



2024

Middle East Biomarkers Days

Molecular Biomarkers in Immuno-Oncology
& Hematology

10-11 MAY 2024

Saint Joseph University Hospital

PROGRAM - Friday 10 May 2024

Molecular Biomarkers in Hematology

14:00 – 14:45 Registration

14:45 – 15:00 Welcome and Introduction

ADC Educational Session*

Moderators: Pr. Nizar BITAR, Dr. Joseph MAKDESSI, Dr. Firas KREIDIEH

15:00 – 15:40 Antibody-Drug Conjugates for the Treatment of Solid Cancers Dr. Ahmad AWADA

15:40 – 16:00 ADC in DLBCL : what's new? Dr. Hampig Raphael KOURIE

16:00 – 16:15 Discussion

Moderators: Pr. Fady NASR, Dr. Kayane MHEIDLly

16:15 – 16:35 Impact of Biomarkers on the Outcome of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia in the Era of Targeted Therapies Dr. Fadi HADDAD

16:35 – 17:15 Living Ahead of the Curve with Imbruvica Dr. Marcel MASSOUD
Janssen Symposium

17:05 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 18:00 Biosimilars vs Biocopies and Rixathon Clinical Trials Dr. Jad WAKIM
Sandoz Symposium

Moderators: Dr. Iman ABOU DALLE, Dr. Ahmad IBRAHIM, Dr. Abir AHMADIEH

18:00 – 18:20 When to Use Bispecific T-Cell Engagers in Multiple Myeloma? Dr. Nizar BAHLIS

18:20 – 18:50 MENIN-Inhibitors a Revolution in the Management of Leukemias Dr. Ghayas ISSA

18:50 – 19:30 Redefining Treatment in Frontline Multiple Myeloma Dr. Jad WAKIM
Janssen Symposium

PROGRAM - Saturday 11 May 2024

Biomarkers in Molecular and Immune-Oncology

ADC Educational Session*

Moderator: Dr. Anthony SAROUFIM, Dr. Georges EL HACHEM

9:30 – 9:50 ADC in Advanced Bladder Cancer:
The Model of Enfortumab Vedotin Dr. Hampig Raphael
KOURIE

9:50 – 10:20 ADC in Advanced HER2+ Breast and Gastric Cancers:
The Model of Trastuzumab- Deruxtecan Dr. Roland EID

10:20 – 10:50 Are We Going to Crown a New Victory for the
Treatment of Patients with ALK+ NSCLC?
Pfizer Symposium Pr. Joseph KATTAN

10:50 – 11:10 Coffee Break

11:10 – 11:40 Xtandi in the treatment of mHSPC
Mersaco-Astellas Symposium Dr. Maroun SADEK

11:40 – 12:10 Novel Treatment Paradigms in NSCLC EGFR
Mutated Patients
Janssen Symposium Pr. Marwan GHOSN

Moderator: Dr. Sally TEMRAZ

12:10 – 12:30 Targeting FGFR in Cholangiocarcinoma,
Bladder Cancer and Beyond Dr. Natasha NAOUN

Moderators: Dr. Toufic KIKANO, Dr. Maha MANACHI

12:30 – 12:50 The Optimum Testing Modalities for the Detection
of Biomarkers in NSCLC in Lebanon Pr. Rami MAHFOUZ

12:50 – 13:10 Updates on the Treatment of Oncogenic-driven
NSCLC in 2024 Dr. Hampig Raphael
KOURIE

13:10 – 14:00 Round Table Discussion: Biomarkers Testing in NSCLC: How Can We Offer the Best for Our Patients?

Moderators: Pr. Moussa RIACHY, Pr. Fady FARHAT

Pr. Rami MAHFOUZ, Dr. Carole KESROUANI, Dr. Alain CHEBLY, Dr. Dany JAMAL,
Dr. Nathalie MAHFOUD, Dr. Hampig Raphael KOURIE

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

PROGRAM - Saturday 11 May 2024

Biomarkers in Molecular and Immune-Oncology

15:00 – 16:00	Oral Presentations on Biomarkers <i>Jury Members: Dr. Alain DAHER, Dr. Maroun SADEK, Dr. Georges EL HACHEM, Dr. Rachelle EL FERKH, Dr. Layal HALABY, Dr. Charbel KHALIL, Dr. Jad GHADDAR</i>	
15:00 – 15:08	Most Prevalent Colorectal Cancer Germline Mutations Found in Lynch Syndrome in a Lebanese Population	Karl ABOU ZEID
15:08 – 15:16	Tumor Mutational Burden: Why Is It Still a Controversial Biomarker?	Antoine CHARTOUNI
15:16 – 15:24	Unlocking Hope: Anti-VEGFR Inhibitors and Their Potential in Glioblastoma Treatment	Ahmad ASSI
15:24 – 15:32	The Tip of the Iceberg: Exploring the Depths of ctDNA and Inflammatory Biomarkers in Pancreatic Cancer	Fouad ATTIEH
15:32 – 15:40	The Current Prevalence of Gene Fusions Involved in Lung Adenocarcinoma: A Prospective Study at Hotel Dieu de France	Albert RIACHY
15:40 – 15:48	Unveiling the Hidden Burden: A 5-Year Retrospective Analysis of Double-Hit Lymphoma in Lebanese Patients	Maria HACHEM
15:48 – 15:56	The RAS Status Change in mCRC after progression on the First-Line Therapy Using the Idylla RT- PCR Platform	Joseph ZOUEIN
15:56 – 16:04	EGFR Mutations in a Syrian Population with NSCLC	Mousa Ali
16:04 – 16:15	Closing Remarks and Prize Distribution	



Dr. Hampig Raphael KOURIE

*Assistant Professor
Hematology-Oncology Department
Faculty of Medicine
Saint Joseph University, Lebanon*



Hampig Raphael Kourie gained his medical doctor degree from the Faculty of Medicine of Saint Joseph University in Beirut Lebanon in 2010. He started his fellowship in Hôtel-Dieu de France, Saint Joseph University hospital in Beirut, Lebanon and he continued his medical oncology fellowship in Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels, Belgium from 2014 to 2016. Since September 2016, he worked in the digestive oncology department in Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou (HEGP) in Paris as a researcher in the Association des Gastro-entérologues Oncologues en France (AGEO). He is also certified from Paris Diderot and Paris Descartes universities in hereditary cancers and digestive oncology. He gained his PhD in genetics from Saint Joseph University of Beirut in 2023 and his MEMS from ESA business school in 2023. He is practicing as a hematologist-oncologist in Hôtel Dieu de France, Hôpital Saint Joseph des Soeurs de la Croix, and Bellevue Medical Center. He is actually an ESMO Faculty in the colorectal cancer group. He founded and directed the Middle East Biomarkers course and the Middle East and North Africa GI Oncology Summit. He has more than 180 peer-reviewed articles, mainly in immunotherapy, oncogenomics, and digestive oncology fields.





Dr. Ahmad AWADA

*Head of the Oncology Medicine Department
Jules Bordet Cancer Institute Brussels, Belgium*



Dr. Ahmad Awada is the Head of the Oncology Medicine Department at Jules Bordet Cancer Institute Brussels, Belgium. He was born in Lebanon and studied Medicine at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium. Dr. Awada did a specialisation in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology at Jules Bordet Institute, in Brussels, until 1992. During his specialisation, he also followed trainings in the clinical development of new anticancer drugs. As a research fellow, he stayed in the Netherlands (New Drug Development Office, Free University, Amsterdam) and in San Antonio, USA (Institute for Drug Development). He focused on the clinical development of new anticancer agents. Back from the USA at the beginning of 1994, Dr. Awada became Assistant Head of the Medical Oncology Clinic, and Head of the New Drugs Development Unit at Jules Bordet Institute, Brussels. Since April 2005, he is the Head of the Medical Oncology Clinic. In July 2017, Dr Awada was appointed Head of Oncology Medicine Department at Jules Bordet Institute. He will begin a new chapter by becoming Head of Oncology Department for the entire CHIREC sites (Brussels and Walloon Brabant in Belgium), and Director of the CHIREC Cancer Institute from May 2nd, 2024. He has an important clinical activity in the treatment of solid tumours and in particular breast cancer. Dr Awada took an active part in the development of new drugs (cytotoxics, molecular-targeted therapies, immunotherapy), some of them already widely used. Dr Awada is member of several international scientific societies (ASCO, EORTC, ESMO, BSMO), Professor of Clinical Medicine and Medical Oncology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and he is also co-founder of Oncodistinct network for oncology research. He is Chair of the ESMO/ASCO Global Curriculum Working Group. He was previously a member of the ESMO Clinical Research Observatory Task Force and the Faculty Coordinator for the ESMO Faculty Group Principles of Clinical Trials and Systemic Therapy. He has published 32 book chapters and 397 peer-reviewed articles in international publications.



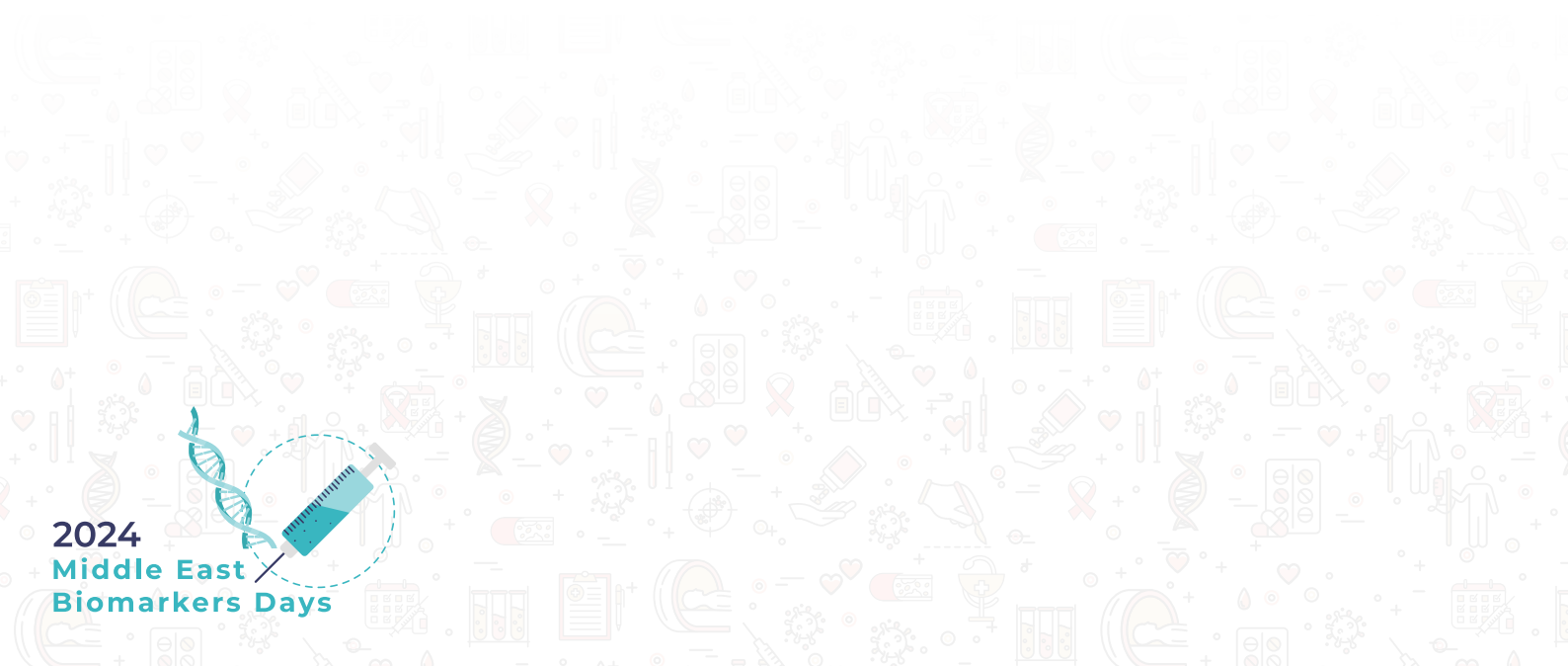


Dr. Fadi HADDAD

*Assistant Professor
Department of Leukemia
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA*



Dr. Fadi Haddad completed a Hematology and Oncology fellowship at the Hotel-Dieu de France University Hospital, affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. He then pursued a 2-year Leukemia fellowship at The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, and is currently serving as Assistant Professor in the Department. He's a co-author of around 60 peer-reviewed publications in various fields of hematology and oncology, along with many abstracts and posters presented at national and international meetings.





Dr. Marcel MASSOUD

*Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department
Notre Dame des Secours University Hospital, Lebanon*



Dr. Marcel Massoud is currently the head of the Hematology-Oncology Department at Notre Dame des Secours University Hospital, Lebanon. He is an Associate Professor at the School of Medicine and Medical Sciences of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, USEK, Lebanon, and coordinator of the oncology program. Dr. Massoud is the author and co-author of several scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals, his main research interests include breast, colorectal cancer and lymphoma. He received his degree in Hematology and Oncology from the Lebanese University in 2004 and then acquired a degree in Clinical Oncology and Clinical Hematology respectively from the University of Paris Sud and Pierre et Marie Curie, France. Dr. Massoud completed his training in Oncology at the Institute Gustave-Roussy, France. He earned an MBA degree in the management of health and hospital administration in 2012 from the University Denis Diderot, France. Dr. Massoud served as an elected member of the board of the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology. Currently, he is an active member of numerous national and international societies such as the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the European Society of Hematology, the European Society of Medical Oncology, and the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology.



Dr. Jad WAKIM

*Hematologist - Oncologist
Hotel Dieu de France, Lebanon*



Dr. Jad Wakim is a Hematologist Oncologist at Hotel Dieu de France, Clemenceau Medical Center and Bellevue Medical Center, Lebanon. He is also a Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon. Dr. Wakim was the Medical Director, of Sweetwater Regional Cancer Center, an Affiliate of Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah, NCI Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA. He is the author of several scientific publications and participated in many international congresses. Dr. Wakim received his Medical Degree from the Faculty of Medicine, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon and his fellowship in Hematology Oncology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Division of Hematology-Oncology/Harold Simmons NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA. He is member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and of the American Society of Hematology (ASH).





Dr. Nizar BAHLLIS

*Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation
University of Calgary, Canada*



Dr. Nizar Bahlis is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary in the division of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation and a member of the Charbonneau Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Bahlis received his medical degree in 1995 from St Joseph University - French Faculty of Medicine in Beirut. He then completed his internal Medicine residency at the State University of New York in Syracuse followed by a Hematology-Oncology fellowship at the University of Miami, Florida. Dr. Bahlis also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer biology at the University of Miami under the mentorship of Dr. Lawrence Boise. Dr. Bahlis' clinical and laboratory research focus on the study of plasma cell dyscrasia, with particular interest in multiple myeloma genomics, single cell immune profiling and the development of novel therapeutics. He has received several awards and research funding from numerous agencies including the ASCO young investigator award, the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada, Alberta Cancer Foundation, the National Institute of Health, the Terry Fox Foundations and the Canadian Institute of Health and Research (CIHR). His research work was published in many peer-reviewed journals including New England Journal of Medicine, Blood, JCO, Leukemia, Molecular Cancer Research and Clinical Cancer Research. Dr Bahlis also served on the editorial board for the journal Blood and on the review panels of several national and international funding agencies. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and served on the ASH plasma cell dyscrasia scientific panel and is a current member of the international myeloma society (IMS) education panel.





Dr. Ghayas ISSA

*Clinical Investigator
Department of Leukemia
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA*



Dr. Ghayas Issa is a clinical investigator in the Department of Leukemia at MD Anderson. He conducts translational research in the Departments of Leukemia and Genomic Medicine at MD Anderson. His research involves analysis of leukemia genetics in order to better understand therapeutic vulnerabilities, causes of progression and response to treatment. Through an improved understanding of leukemia underpinnings, he aims to develop safe and effective novel therapies. He received his MD from the Saint Joseph University Faculty of Medicine, Beirut. He previously trained at the laboratory of Dr. James Bradner at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and completed his fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at MD Anderson. His current clinical investigation efforts have been focused on the development of menin inhibitors, a novel class of targeted therapy for acute leukemia. He is Principal Investigator on multi-institutional clinical trials of menin inhibitors including multiple investigator-initiated studies. He is developing a precision medicine program for acute leukemias susceptible to menin inhibition including biomarker identification, MRD assay development, elucidation of response and resistance mechanisms to this novel therapy, and development of rational therapeutic combinations. He has received numerous awards including the American Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator award, The Translational Research Training in Hematology Award from the American Society of Hematology and the European Hematology Association, and the Paul Calabresi Clinical Oncology Award (K12).





Dr. Roland EID

*Hematologist - Oncologist
Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, France*



Dr. Roland Eid is a medical Hematologist – Oncologist and is currently working on a research project in the field of gastrointestinal cancers at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, France as part of a European University Diploma in Translational and Clinical Research in Oncology issued by Paris Saclay University, France. He gained his Medical Doctor degree from the Faculty of Medicine of Saint Joseph University, Lebanon in 2015. He began his fellowship at Hôtel-Dieu de France University Hospital, Lebanon and finished it at Gustave Roussy, France. He also obtained a Diploma of Specialized Medical Training in medical oncology from the Sorbonne University in France. In addition, Dr. Eid acquired a master's degree in Biological and Medical Sciences from Saint Joseph University, a master's degree in Methodology and Statistics in Biomedical Research from Paris Saclay University, and a University Diploma in Clinical Carcinology from the latter university. He has authored and co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed articles.





Pr. Joseph KATTAN

*Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department
Faculty of Medicine
Saint Joseph University, Lebanon*



Pr. Joseph Kattan is currently the Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department at The Faculty of Medicine, Saint-Joseph University, Lebanon and the former Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department at Hôtel-Dieu de France University Hospital (HDF), Lebanon from 2014 till 2022. He is a full professor, the president of the Continuous Medical Education office (CME) at Saint Joseph University-Faculty of medicine, and the secretary of the Cancer Research Group (CRG) in Lebanon. He is also responsible for many courses and programs in this field at Saint Joseph University, Lebanon and previously at Paris XI University, France. He is the founder of the teaching tool of “learning by debate” and of the “FRON” (the regional research competition in oncology). Pr. Kattan was formerly the Head of Hematology- Oncology Department of the Saint Joseph Hospital- Raymond and Aida Najjar Medical Center, Lebanon from 1994 till 2014. He is the author of more than 350 peer reviewed articles in many international journals focusing on pharmacology, drug development, genito-urinary, gastro-intestinal oncology, gynecology, intensified therapy, supportive and palliative care. Pr. Kattan earned his Medical Degree in 1986, and then started his five-year training in 1988 at Gustave-Roussy Institute, France. After which, He completed his specializations in Oncology (1989), Immunology (1991), and in Hematology (1993) from the University of Paris XI, France. Pr. Kattan is a member of many national and international societies (American Society of Clinical Oncology, European Society of Medical Oncology, Multinational Association of supporting care in Cancer, French Cancer Society, European Hematology Association, International society of Geriatric Oncology and Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology) and a principal investigator in numerous regional and multinational clinical trials. He is also a current or former member of the editorial board of many journals (Bulletin du Cancer, Cancer Letter, International Journal of Hematology and Oncology and the Lebanese Medical Journal).





Dr. Maroun SADEK

*Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department
Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui – UMC, Lebanon*



Dr. Maroun Sadek is currently the Head of the Hematology-Oncology Department at the Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui – UMC, Lebanon. He's a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Division of Hematology-Oncology at Mount Lebanon Hospital-Balamand University Medical Center, Lebanon and a Lecturer at the Lebanese University-Faculty of Medical Sciences, Lebanon. Dr. Sadek completed his specialization in Hematology-Oncology at the Lebanese University, Lebanon, and "Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, and his fellowship at "Institut Jules Bordet", Belgium. He is a Member of the European Society of Medical Oncology.





Pr. Marwan GHOSN

*Professor, Hematology-Oncology Department
Faculty of Medicine, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon
Hematologist - Oncologist
Hotel Dieu de France
Clemenceau Medical Center*

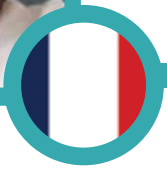


Pr. Marwan Ghosn acquired his medical degree and his post graduate expertise in Hematology and Oncology from Saint-Joseph University, Faculty of Medicine, in Beirut, Lebanon as well as from the University of Paris XI – Kremlin- Bicêtre and Institut Gustave, Roussy Cancer Center in Villejuif, France. He acquired a Master in Hospital and Health Management from The Higher School of Business, ESA, in Beirut and a Master in the Quality Management of Units for Care Production (MUPS) from the University of Paris VII, Denis Diderot, and France. He is currently the Director of the Cancer Center and the Head of Hematology & Oncology Division at Clemenceau Medical Center, affiliated with Johns Hopkins International in Beirut. Pr. Ghosn has also served, for more than 12 years, as Chairman of the Hematology-Oncology Department at Hotel-Dieu de France University Hospital in Beirut, where he is continuing his clinical, medical, and research activities. He served as President of the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology (LSMO) and was a member of the Board of the Lebanese Cancer Society (LCS) for many years. He is an active member of several national & international scientific organizations and societies including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), the American Society of Hematology (ASH), The European Hematology Association (EHA), the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) and the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC). He is author and co-author of more than 200 peer-reviewed articles. He also published and gave an extensive number of communications, posters and abstracts at regional and international meetings, as well as several chapters in books in the field of Medical Oncology and Health Care Management. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the “Pan Arab Journal of Oncology” (PAJO) edited by the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer (AMAAC) and has previously served as Editor-in-Chief of the “Cancer Letter” edited by the Lebanese Cancer Society. Pr. Ghosn has special interests in multiple areas including leadership in conducting research and clinical trials in multiple solid tumors. He has expertise in breast cancer, urologic cancers, gastrointestinal tumors, and geriatric oncology domains as well as in patients’ safety and Quality in Healthcare.



Dr. Natasha NAOUN

*Medical Oncologist
Genitourinary Team
Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, France*



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Pr. Rami MAHFOUZ

*Professor, Head of Division of Clinical Pathology
Director of the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
Director of the Residency Training Program
Chair of the Biomedical IRB
Co-Director of the Pillar Genomics Institute
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon*



Earned his medical degree from the American University of Beirut followed by a Clinical Pathology residency and a Fellowship in Molecular Pathology at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee focusing on HLA and molecular diagnostics with special expertise in microarrays and next generation sequencing technology. Pr. is currently a Tenured Professor and Head of Division of Clinical Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at AUBMC and the Director of the Histocompatibility and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Director of the Residency Training Program, CO-Director of the Pillar Genomics Laboratory and Chairman of the Biomedical Institutional Review Board. He is a member of several international and professional societies including the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI), and the American Association of Molecular Pathologists (AMP) where he is serving as the Chairman of its International Affairs Committee. His major research interests include Natural killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptors (KIR) genotyping, HLA associations, and cancer profiling. Pr. Mahfouz has more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals and serves as Associate and Executive editor on several international journals including GENE and FRONTIERS. He won the following international awards: - 2023: Gold Humanism Award - 2023: Elected as Full Member to the Sigma Xi Honorary Research Society - 2022: Ranked 1st in the category of PATHOLOGY SCIENTIST under the AD (AlperDoger) Scientific Index 2022 - 2019: Received the 2019 Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) Meritorious Service Award - 2016: Received the Scientific Excellence Award (Regional) from the 6th International meeting of the United Arab Emirates Genetics Disease Association (UAEGDA)



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