and Education: Cultivating a Collaborative Culture: Sharing Pearls of Wisdom” at the University of Qatar (November 2023).

- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered a campus wide event in celebration of the Heart Saver Month. The event entailed Hands-only CPR training and competitions (November 2023).
- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered an Advanced Cardiac Life Support course (ACLS) for Balamand University and hospital (November 2023).
- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered ACLS courses to Ain w Zain staff (December 2023).
- Two junior nursing students participating in ERASMUS + exchange program at LSMU have successfully completed their mission and continued their studies regularly at BAU (January 2024).
- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered BLS and ACLS training courses to 300 students from The Tripoli Alumni Association (January 2024).
- Undergraduate senior nursing students has participated in delivering CPR training courses to school students at Antonine International School Baabda through active collaboration with Yohan Association (February 2024).
- Dr. Hiba El Deek was invited to participate as a speaker at Balamand university where she delivered a talk about respiratory diseases (February 2024).
- The AHA BAULS ITC trained the employees of the Canadian Embassy in Lebanon in Basic Life Support (February 2024).
- The department delivered a first aid and traumatology training program to journalists and reporters in Lebanon in collaboration with the Lebanese Army and various partners as part of the response to the current situation in the South and Gaza (March 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani delivered a seminar at the American University of Beirut titled “Interventions Targeting Health Promotion Using Health Indicators” involving post-graduate nursing students as an audience (March 2024).
- Senior nursing students participated in a physical examination and ophthalmology testing campaign organized by UNICEF and primary healthcare centers in Lebanon. The campaign will take place in 3 schools in Tareek Al Jadida, targeting around 1,600 students (March 2024).
- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered training courses to USJ staff (March 2024).
- The AHA BAULS ITC delivered ACLS training to Taanayel Hospital staff (March 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani was selected to be a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Excellence (April 2024).
- Students from the Nursing department participated in the 4th annual walkathon colorectal awareness campaign under the guidance of Dr. Ibrahim Kadamani (April 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani delivered a lecture titled “Post-colonialism and decolonizing healthcare research” as part of a seminar titled “Ethical Considerations in Research among Vulnerable populations” at AUB (April 2024).
- Dr. Hiba Deek served as a moderator at the “Insights into Geriatric Care and Healthy Ageing” conference held at the Tripoli campus (April 2024).

- Dr. Mirna Fawaz served as a speaker at the 8th International Nursing Congress in Turkey (May 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani presented his research titled, “A Narrative Review of Trauma Informed Care Literature: Directions Towards Patient Engagement in Care” at the 3rd International Scientific Nursing Conference 2024 at Philadelphia University in Amman, Jordan (May 2024).
- THE AHA BAULS ITC provided an ACLS instructor building course for Haykel Hospital (May 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani was inducted as a member in the Academy on Violence and Abuse, where he will be actively participating on the scholars and governance committees (June 2024).
- Mr. Karim Khabbaz supervised nursing students in participating in the Teddy Bear activity at Bellevue Medical Center, where the students introduced school students to various healthcare professions (June 2024).
- Mr. Mohammad Itani received acceptance to present his research work titled, “Voices of Expectant Mothers: Exploring Preferences for Trauma-Informed Prenatal Care” at the Global Health Summit in Washington DC, USA (July 2024).
- Dr. Ahmad Tassi was elected president of the Home Healthcare association at the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.
- The Nursing Department has started a new collaboration with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) and IOM Belgium. The collaboration aims to facilitate the placement of 20 refugee nursing graduates in jobs in Flanders.
- Dr. Hiba Deek applied for internal funding for a research project titled: “The Lebanese Acute Coronary Syndrome Snapshot: A national prospective evaluation of in hospital presentations and post-discharge mortality”
- Dr. Hiba Deek applied for a grant from Sigma Theta Tau International for a research project titled: “Relationship between quality of life, depression, selfcare and resilience among heart failure patients in a context of escalating challenges”
- Dr. Salah Ghandour gave an awareness lecture on "Microbes and the Human Body", at Rawdat Al-Faihaa School - Tripoli on January 18, 2024 for about 350 middle school students.
- Students of the Nursing Department - Tripoli Branch carried out an activity at Dar al Ajaza, affiliated with the Social Services Association, aiming to educate the elderly about some risks (falling, healthy eating, heating, the importance of physical activity), and an activity at Rawdat Al-Faihaa School for first-cycle students aimed at educating students about the dangers of excessive use of electronic devices and smart phones during the month of April 2024.

Scientific research activities:

- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Mental illness stigma as a moderator in the relationship between religiosity and help-seeking attitudes among Muslims from 16 Arab countries. BMC Public Health, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Prevalence and mortality rate of healthcare-associated infections among COVID-19 patients: a retrospective cohort community-based approach. Front. Public Health (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Psychometric Properties of an Arabic Translation of the Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness (MAIA-2) questionnaire in a non-clinical sample of Arabic-speaking adults. BMC Psychiatry (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Psychometric Properties of an Arabic Translation of the Multidimensional Social Support Scale (MSPSS) in a community sample of Lebanese Adults. BMC Psychiatry (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Psychological Reactions of Lebanese Nurses to Workplace Violence in Critical Care Units. SAGE Open Nursing, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Psychometric Properties of an Arabic translation of the 10-item Connor-Davidson Resilience scale (CD-RISC-10), the 8-and 10-item post-traumatic growth inventory-short form (PTGI-SF) scales. (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: The moderating effect of emotion regulation in the association between social support and religiosity and psychological distress in adults. BMC psychology, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Cross-Country Validation of the Arabic Version of the Prodromal Questionnaire–Brief (PQ-B) in Young Adults from the General Population of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region. International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Psychometric properties of the Arabic version of the Intuitive Eating Scale-2 (IES-2) in a sample of community adults. J Eat Disord, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz and Dr. Ahmad Tassi published a research titled: Impact of Nurse Residency Program Completion on Work Readiness and Clinical Competency of Saudi Graduate Nurses Transitioning into Professional Practice. International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences, (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: The co-moderating effect of social support and religiosity in the association between psychological distress and coping strategies in a sample of Lebanese adults. BMC Psychology (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Translation and validation of the Mindful Eating Behavior Scale in the Arabic language. BMC Psychiatry (2023).
- Dr. Hiba Deek published a paper titled Global impacts of COVID-19 on lifestyles and health and preparation preferences: An international survey of 30 countries. Journal of Global Health (2023).
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- Dr. Mirna Fawaz and Dr. Ahmad Tassi: The effect of moderate versus deep sedation on the satisfaction and length of stay of patients undergoing colonoscopy in a Lebanese specialized endoscopy center. BAU Journal Health and Wellbeing. (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz and Dr. Ahmad Tassi: The relationship between work readiness and perceived clinical competence among graduates transitioning into professional practice. International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences. (2023).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: The Lived Experiences of Saudi Nursing Students in Digital Clinical Experience: A Phenomenological Study. Cureus Journal. (2024).
- Dr. Mirna Fawaz published a research titled: Perceptions of Bedside Nurses Caring for Patients with Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVAD): A Qualitative Study. SAGE Open Nursing. (2024).
- Dr. Hiba Deek published a research titled: Effect of psychosocial aspects on medication adherence in patients with heart failure amid socioeconomic challenges. Open Heart. (2024).
- Dr. Hiba Deek published a research titled: Psychometric evaluation of the Arabic version of the Heart Failure Specific Health Literacy Scale in a socio-politically challenged setting. Journal of Advanced Nursing. (2024).
- Dr. Ahmad Tassi published a research titled: Rationalizing the Influence of Co-Design on Distress, Clinical Decision-Making and Disease Self-Management of Cancer Patients-as-Partners: A Quasi-Experimental Study. Health Expectations. (2024).
- Dr. Ibrahim Kadamani published a research titled: The Psychological Conditions of Pregnant Women During the Covid-19 Outbreak in Lebanon. BAU Journal Health and Wellbeing. (2024).

Medical Laboratory Technology Department

- Within the framework of the agreement with the Institute of Human Genetics (IGH) in Montpellier, France, the student Majd Bou Ghader, enrolled in the Master's program in Medical Laboratory Sciences-Microbiology, and immunology track, was awarded a six-months research internship to carry out his thesis at IGH under the supervision of Dr. Salim Moussa (BAU) and Dr. Sara Ovejero-Merino (IGH) (24 January 2024 to 24 June 2024).
- The Health Sciences' Students Club (Club des Etudiants en Sciences de la Santé: CESS) of BAU was among 10 other students' club selected from the MENA region by the Francophone University Agency (AUF) as a member of its global network of CLEF (Clubs Leaders Etudiants Francophones). This global network is made up of 180 students' clubs from across the world. The signature of the sponsorship agreement between the AUF, BAU and the CESS marks the beginning of the collaboration. This collaboration will allow the students' club to benefit from a sponsorship by the AUF in the form of possible workshops, access to facilities and financial contribution to the organization of events. On November 29th, the CESS organized the Welcome day for French speaking students.

The aim was to present the club and its partnership with the AUF and to invite students to participate in upcoming events.

- Dr. Said El Shamieh and Dr. Elie Sokhn organized and conducted two “Real-time and conventional PCR hands-on training for molecular diagnosis” workshop under the CCPE. The two hands-on trainings were very successful, as shown in the students' feedback and participation.
- Pr. Rajaa Fakhoury and Dr. Said El Shamieh participated in the OPPM all-partners' meeting and launched the Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine postgraduate program. There was an inauguration ceremony at BAU on October 16th to introduce the new postgraduate program which is the first of its kind in Lebanon & the MENA region and to launch the new Molecular Testing Lab, funded by the Erasmus grant.
- Dr. Elie Sokhn launched his project's website: www.Emergent-lebanon.org which includes all the updates about his grant with Canada.
- 47 of our Medical Lab students presented to the colloquium exam in the Ministry of Public Health on the 3rd and 4th of October 2023 and the success rate was 100%.
- In collaboration with research French institutes in Montpellier, Dr. Salim Moussa organized the Cancer and Immunity webinar-2nd edition in November 3. Dr. Salim also organized the webinar series: “Statistics in Biomedical Research”, a free training program in collaboration with the Institute of Human Genetics (IGH) in Montpellier, France. The program was attended by postgraduate students and researchers from Lebanon and France. Dr. Herve SEITZ, a renowned expert in teaching biostatistics for research, gave three exclusive training sessions on November 16th and 17th, 2023. Certificates of participation were distributed at the end of the program.
- Dr. Salim organized a webinar on AlphaFold: accurate protein structure prediction using artificial intelligence which was presented by Dr. James HUTCHINS from IGH in Montpellier, France.
- Dr. Said El Shamieh gave a talk entitled: Writing a grant proposal on December 8th, which was organized by the university research committee.
- Dr. Fatima Saleh was appointed as the director the Quality Assurance Center at BAU.
- Dr. Fatima Saleh attended and presented her research work at the 5th International Conference on Stem Cells which was held in Crete, Greece from 2nd to 6th of October 2023. Dr Fatima was also awarded the young investigator travel award which recognizes the achievements and potential of promising researchers in the stem cell field.
- On January 31st, on occasion of Cervical Cancer awareness month, MLT department organized an awareness lecture delivered by Dr. Manal Rashid Hubeish, a laparoscopic gynecologist, titled "Cervical Cancer: Protect and Prevent'. The event drew the participation of our doctors, students, and staff.

- Dr. Fatima Saleh participated in the fourth edition of KSAPT 2024 conference organized by the Saudi Ministry of Health and the Saudi Pharmaceutical Society that was held in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia from April 19th to April 23rd, 2024. Dr. Saleh led the BAU team consisting of Hadi El Sayed from Faculty of Medicine, Dana Jammul from Faculty of Pharmacy, and Lama Abi Farraj from Faculty of Health Science, who participated in the highly competitive Arab toxicology competition which was held for the third year in a row with the participation of twenty Arab universities from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Emirates, Bahrain and Lebanon.
- MLT Master student Yara Hussam Khachab won the first place in the medical laboratory technology department and was also awarded with the people's choice award at the third 3MT competition which was organized by the Research Committee at the Faculty of Health Sciences on February 2nd 2024.
- Dr. Said participated in the rare diseases day organized by the biotechnology company 3Billion, South Korea and won the first prize: a free genetic test that will be offered for one Lebanese family in need of it.
- Dr. Salim MOUSSA gave an oral presentation and received the best abstract award at Beirut Breast Cancer Conference, 12th Edition. The event was held Saturday 17th February 2024.
- Dr. Fatima Saleh's master student Nour El Kalash, won the first place in the Nutrition and Food Sciences category at the Second AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium for her thesis entitled 'Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices regarding Acrylamide in food among the Lebanese residents' under the supervision of Dr Fatima Saleh. The symposium, organized by Al Ain University in Abu Dhabi on February 13th, attracted the participation of over 100 graduate students from 10 Arab and foreign countries, who presented more than 120 research papers.
- On the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day and International Francophonie Day, the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted an awareness conference on Down Syndrome on March 20th, 2024, organized by the activities committee and the students' CESS club at the Faculty of Health Science and under the sponsorship of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF).
- Students of the medical lab program delivered an awareness session on "influenza and COVID" for Grade 6-9 students of David Karam School on Thursday, March 7, 2024.
- Our Masters students Lama Hanbali, Alaa Wehbe, and Marguerite Estephan have successfully attended the course funded by Faculty of Medicine and provided by peers in the field entitled "Advances in Research and Treatment of Hematological Malignancies: Targeted Therapy in Hematological Malignancies" at AUB from May 7 till May 27. Out of 12 total students from different universities, 2 of our students, Alaa and Marguerite were selected to attend the hands-on experience part also.
- Dr. Said El Shamieh and Dr. Salim Moussa from the Department of Medical Laboratory were awarded a one-month scientific stay in France through the High-Level Scientific Stays Scholarship Program SSHN24 launched by the French Embassy in Lebanon. Dr. Said El Shamieh, joined the Audo_Zeitz team as a

research associate in human statistical genetics at Institut de La Vision, Sorbonne Universités (Paris, France) from 3rd of June to 3rd of July, 2024, where he analyzed single-cell RNA sequencing and proteomics data of individuals with inherited retinal diseases. Dr. Salim Moussa, joined the Cancer and Immunity team of Dr. Nathalie Bonnefoy at the Institut de Recherche en Cancerologie de Montpellier (IRCM) from 14th of May to 14th of June, 2024 to carry out a research activity on the project entitled "Understanding the regulatory $\gamma\delta$ T cell ecosystem in breast and ovarian cancers to reinforce anti-cancer therapies" in collaboration with Dr. Virginie LAFONT.

- Pr. Rajaa Fakhoury & Dr. Said El Shamieh participated in the All partners' OPPM (Online Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine Postgraduate Program) meeting. This meeting was held from July 1st – July 3rd 2024, in Newcastle University, England, where the progress of the project and the launching of the Master's program in Fall 2024-2025 was discussed.
- Pr. Rajaa Fakhoury & Dr. Said El Shamieh received a 12,000\$ research grant from AlFaisal University for their project: Uncovering the missing heritability of inherited retinal diseases through whole-exome sequencing and functional characterization.
- Dr. Elie Salem-Sokhn introduced the AI4PEP/EMERGENT LEBANON project, and detailed the project's objective that aimed at automating lab data for enhanced surveillance at the "AI for Global Health Innovation" conference took that place at the Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui-UMC
- Dr. Salim Moussa signed an internship agreement between BAU and the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale INSERM in Montpellier, France, which will allow a six-month paid research mobility for a Master student starting in January 2025. Marguerite Estephan was awarded this internship to carry out a thesis supervised by Dr. Salim Moussa and Dr. Virginie Lafont.
- The research work on acrylamide was featured in Annahar newspaper as well as in three interviews by Dr Fatima in: Radio Liban Radio Orient. and Lebanon 24
- Dr. Sara Mina went on a research collaborative visit to University of Angers, France, during July 2023.
- Dr. Sara Khalifeh also visited the University of Lille on for a collaborative research project during August 2023.
- Dr. Sarah Khalifa was invited to participate as a speaker at the 3rd World Congress of Microbiology and Immunology in Dubai on November 6-7 where she gave a lecture on the first description of azole-resistant *Aspergillus* fungi in soil samples in Lebanon and another entitled High prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in domestic cats and dogs in Lebanon.
- Dr. Sara Mina has been invited to participate as a speaker in the "Sixth meeting of the ECMM ISHAM WG FRI-CF" conference that was held in Angers-France on June 6-7, 2024, where she will give a lecture entitled "Scenedosporium species in Lebanon: First environmental survey"

- Medical Laboratory Technology students at Beirut Arab University-Tripoli Branch organized an awareness session on respiratory infections, with a focus on influenza and coronavirus, on March 7, 2024 at the Daoud Karam Educational Center. The session targeted students from grades 6 to 9 with a detailed explanation of how viruses are transmitted, the components of the infection chain, preventive measures and vaccines.
- A Diabetes Day activity was conducted in both Beirut and Tripoli campuses (November 2024).

Scientific research activities:

- Dr. Elie Sokhn published a paper titled: "Identifying the panorama of potential pandemic pathogens and their key characteristics: a systematic scoping review". *Critical Reviews in Microbiology*
- Dr. Elie Sokhn published a paper titled: "Evaluation of Synergistic/Antagonistic Antibacterial Activities of Fatty Oils from Apricot, Date, Grape, and Black Seeds." *Scientific Reports*
- Dr. Fatima Saleh published a paper titled: "An exploratory study to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Lebanese residents towards acrylamide" *PLOS ONE*
- Dr. Elie Sokhn Ms. Aynaa Al-Khatib published a paper titled: "Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Hepatitis B Vaccination among Dentists in Lebanon" in *The Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice (JCDP)*.
- Dr. Elie Sokhn published a paper titled: "AI-based epidemic and pandemic early warning systems: A systematic scoping review". *Health Informatics Journal*
- Dr. Elie Sokhn and Dr. Said El Shamieh published a paper titled: "Gram-negative bacterial colonization in the gut: Isolation, characterization, and identification of resistance mechanisms". *Journal of Infection and Public Health*
- Dr. Said El Shamieh published a paper titled: "Genotype-phenotype associations in CRB1 bi-allelic patients: a novel mutation, a systematic review and meta-analysis" *BMC Ophthalmol.*
- Dr. Said El Shamieh published a paper titled: "ABCA4-related retinopathies in Lebanon" in *Heliyon*.
- Dr. Said El Shamieh published a paper titled: "Variants in UBAP1L lead to autosomal recessive rod-cone and cone-rod dystrophy." *Genetics in Medicine*.
- Dr. Elie Sokhn published a paper titled: "Knowledge and prevalence of urinary tract infection among pregnant women in Lebanon". *Heliyon Journal*
- Dr. Sara Mina published a paper titled: "Phylogenetic group distribution and antibiotic resistance of Escherichia coli isolates in aquatic environments of a highly populated area". *AIMS Microbiology*. (2024)
- Dr. Sara Mina published a paper titled: "Structure and distribution of sensor histidine kinases in the fungal kingdom". *Current Genetics*. (2024).

- Dr. Sara Khalife published a paper titled: Seroprevalence and risk factors of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in slaughtered chickens in Tripoli, Lebanon. *Vet Parasitol Reg Stud Reports*. 2023 Nov; 46:100941.
- Dr. Sara Khalife published a paper titled: Recent Data Characterizing the Prevalence and Resistance Patterns of FimH-producing Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* Isolated from Patients with Urinary Tract Infections in North Lebanon. *Arch Clin Infect Dis*. 2023; 18(4):e135782.
- Dr. Sara Khalife published a paper titled: High seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in household cats and dogs of Lebanon. *Res Vet Sci*. 2023 Apr;157:13-16.
- Dr. Sara Khalife published a paper titled: Occurrence and risk factors of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) in cats of Lebanon. *Comp Immunol Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2023 Feb;93:101931.

Physical Therapy Department

- Dr. Ahmad Melhat, Dr. Diana Khanji, and Dr. Nadine Assaad organized a workshop of Medical Taping in Sports Injuries - organized by CCPE - BAU May 26-27, 2023.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat organized a workshop of Spinal Manipulation - organized by CCPE - BAU June 2-3, 2023.
- Dr. Rami Abbas participated in Internal Security Forces ½ Marathon (Let's Run in Spite of everything) as medical team. June 11th 2023.
- Dr. Ayman Khatib participated and attended the International Congress of the WPT in Dubai and participated as a chair of a networking education session. June 2-3, 2023
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab participated and attended the International Congress of the WPT in Dubai and met with other members of the WPT Education Committee members. June 2-3, 2023
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab participated and attended the 23rd International Physical Therapy Conference – Cairo University (IPTCCU) under the title “Physical Therapy and Quality of Life” between July 25-26, 2024. Dr. Ibtissam chaired a session in the conference.
- Dr. Hussein Abu Yassine was assigned as a member of colloquium committee of the national physical therapy colloquium exam – Ministry of Education for the July 2023 round as Head of Pedagogic Affairs Committee in LOPT.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat gave a lecture entitled: “Spinal Manipulation: What You Need to Know” in the 22nd International Conference of the Faculty of Physical therapy – Cairo University organized by the Faculty of Physical Therapy – Cairo University. -Grand Nile - July 28-29, 2023.
- Dr. Rami Abbas participated in Awareness Campaign (MOVE TO IMPROVE – CHRONIC DISEASES) organized by Lebanese Order of Physiotherapists in Lebanon in collaboration with BAU alumni in Saida Municipality – Lebanon. September 23rd, 2023.

- Prof. Ibtissam Saab participated in the meeting with the external audit organized by the Ministry of Higher Education in UAE for the national accreditation of Gulf Medical University on September 5-2023.
- Dr. Diana Khanji participated in the event “Celebration of World’s Diabetes Day” organized by Faculty of Health Sciences – Beirut Arab University. November 28th, 2023.
- Dr. Ayman Khatib participated in OMT Beirut Marathon organized by the "Beirut Marathon Association" as medical team. November 12th, 2023.
- Dr. Rami Abbas organized and participated in three workshops “Basic Dry Needling Course” in collaboration with the CCPE - BAU in PTOC on January 18-19, 24-25, and 26-27, 2024.
- Dr. Ayman Khatib participated in the training workshop (Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education), part of a series of four training workshops, organized by Higher Education Capacity Development (HECD) Program in collaboration with the USAID at USEK University on September 19-20, November 30th, 2023 and January 25th, 2024. The fourth workshop will be held on April 4th, 2024.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat participated in the 4th International Physical Therapy Conference in South Valley University - Qena, Egypt sharing a poster entitled: Assessing Quadriceps Torque and Lower Extremity Function in Women with Early Degrees of Knee Osteoarthritis: A Correlative Study and giving a lecture entitled: Anterior Knee Pain Dilemma. February 14-15, 2024
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat organized two workshops of Spinal Manipulation - in collaboration with the CCPE - BAU in PTOC February 9-11, and 16-18, 2024.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat organized a research day for the postgraduate students, where they present their research in 3 minutes by the scientific Committee at Faculty of Health Sciences on February 2nd, 2024.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat attended a scientific webinar delivered by Dr. Georg Supp, an expert from McKenzie International Institute, organized by the department of physiotherapy at the University of Sharjah on Mar 6, 2024.
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab and Dr. Rami Abbas engaged in the productive discussions with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team concerning the integration of early rehabilitation following various medical emergencies, including fracture stabilization, spinal cord injuries, burn injuries, amputation, traumatic brain injuries, and peripheral nerve injuries.
- Dr. Hussein Abu Yassine was assigned as a board member of the Lebanese Order of Physical Therapy-Secretary of Pedagogic Affairs.
- Prof. Ibtissam M. Saab, head of Physical Therapy department has been chosen as a member in both the accreditation and the educational committees at “World Physiotherapy” until 2026.
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab, and Dr. Rami Abbas were assigned as members in the reviewer board of the “Delta University Scientific Journal”.
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab was assigned as a member in the advisory committee of Gulf Medical University.
- Prof. Ibtissam Saab was selected member as a part in a focus group for the evaluation of World Physiotherapy Congress 2023.

- Prof. Ibtissam Saab, Dr. Ayman Khatib, and Dr. Rami Abbas were assigned as members of the editorial board of Benha International Journal of Physical Therapy.
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat was assigned as an associate member in the International Headache Society (HIS: an international professional organization working with others for the benefit of people affected by headache disorders).
- Dr. Ayman Khatib has joined the Facebook team of World Physiotherapy Network for Physiotherapist Educators (PTE) as moderator.
- Dr. Hussein Abu Yassine participated in the meeting with the General Director of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education as the Secretary of Pedagogic Affairs at the Lebanese Order of Physical Therapists (LOPT). The purpose of the meeting was to review and amend the guidelines for the national colloquium examination for physical therapy in Lebanon.
- Collaboration with the ICRC in Organisation and delivery of a RAMP training “Rehabilitation for persons with lower limb AMPutation course [RAMP]” for the 4th level physical therapy students– FHS – BAU. APRIL 15-19-2024
- Collaboration with the Physical Therapy Department-School of rehabilitation Sciences- University of Jordan based on the MOU of BAU and UOJ.
- Research collaboration with Department of Exercise & Health Sciences, School of Health, Medical & Applied Sciences, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia

Scientific research activities:

- Dr. Rami Abbas, Dr. Ayman Khatib , Dr. Ahmad Melhat, and Dr. Ibtissam Saab published a paper titled: Effect of Adding Virtual Reality Training to Traditional Exercise Program on Pain, Mental Status and Psychological Status in Unilateral Traumatic Lower Limb Amputees: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Games for Health Journal. (2024).
- Dr. Rami Abbas, Dr. Ayman Khatib , Dr. Ahmad Melhat, and Dr. Ibtissam Saab published a paper titled: Effect of adding thoracic manipulation for the management of patients with adhesive capsulitis: a randomized clinical trial. Physiother Theory Pract. (2024).
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat, published a paper titled: Non-Surgical Approaches to the Management of Lumbar Disc Herniation Associated with Radiculopathy: A Narrative Review. Journal of Clinical Medicine. (2024).
- Dr. Ahmad Melhat, published a paper titled: Is there a subgroup of females with patellofemoral pain syndrome likely to benefit from proximal control exercises? Physiotherapy Quarterly. (2024).

Nutrition and Dietetic Department

- Dr. Nada El Darra, Associate Professor of Food Safety & Technology at BAU, and member in charge of the innovation working group of AGYA “Arab-German Young Academy of Science and Humanities” has attended a workshop entitled “Smart and Sustainable Cities” in Hamburg, Germany on 6-7th July 2023.
- Dr. Nada El Darra has participated as a panelist in a round table about the valorization of food waste, organized by Arc-en-Ciel on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.
- Dr. Dima Kreidieh has participated in the “International NASH Day” conference organized by the Dialeb by delivering a lecture entitled “Connecting the dots: the link between Obesity, Insulin resistance, and NASH” on June 14, 2023, at AUB (Issam Fares Auditorium).
- Ms. Hanna El Tannir, Lecturer in the Nutrition and Dietetics department, has participated in the Agri-food Innovation Hub (AIH) organized by the Arc-en-Ciel Association in the Damour-Chouf region, on 13th of July 2023.
- Ms. Hanna El Tannir has re-initiated the Nutrition Student’s Society (BAU-NSS) for the academic year 2023-2024. Members were selected based on their GPA.
- Dr. Leila Itani, Assistant Professor of Nutrition at BAU, served as a member of the scientific jury committee of the Shoman Arab Researcher Award on, the 4th of October 2023.
- As part of the department's community service goal, Dr. Nada EL DARRA and Dr. Dima Kreidieh delivered a food safety and nutrition talk to secondary-level students at SMOC “Saint Mary's Orthodox College” School on Friday, October 27, 2023.
- The maternal child Unit is to be initiated as part of the weight management clinic under the supervision of Dr. Leila Itani.
- Dr. Dima Kreidieh participated in the General Assembly of the Lebanese Order of Dietitians on Friday, November 24, 2023, held in the MEA building.
- Dr. Dima Kreidieh delivered a talk entitled “AI and Nutrition” in the winter school organized by Dr. El Darra and Dr. Al Barqouni on December 15, 2023, in Germany.
- Dr. Dima Kreidieh delivered a workshop entitled “Lifestyle consideration during preconception, pregnancy and post-partum for well-being and mental health” as LOD representative with the collaboration of UNFPA and the Ministry of Health on December 15, 2023.
- Dr. Nada Darra in collaboration with the Professor of Computer Science at Uni/Hospital Bonn Shadi N AlBarqouni conducted an AI Autumn School, in Bonn Germany from 14 to 18 of December 2023, within the framework of DAAD Ta’ziz Short Measures Grant entitled "Affordable Collaborative Learning for Global Digital Health (EEDA)". The Lebanese delegation, who has been hosted by Albarqouni Lab, comprised 5 faculty staff, including professors and university management, alongside 20 graduates and undergraduate students from top universities in Lebanon. The participants engaged in a holistic learning experience, seamlessly blending cutting-edge AI advancements with diverse disciplines.

- Dr. Nada EL DARRA organized a practical training entitled “Improving Academic and Professional Skills and Getting Ready for the Job Market Workshop” in Collaboration with the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) to senior students and alumni delivered by Dr. Hassan Chaker that took place on 11th and 12th January 2024. Certificates were distributed to all participants.
- Mrs. Hana El Tannir participated in the ‘Online Training in Research Methodology’ organized by ‘L’Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie au Moyen-Orient’ (AUF) and CNRS-L. This training is scheduled from January 22 to March 1st, 2024, and it aims to allow the acquisition of skills and tools necessary to conduct research in a methodical and valuable way.
- Dr. Nada EL Darra delivered a virtual talk entitled "From Farm to Fork: Harnessing the Power of AI for Ensuring Food Safety and Quality" for the faculty of the department at the University of Bonn on Monday 29, 2024, at 6:00 pm.
- As a member in charge of the group Health and Society, Dr. El Darra has chaired many sessions in the medical waste management conference towards a sustainable approach that took place in Cairo on 5 and 6 February. During the conference, Dr. El Darra presented AGYA activities for the group Health and Society.
- Dr. Leila Itani delivered a virtual lecture on “search strategies on Systematic Review” for medical students (endocrinologists) in Modena, Italy.
- Dr. Leila Itani, from the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics of the Faculty of Health Sciences, participated in the “ERASMUS + staff teaching mobility” by delivering two lectures at the University of Pavia (Italy) – Department of Public Health, Experimental and Forensic Medicine – Laboratory of Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition. Two lectures were delivered to the 2nd level master’s degree in "Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition” on March 21st and 22nd 2024.
- Dr. Leila Itani participated as a keynote speaker in the Winter School event at the University of Pavia entitled: “Measuring Health and Nutrition Transition Considering the Role of Pollution and Biodiversity”.
- Dr. Leila Itani delivered on the 18th of March 2024, an invited lecture at the Department of Biomedical, Metabolic, and Neural Sciences – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (main campus) in Italy. The lecture was entitled:” Sustainable Healthy Dietary Patterns” and was attended by Nutrition and Dietetics students and Medical Residents in Food Sciences as well as academic staff and colleagues.
- As a member of the community committee, Mrs. Hana El Tannir assisted in organizing two iftar events at Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, on Sunday, March 24, 2024, for 100 orphans aged between 4 and 6 years old, and at **مؤسسات محمد خالد الاجتماعية** for 100 orphans on Friday March 29, 2024, where fun activities were held at both facilities and meals and gifts were delivered to children.
- As a member of the Students Activities Committee, Mrs. Hana El Tannir assisted in organizing the 'Down Syndrome' event that was held on March 19, 2024, at Ali Rashed Hall.

- Dr. Dima Kreidieh has been selected for the second time as a board member of the Lebanese Order of Dietitians for 2 years. The election of the half-members of the Lebanese Order of Dietitians will be on March 11, 2024.
- On Friday, April 19, 2024, Beirut Arab University hosted an event titled "International Symposium on Obesity: An Update of Evidence from Research to Practice" in collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Dietitians. Prof. Marwan El Ghoch delivered this symposium on obesity with Dr. Hanen Samouda from the Luxembourg Institute of Health and the Director of Education & Learning at the European Coalition for People Living with Obesity (ECPO). The event was organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences at Beirut Arab University in collaboration with the National Order of Dietitians in Lebanon and the participation of President Prof Nahla Hwalla. Certificates were distributed.
- Dr. Leila Itani delivered a lecture on Power Analysis through the “Research empowerment” for FHS Students on Thursday 2 May 2024, at Beirut Arab University.
- Mrs. Hana El Tannir was selected to participate in the atelier ‘Publication Scientifique’ organized by AUF which took place on June 14 and 21, 2024.
- Dr. Nada El Darra has been elected as a member of the LIBNOR technical committee TC 1010 Contaminants in Food.
- Ms. Layan Helmi, PhD Student in Biochemistry- attended a two-day workshop called Idea Lab, organized by the Farah Social Foundation.
- Students of the Department of Nutrition and Food Regulation - Tripoli Branch carried out several projects at Dar Al Zahraa Foundation, under the supervision of their professors Dr. Zeina Al Ali and Dr. Rosie Mitri, which included measuring the height and weight of children residing in the orphanage to assess their growth and preparing a report that includes a follow-up plan for children at risk of stunting. In addition to developing a healthy nutritional menu to be implemented by the food service staff at the orphanage.

Scientific research activities:

- Dr Nada El Darra authored a study “Novel dual-function GC/MS aided ultrasound-assisted hydrodistillation for the valorization of Citrus sinensis by-products: phytochemical analysis and anti-bacterial activities” in Scientific Reports journal, 13 (2023), p. 12547, IF: 4.6.
- Dr. Nada EL DARRA has been awarded a tandem project from the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, entitled “AI-Pomegranate: From Harvest to Health” in collaboration with Prof. Shadi Albarqouni, Professor of Computer Science at Uni/Hospital Bonn. The aim of this project is to develop an easy application facilitating the harvesting of Pomegranate according to phenolic and technological maturity.
- As an outcome of the tandem project entitled “Steam Sterilization of Spices and Herbs and Oil Extraction for Subsequent Food Applications”, Dr. Nada El Darra along with other authors has published a booklet on spices entitled “Spice up your life: When East Meets West, An Aromatic Adventure”.

This booklet takes you on a journey exploring spices and herbs. It includes a visual map showcasing the origin of spices in Southern Asia, and illustrating the historic spice route, mostly by sea through the Arab Peninsula leading to Europe. In this booklet, black pepper, cardamom, turmeric, cinnamon, nutmeg, parsley, mint, basil, thyme, and chamomile were presented along with their history, biological benefits towards health, and the main culinary applications in Lebanon and Germany.

- Dr. EL DARRA has been awarded from AGYA in collaboration with Dr. Shimaa Eissa from Khalifa University, UAE and Dr. Peter Konerding, University of Munster from Germany a tandem project (15 000 Euros) fund entitled “Development of a Multiplexed Biosensing Platform for the detection of Organophosphate Pesticide Residues in Food Matrices”.
- Dr. Nada EL DARRA with co-authors from LAU and AUB have published a paper entitled "Assessment of mycotoxins in cornflakes marketed in Lebanon" in Scientific Reports, Q1, IF=4.6. This study was featured in Al Nahar Newspaper. <https://www.annahar.com/293903>.
- In the framework of the collaboration between Dr. Nada EL DARRA and Dr. Nisreen Alwan from ADU, an MOU was signed between the BAU president and the Chancellor of ADU to encourage research collaboration between the two Institutions.
- Dr. Nada EL DARRA was awarded a grant with Dr. Mohamad ALHAMDANI German member on a tandem project entitled ‘Investigating the Bioactive Properties of Natural Products of GCC Origin – Part XI-A: Palm Tree (Phoenix Dactylifera L.)’. From this fund, AGYA covered the publication fees of the paper related to date seeds.
- Dr. EL DARRA published with co-authors and the graduate of the MSc Program in Food Analysis and Safety Ms. Aseel Swaidan a paper entitled ‘Evaluation of the Phenolic Composition and Biological Activities of Six Aqueous Date (Phoenix dactylifera L.) Seeds Extracts Originating from Different Countries: A Comparative Analysis” in Foods, MDPI, Q1, IF=5.561. Aseel Swaidan, Bilal Azakir, Suzanne Neugart, Naim Kattour, Elie Sokhn, Tareq Ossaili, Nada El Darra.
- Dr. EL DARRA has published a paper entitled ": “Evaluation of Synergistic/Antagonistic Antibacterial Activities of Fatty Oils from Apricot, Date, Grape, and Black Seeds' in Scientific report, Q1 journal, IF = 4.9. It is to be noted that this work is the outcome of the thesis of Ms. Farah Joujou supervised by EL DARRA and Dr. Elie Sokhn.
- Dr. Zeina El-Ali and Dr. Rosy Mitri published a paper entitled “Association between Dietary Inflammatory Index and Sleep Quality among Lebanese University Students” in the journal, Sleep Health, Q3.
- Dr. Leila Itani published a paper entitled: “An overview of the nutritional status of childbearing age women, children, and adolescents living in a rural area of Madagascar: preliminary results of the Tany Vao project” Q2, IF=3.2.
- Dr. Leila Itani published a paper entitled:” The Association between Obesity and Reduced Weight-Adjusted Bone Mineral Content in Older Adults: A New Paradigm That Contrasts with the Obesity Paradox”, Q1, IF=5.9.

- Researchers from the nutrition department published a paper entitled “Association between Dietary Practice and Gait Speed in Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Overweight and Obesity: A Cross-Sectional Study”. Leila Itani , Massimo Pellegrini , Dana Saadeddine, Hanen Samouda , Dima Kreidieh, Hana Tannir and Marwan El Ghoch. It is a collaboration between the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy), Luxembourg Institute Health (Luxembourg), and Beirut Arab University (Lebanon) about the link between dietary practices and walking speed in elderly adults with overweight and obesity. Published in diseases journal. Impact factor 3.7. Date: March 8, 2024.
- Mrs. Hana El Tannir published a paper titled ‘Optimization of Aqueous Extraction of Polyphenols from Cuminum cyminum Seeds Using Response Surface Methodology and Assessment of Biological Activity" in Biotech Journal, MDPI (Q2) under the supervision of Dr. Nada El Darra and funded by the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA).
- Dr. Nada El Darra was awarded a grant with Prof. Shadi Albarqouni, Bonn University, Germany: Unleashing the Power of AI for Predicting Technological Maturity of Pomegranates, value: 20,000 EUR, AGYA tandem project.
- A research paper was published in collaboration with researchers from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of South Carolina, US. Please find below the citation: El-Ali, Z., Hebert, J. R., Wirth, M. D., & Mitri, R. (2024). Association between the Dietary Inflammatory Index and Sleep Quality among Lebanese University Students. Sleep Science. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0044-1780501> (Q3).
- Dr. Nada El Darra, chairperson of the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Professor Nicolas Louka, director of the Centre for Analysis and Research of the Faculty of Science at USJ, and Ms. Layan Helmi, PhD student at BAU have been awarded a grant of up to \$1500 through their participation in Idea Lab to fund their startup idea. The startup named 'BioSprout Solution' innovates the valorization of potato peels to get a natural sprout inhibitor to replace synthetic chemicals. This project is part of the initiative launched by Berytech funded by the Embassy of Netherlands in Lebanon.
- Dr. Itani participated in a paper published in nutrient Q1 impact factor 5.7 entitled “The Association between Sarcopenic Obesity and DXA-Derived Visceral Adipose Tissue (VAT) in Adults”. The work was done in collaboration with the University of Modena and the University of Tor Vergata Rome /Italy.
- Under the supervision of Dr. Nada EL DARRA, Mrs. Hana El Tannir published a paper titled "Microbial Decontamination of Cuminum cyminum Seeds Using "Intensification of Vaporization by Decompression to the Vacuum": Effect on Color Parameters and Essential Oil Profile" in Foods as part of the Special Issue Pathogens and Spoilage Microorganisms-Impact on Food Safety and Quality. The work was funded by the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities.Q1, IF:4.7.

- Dr. Nada El Darra published a paper titled "Quality and safety of cheese shipped to the UAE", conducted in collaboration with Dubai Municipality and the University of Sharjah is now out in the Journal of Food Production, Processing, and Nutrition (Springer, Q1, IF=4). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s43014-024-00232-w>.
- Ms. Salma Khazaal- PhD Student in Biochemistry- has published a paper under the supervision of Dr. Nada El Darra entitled “Valorization of Sesame Seed Coat Waste: Phenolic Composition, Antibacterial Efficacy, and Nanoemulsion Encapsulation for Food Preservation”- “Salma Khazaal, Mahmoud I.Khalil, Tareq M.Osaili, Borhan Albiss, Anas A. Al-Nabulsi, Nicolas Louka and Nada El Darra” in Frontiers in Nutrition, Q1, IF=4.0.
- Dr. Rosi Mitri published a paper titled: “Determinants of health-related quality of life among adolescents: The role of the Mediterranean diet”. *Revue d'Épidémiologie et de Santé Publique*. (2023)
- Dr. Rosi Mitri and Dr. Zeina Al Ali published a paper titled: “Association between the dietary inflammatory index and sleep quality among Lebanese university students”. *Sleep Science*. (2024).
- Dr. Rosi Mitri published a paper titled: “Recent Data Characterizing the Prevalence and Resistance Patterns of FimH-producing Uropathogenic Escherichia coli Isolated from Patients with Urinary Tract Infections in North Lebanon”. *Archives of Clinical Infectious Diseases*. (2023).

Tripoli:

- Dr. Nisreen Bisar presented a workshop entitled “Team-Based learning; an effective tool for student engagement” as part of the University’s Quality Assurance Center activities series (February 2024).
- The faculty organized an iftar to honor the healthcare workers from North Lebanon who served the sector for more than 35 years (March 2024).
- The faculty organized a conference entitled “Insights into Geriatric Care and Healthy Ageing,” in collaboration with the Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing and the International Institute on Ageing (April 2024).
- The FHS participated in the organization of the Medical and Dental Examination campaign in Mina Municipality, along with the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry. FHS offered lab blood glucose, HbA1C, and lipid profile tests in addition to data collection and vital signs (December 2023).
- The faculty was involved in a community service activity scheduled in collaboration with DiaLeb, Global Liver Institute, Makarem NGO, and Tripoli Municipality (May 2024).

Notable scholarship & creative activities, and notable student accomplishments (significant scientific & extra-curricular activities, awards, etc...).

- Graduating nursing student Rayyan Hassan received the Lion's Club excellence based on her high academic achievement, leadership and professionalism (June 2024)
- The Research Committee at the Faculty of Health Sciences held its third 3MT competition for the masters' students of different departments of the faculty. The successful event was branded by the University of Queensland's 3MT logo. The event included 25 students who competed with their fellow students in the same department and the winner was awarded a trophy indicating their success. The audience also contributed by voting for their favorite contestant, all participants were awarded with a certificate of participation and the winner was awarded with the "People's Choice Award". The students who were awarded are Ms. Nour Abel El Klash from the food analysis and safety department and Ms. Hajar Khaled Hussein from the science in Nutrition Department.
- Ms. Layan Helmi, PhD Student, was selected by Arcenciel for the competition that aims for sustainable agriculture and environment. Arc en ciel funded 400\$ for heavy metals testing.
- Dr. Nada EL Darra supervised a group of students who won second place in the sector of Research and Innovation in the 18th edition of the IBDA competition on April 25, 2024.

IV. APPENDICES.



EEDA Autumn School on AI in Germany.



Nutrition talks to secondary-level students at SMOC

"Saint Mary's Orthodox College" School on Friday, October 27, 2023.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON OBESITY:
AN UPDATE OF EVIDENCE FROM RESEARCH
TO PRACTICE



ERASMUS + staff teaching mobility
by delivering two lectures at the
University of Pavia (Italy)



جامعة بيروت العربية
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

International Relations Office



Dr. Fatima Saleh

Head of Medical Laboratory
Technology Department

Dr. Fatima Saleh was granted a teaching mobility scholarship within the JAMIES Project International Credit Mobility Erasmus+ Programme to visit the University of Minho in Portugal.

During her stay from February 26th to March 1st, she had the opportunity to deliver lectures on Pharmacology & Toxicology to Biochemistry and Applied Biology students.

Dr. Saleh chose to use Team-Based Learning (TBL) and Case-based Learning (CBL) as teaching methodologies for her lectures and thus created an interactive and engaging learning environment that promoted active participation, collaboration, and critical thinking among the students.

Dr. Saleh also met Faculty members to explore potential collaboration opportunities.

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Faculty of Health Sciences

Mobility to

University of Minho
Portugal

SPRING SEMESTER 2023-2024

High-Level Scientific Stays Scholarship Program SSHN24 at Institut de
Recherche en Cancérologie de Montpellier



Cervical Cancer awareness event



جامعة بيروت العربية
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Health Sciences

Cervical Cancer Prevent & Protect

Speaker

Dr. Manal Hubeish

Laparoscopic gynecologist , CMC hospital

Wednesday, 31st January

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Ali Rached Hall

Contact. Dr.Fatima Saleh | f.saleh@bau.edu.lb



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Launching of the new joint program, Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine



KSAPT24/ Arab Toxicology Competition



Three Minute Thesis Competition



Real-time and conventional PCR hands-on training for molecular diagnosis



"AI for Global Health Innovation" conference



BLS training at the Antonin International School



**Iftar with Mohammad Khaled Foundations
and Dar Al Aytam**

Teddy Bear Activity at BMC



Lion's Club Awards

