

LGBT Health Week Conference Speaker Biographies



Omar Fattal, MD, MPH, Lebmash Board Member

Dr. Fattal is a 1999 graduate of the American University of Beirut (AUB) Medical School. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from AUB. He completed his residency in Psychiatry at the Cleveland Clinic in 2005. Dr. Fattal is currently the associate director of inpatient psychiatry and the Unit Chief of the Latino Inpatient Psychiatry Unit at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at New York University (NYU). Dr. Fattal is a member of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA). He is a founder and the immediate past

president of the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health (Lebmash).



Nuhad Yazbik Dumit, PhD, RN, President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon

Dr. Dumit earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters in Art, Education Policy and Foundation, at the American University of Beirut in 1980 and 1994 respectively; PhD in Nursing at the University of Colorado Denver, College of Nursing in 2008; and the Global Nursing Leadership certificate by the International Council of Nurses in 2009.

She held several academic and administrative positions and is currently an associate professor of nursing, the convener of the undergraduate program, and the coordinator of the Continuing Education and Off-Shore Program at the American University of Beirut School of Nursing.

She has several funded research projects, related publications and oral presentations in international scientific conferences. The majority of which are by invitation, focusing on nursing workforce issues that aim at creating empirical evidence for improving the profession and its services nation-wide.

She served as a consultant locally and regionally to several higher education institutions related to program and curriculum design and evaluation for the health professions.

In her service as co-director of the Continuing Medical Education Office at the Faculty of Medicine (2011-2015), she led organizing more than 70 CE offerings for all healthcare professionals.

She served in many professional practice trainings and developments for nursing and others, in leadership and management, teaching effectiveness, organizational communication, etc... She was

invited to participate in several stakeholders' dialogues organized by the K2P center at AUB and the Minister of Public Health addressing healthcare issues at a national level.

She is currently the President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, June 2015- June 2018. As president of the Order of Nurses, she spearheaded several national projects naming a few:

1. "Nurses joining efforts in serving Communities in different Districts" for which the Order received the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Innovation Award May 2017.
2. Computerized case-based multiple choice questions colloquium exam.
3. Launching the national capacity building program for nurses.
4. Organization of a joint meeting among the Orders of the healthcare professions in the country, (nurses, physicians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, midwives, dieticians, and syndicate of hospitals) to address challenges encountered in legislation and regulation and come up with recommendations for solutions.
5. Proposing new nursing laws/regulations submitted to the parliament and the council of ministers, concerned with mandatory continuing nursing education; standards and scope of practice of nurses; and accreditation of nursing programs.

She had several honors and awards such as the Maha Khoury Award by the Faculty of Nursing, Universite Saint Joseph (USJ), May 2017; Recognition of Achievement award, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 2017; the TEACHING Excellence Award, AUB, June 2007; Award for "Distinguished Nurse of the Year in Nursing Education" by the Order of Nurses and WHO office In Lebanon, May 12, 2006; and in 1980, Mary Crawford Nightingale Award, American University of Beirut.



Rachel L. Kaplan, PhD, MPH - Assistant Professor,
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences, University of California, San Francisco.
Affiliate Faculty, Center of Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality, San Francisco State University

Dr. Kaplan is trained in Public Health and Social Science with experience in sexual and mental health and HIV prevention and treatment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). With a focus on international HIV prevention among key populations, Dr. Kaplan is interested in the intersections of risk, gender, sexuality, conflict and health in MENA. Having worked on HIV research in the region since 2006, and lived in Lebanon 2009-2010, Dr. Kaplan is Principal Investigator of a National Institute of Mental Health-funded study to determine potential strategies for addressing sexual and mental health risk and resilience among transgender women in Lebanon.



Aimee Karam. *Ph.D, Head of psychology at the Department of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology at St. Georges Hospital, University, Medical Center. Associate Professor, Balamand University Faculty of Medicine. LPA President.*

Dr Aimee Nasser Karam received her Ph.D in Clinical Psychology in 2001 from St. Joseph University Beirut, Lebanon. She has completed her training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy at the Beck Institute for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy in Pennsylvania, (USA) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Cognitive Therapy Studies from Oxford University (UK).

She is working at the Medical Institute for Neuropsychological Disorders (MIND) in the Department of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology at St George Hospital University Medical Center in Beirut, since 1986. She is a researcher and a founding member of IDRAAC (Institute for Development Research, Advocacy and Applied Care) an NGO dedicated to Mental Health, research and education in Lebanon and the Arab World. She is an associate professor at Balamand University, school of Medicine and author of several publications.

She is currently President of the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA).

She is one of the founders, has served as President and is currently a board member of “The Third Voice for Lebanon”, association from the civil society, dedicated to promote citizenship, peacebuilding actions, diversity, dialogue and justice.



Sandrine Atallah, MD, MHM, FECSM, ECPS. *Consultant in Sexual Medicine - Certified Psychosexologist, LebMASH Partner*

Sandrine Atallah graduated as a Medical Doctor from the Saint Joseph medical Faculty (2004). She then obtained her degree in clinical sexology from René Descartes University, Paris V, Faculty of Medicine (2007). She has also qualified as a Fellow of the European Committee of Sexual Medicine (2014). She is a EFS & ESSM Certified Psycho-Sexologist (2016).

Along with her private medical practice in sexology in Beirut at La Clinique du Levant and at AUBMC, she teaches Clinical Sexology at several Lebanese universities (Saint Joseph medical Faculty in Beirut and the Lebanese American University)



Dr. Michael Khoury, MD, MA

Psychotherapist in private practice, counselor and psychosocial support person at AUB (American University of Beirut) and at BALSAM (Lebanese Palliative Care NGO)

Michael Khoury has his academic background in Biology, Medicine (at the American University of Beirut), and psychosocial animation in war-torn societies (at the Lebanese University and with the IOM); and has received training and clinical supervision in four different schools of psychotherapy: CBT, Family and couples systemic, psychoanalytic, and IPT. Since 14 years, he has been extensively involved in providing clinical support to individuals, couples, and families, teaching interpersonal communication skills and social and preventive medicine at the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB, co-authoring book chapters on Arab mental health and social exclusion and inclusion in the Arab world, providing support for the palliative care professional team of BALSAM and their patients and their loved ones (including end-of-life issues, complicated grief, and dignity therapy), counseling scholarship students as part of the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Program, and working as a consultant with different local and international NGOs in Lebanon and the region to provide basic trainings on mental health to health care workers.



Chady Ibrahim, M.D., MSc., LebmASH Partner

Doctor Ibrahim graduated as a Psychiatrist from the St Joseph University Lebanon in 2014. He pursued a fellowship in Clinical sexology at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. Shortly after graduation, he was recruited as junior instructor and visiting lecturer at the faculty in Louvain.

Aside from Clinical practice, Doctor Ibrahim has been working with multiple Non-Profit organizations as a consultant psychiatrist and a certified trainer with the WHO, MhGAP training program. He is also teaching at the faculty of medicine at the Saint Joseph University the faculty of nursing, speech therapy and psychology at the Lebanese University.

He is currently pursuing a Masters in Primary Care Mental Health at the NOVA University in Lisbon-Portugal. He also served as a board member and secretary general of the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health from 2014 to 2017.



Hady Naal, BA, LebMASH Project Manager

Hady Naal has completed his B.A in Psychology at the Lebanese American University, and he is currently enrolled in an M.A program in Clinical Psychology at Haigazian University. Hady has been with LebMASH since 2016 as a project manager. He has worked on the development of LebGUIDE and is currently working on the development of the LGBT Mental Health Training Manual. His interests are in understanding and fostering coping mechanisms with regards to daily stressors.



Eliane Fersan - International Development Strategist. CEO, Global Nexus Solutions

Eliane (Elle) Fersan is an International Development Strategist based in Los Angeles, California.

She consults for Nonprofits, Universities, Governments and International Organizations on fundraising, institutional strengthening, public policy advocacy, strategy building and communications.

She is the CEO of Global Nexus Solutions, President of Lebanon Development Union and founder of several award winning

initiatives in Lebanon and the MENA region.

Elle is an Eisenhower Fellow and Salzburg Global Forum Fellow.

Arab Foundation for Equality (AFE)

Founded in 2009, AFE's goal is to contribute to strengthening the role of LGBT and pro-LGBT civil society and activists who can participate and contribute to the regional LGBT movement, build its capacity to face societal and state homophobia and effectively advocate for the Human Rights of LGBT people, AFE achieves its goals through capacity building, research, media literacy and advocacy.



Representative:



Georges Azzi – AFE Founder of Executive Director

Georges Azzi is a sexual rights activist. He is a co-founder of HELEM, the first LGBT organization in the MENA region; board member and founder of MARSА, a comprehensive sexual health clinic in Beirut, Lebanon; founder and currently executive

director of the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE), based in Lebanon. AFE's mission is to encourage and support activists working for sexual rights and gender equality in the MENA region. The organization works closely with activists across the MENA region. AFE's main activities are in capacity building to support a healthy culture of gender & sexual activism in the Arab world, regional networking, and security and protection, by providing activists with support guides and legal instruments they can use to protect their work. In addition, AFE maintains a resource center, where it conducts research on gender and sexuality across different countries of the MENA region in one online database, accessible for everyone. Mr. Azzi is a Fellow of Salzburg.

Helem

Helem (Lebanese Protection for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Persons) is a Lebanese organization established on September 4th, 2004. Helem focuses its research and programming on individuals and communities with alternative sexualities and gender identity. It welcomes the membership and support of any and all parties who share its values, derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout its years of operation, Helem has managed to positively impact the lives of LGBTQ people living in Lebanon by: a) spreading awareness of LGBTQ rights and sexual health education through grass roots outreach and social media, b) providing constant social support for LGBTQ persons in need, c) intervening to release incarcerated LGBTQ individuals from detention and providing them with free legal representation, d) visibly and vocally advocating for LGBTQ right in the public sphere, e) working to abolish Article 534 of the penal code which criminalizes homosexual relations, and f) creating and maintaining a safe community center in Beirut.



Representative:

غنة سمحات المديرية التنفيذية لجمعية حلم

غنة سمحات ناشطة حقوقية تشغل حالياً منصب المديرية التنفيذية لجمعية حلم. تمركز عملها الحقوقي حول الفئات الأكثر تهديداً (عاملات اجنبيات, اطفال لاجئين, مجتمع الميم) و عملت ضمن برامج حماية و دعم كما برامج مناصرة و تأييد. تحمل ماجستير في الادارة التربوية.



Marsa

Marsa is an independent sexual health center that provides comprehensive, primary and secondary healthcare services with a multidisciplinary team in a safe, welcoming, accessible and friendly environment that is free of judgment and bias, with a focus on more economically disadvantaged populations regardless of their social background or political affiliation.

marsa ●● **مرسى**
sexual health center مركز الصحة الجنسية

Marsa's services include medical, social and psychological consultations as well as awareness campaigns to ensure that information, resources, support, and services of the highest quality regarding sexuality are available and accessible to all those who need them in the community.

Representative:



Diana Abou Abbas - Executive Director at Marsa - Sexual Health Center

Diana is an activist for sexual and bodily rights. She graduated from the Lebanese American University with a degree in Communication Arts, and invested her passion for media in Marsa's promotional videos and awareness campaigns.

MOSAIC

MOSAIC is a holistic program committed to improve the health and wellness of Marginalized group in Lebanon and beyond. Through its national presence in Lebanon and

its regional networks in the MENA region, MOSAIC strategic goal is to achieve the coexistence of people in friendly communities and national systems. Founded by activists and legal and health experts, MOSAIC will provide comprehensive services for the Marginalized groups, research and advocate for policy reform, build knowledge and capacities on SOGI (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity/Role) issues, and engage the societies in the fight against human rights violations, especially against LGBTIQ rights violations.



Representative:



Pascale Kolakez, PhD, Cofounder of Mosaic

Pascale Kolakez is a Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist. She graduated in 2007 with a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology from Université René-Descartes, Paris 5 (France). She is in the process of developing her PhD research on "Transgender Persons: personality stability and change in Lebanon". Her early career years involved working with vulnerable populations in emergencies: displaced persons in 2006, LGBT Iraqi refugees and LGBT Syrian refugees. In 2012, she started working at Marsa - sexual health center, in Beirut. Her main interests are in issues related to gender and sexuality with a focus on transgender individuals. In 2014, she cofounded MOSAIC, the MENA Organization for Services, Advocacy, Integration and Capacity building, a holistic program committed to improve the health and wellness of LGBTIQ persons in Lebanon and beyond. Since September 2015, she is an instructor at the University of Balamand within the Psychology Department. She currently resides in Beirut. She can be contacted at pascalekolakez@gmail.com.

SIDC

Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC) is a local non-governmental not-for-profit organization that was established in 1987 and officially registered 9/AD in 1992. SIDC envisions a Lebanese society in which all individuals, especially vulnerable populations, fulfil their right to health through their active participation in making informed choices, adopting and promoting healthy behaviors and realizing their potentials.



SIDC commits to providing equitable access to healthcare and improve the quality of life of key populations (LGBT, drug users, PLHIV, male and female sex workers, youth at risk) in partnership with them through harm reduction and healthcare services, advocacy, networking, and capacity building for NGOs at the national and regional level. SIDC works on addressing sensitive issues related to drug use, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV/AIDS/STIs, through 1) respecting and protecting Human and Gender Rights, 2) reducing stigma and discrimination, 3) continuum of care and service provision, 4) empowering and engaging key populations, 5) research and development, 6) raising awareness and advocacy, 7) policy and law reform, 8) capacity and skill building at a national and regional level, 9) harm reduction, 10) peer-led outreach activities, and 11) networking and partnerships.

Representative:



Nadia Badran, MSW, President of Social Workers' Syndicate in Lebanon

Ms Nadia Badran is a PHD student, got her Master degree in Counseling and BS in Social work. She is the President of the Social Workers' Syndicate in Lebanon. She is a Program Manager at SIDC a health care association based in Beirut-Lebanon. For the past 20 years, she has been actively engaged at national, regional and international levels in the field of HIV/AIDS HIV/Sexual Health/ Hep B and C/ Harm

Reduction, prevention, treatment, capacity building, researches, empowering of KPs and advocacy for the rights of KPs communities including PLHIV. She initiated the outreach program addressing Key Populations, she started the support groups for PLHIV in Lebanon. She organized and implemented regional program and training workshop in the MENA program addressing various stakeholders including media representatives, religious leaders and police. She is one of the focal points for Harm.

Skoun

Skoun, Lebanese Addiction Center is a non-profit non-governmental Substance Use Treatment organization, founded in 2003 with the aim of improving the response to drug and alcohol related problems in Lebanon through the delivery of evidence based services and the development of effective policies.

Our purpose is to Save Lives through addiction treatment, harm reduction, drug prevention and policy reform. Skoun's outpatient clinics are accessed by hundreds of people struggling with substance use yearly.

Skoun also makes reducing the harms related to substance use among young people a priority, reaching thousands in communities, schools and universities across Lebanon.



Representative:



Nadya Mikdashi - Co-Founder & Director of Skoun Lebanese Addictions Center.

Nadya Mikdashi is the Co-Founder and Director of Skoun Lebanese Addictions Center. She has spent the last 15 years focusing on the intersections of addiction treatment, harm, reduction, human rights and drug policy reform.

The A Project

Officially founded June 2014, The A Project had already been in incubation since early 2013.



THE A PROJECT

AGENCY
AUTONOMY
ALTERNATIVES

The Aproject envisions a society where sexuality and mental health are reclaimed by women and gender non-conforming people, cared for, respected, recognized in their diversities, and not utilized against them.

The Aproject's mission is to create platforms that reaffirm agency and autonomy in sexuality and mental health, while advancing, through practice and theory, a political discourse around sexual, reproductive, and mental health and seeking alternatives to counteract medical patriarchy's restrictive and reductive approaches towards all bodies, especially those of women and gender non-conforming people in Lebanon.

The A project is about seeking agency, alternatives and autonomy in sexuality, sexual health, and gender. The project aims to address people living in Lebanon, young and not so young, through various programs. The project aims to work on sexuality, while looking at but not limiting the discussion to disease-prevention and violence, but also through an affirmative framework. Our sexuality hotline is a politically informative & supportive alternative platform.

Representative:



Rola Yasmine – Founder – A Project

Rola Yasmine is a feminist, nurse and researcher with an interest in contributing to the field of sexuality and gender in Lebanon. For 3 years Rola was project manager to the Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Project at the American University of Beirut, through which she conducted research and co-published peer reviewed papers on youth sexuality. Rola has a Master of Science degree in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSTHM) in the United Kingdom since 2009, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from AUB since 2007. Since 2014, she has founded the A project, an NGO that aims to challenge the medical body's patriarchal monopoly over the discourse and practice surrounding mental health, gender, sexuality and SRH. TheAproject runs a sexuality helpline and conducts trainings and workshops with on health, sexuality, and bodily autonomy.



Raymond Sayegh, MD, President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians

Dr. Sayegh is the current president of the Lebanese Order of Physicians. He is the current chairperson of the department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at USJ's Faculty of Medicine since 2001. He is also a professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at this same institution. Professor Sayegh is the director of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology residency program since 2001. He is also the past president of the Lebanese Society of Gastroenterology from 2007 to 2010, as well as being the past chairperson of the Internal Medicine department at USJ's Faculty of Medicine from 2005 to 2011, and the past Medical director of Hotel Dieu Hospital from 1997 to 2000.



Faysal El Kak, MD MS ARCOG. ObGyn & Sexual Health. Clinical Associate, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, AUBMC. Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences- AUB. President- Federation of Arab Gyn Ob Societies (FAGOS).

Dr. Faysal El Kak is a senior lecturer of Health Behavior and Sexuality and Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is also a clinical associate of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Female Sexual Dysfunctions, AUBMC. He is involved in clinical services of obstetrics gynecology and sexual health, as well as Co-PI of the research project "Youth sexual and reproductive health" at

Faculty of Health Sciences, AUB. Dr El Kak has many publications, book chapters, and books related to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health. Dr El Kak continues to work on clinical services, community service, and research to promote sexual and reproductive health & wellbeing of women and youth.



Hasan Abdessamad, M.D., FRCSC, FACOG, LebMASH Cofounder and Board Member

Dr. Hasan Abdessamad was born in Ammatour, Lebanon. He earned his medical degree from the American University of Beirut and completed his residency training at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Dr. Abdessamad is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Abdessamad has 10 years' experience in Obstetrics & Gynecology, with special interest in minimally invasive surgery and

laparoscopy. He is an invited faculty at the Laparoscopic Institute of Gynecologic Oncology (LIGO) Advanced Laparoscopy Masters' Course. Transgender health is another special interest. He led the efforts of Arabic translation of the Standards of Care (SOC) of The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

He also enjoys the Obstetrics part of his career and has delivered over 1,000 babies. He is currently practicing in Burien, Washington, USA where he serves as the Department Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Highline Medical Center.

In addition to his practice, Dr. Abdessamad has been a human rights advocate for over a decade with a focus on LGBT rights and health advocacy. He is the founder, first president and an executive board member of the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual health, LebMASH.



Suha Ballout, PhD RN, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Boston.
LebMASH Board Member

Suha Ballout is an assistant professor at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Ballout earned her BSN and MSN from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Beirut, Lebanon in 2000 and 2007 respectively. In 2006, she attended Johns Hopkins University to complete her clinical residency as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). In 2013, Suha graduated with her PhD in Nursing from Florida International University (FIU), Miami, Florida. During her doctoral studies, Suha focused on gender issues, masculine norms, ethnic diversity, men's health, and chronic conditions.

Building on her international experience, Dr. Ballout's program of research is to contribute to ensuring health equity and enhancing the quality of life in diverse persons with chronic illnesses and their families. Dr. Ballout is very interested and actively engaged in working on advancing and enhancing the health and access to healthcare of LGBT individuals with a focus on preventing and managing chronic conditions in diverse individuals. Currently, she is working on projects with the LGBT community in Boston, Massachusetts focusing on projects with transgender individuals. Joining the LebMASH board is a great opportunity for Dr. Ballout to be engaged in projects to enhance general and sexual health of LGBT individuals with a minor focus on including nursing students and nurses in the conversation.

Dr. Ballout also has extensive teaching experience in online, simulation, and ground courses in the undergraduate and graduate nursing program. She is also a reviewer and editorial board member of Nursing and Health Sciences and Journal of Nurses in AIDS Care. Dr. Ballout is a board member of various chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing, and is a member of Nurses in AIDS Care, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and other professional organizations. Dr. Ballout is also a board member of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition in Boston, Massachusetts.



Sarah Abboud, PhD, RN, Lebmash Board Member

Sarah Abboud is an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing, Department of Women, Children, and Family Health Science. Dr. Abboud completed her BS and MS (adult care) in Nursing at the American University of Beirut School of Nursing, Lebanon, and her PhD and post-doctoral fellowship at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Nursing, where she was a member of the Centers for Global Women's Health and Health Equity Research.

Dr. Abboud's doctoral dissertation looked at the meanings of virginity and virginity loss among Arab and Arab American women using qualitative methods. During her post-doctoral fellowship, she investigated the meanings of healthy sexualities and the relationships between ethnic identity, communication with parents about sexuality, and sexual attitudes and behaviors among Arab and Arab American youth through a mixed methods study. She was also involved in a community-based participatory research study funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to design and develop a gender and culturally relevant, theoretically driven, HIV/STI prevention intervention in Black adolescents with mental illnesses.

Dr. Abboud's research interests focus on understanding and identifying individual, societal, cultural, and structural factors associated with risk and protective sexual health factors among Arabs and Arab Americans. One area of particular interest is in understanding the impact of the intersectionality of racial/ethnic identities, gender and sexual identities, religion, family, socio-cultural factors, and stigma and discrimination on sexual behaviors and health of Arabs and Arab Americans. She has published several articles and has been teaching the Human Sexuality and Health course for undergraduate students for several years.



Michel P. Nawfal MD MA. Mental Health Professional. Medical Doctor and Clinical Psychologist. Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, Lebmash Board Member

Dr. Michel Nawfal is a Mental Health Professional. He's a Medical Doctor and a Clinical Psychologist with a focus on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. He received his undergraduate education in premedical studies (BS: Bachelors of Science) at the American University of Beirut in 1998 after which he earned his medical degree (MD degree) from St. George's University School of Medicine with clinical rotations at the Brooklyn Hospital Center in New York, a Cornell University affiliate in 2003.

Dr. Nawfal had an interest in psychological disorders and their complexity.

Deciding to practice in the Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, he

has pursued graduate education again at the American university of Beirut to earn a master degree in psychology with an internship in psychotherapy at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. Trained and supervised in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy through the extra-mural program by the Beck Institute, Dr. Nawfal is a CBT therapist.

With a post-graduate course in psychopharmacotherapy from Harvard Medical School and being a medical doctor registered at the Lebanese Order of Physicians (LOP registration number N/507), he is legally eligible to prescribe medications in Lebanon and hence would be referred to a prescribing psychologist. Dr. Nawfal owns a private practice in Lebanon: “Nawfal Clinics”.

Dr. Nawfal is currently a Professional Colleague and Fellow Member of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy. Since 2005, Dr. Nawfal has been a **Full** member of the American Psychological Association (APA). He served on the board of the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) for 2 consecutive mandates from 2011 to 2014 and then from 2014 to 2017. He is currently on the board of the Lebanese Medical Association of Sexual Health (LebMASH), as well as on the Board of directors of the Middle-East Eating Disorders Association (MEEDA) as a Social Affairs Director since January 2017. He is also the Vice President of the Middle East Psychological Association (MEPA).



Emile Whaibeh, BA, LebMASH Volunteer

Emile Whaibeh holds a Bachelor’s degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Balamand. He is also currently completing a BA in English Literature at the Lebanese University as well as a Master’s degree in Public Health at the University of Balamand. He firmly believes that health is not merely the absence of disease or disability, but the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and that does not exclude minorities. His interests include raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health, especially among the members of the LGBT community and other marginalized minorities in this country. In addition, he finds minority health research to be an efficient tool to influence mentalities and attitudes that demonize queer people, consider their gender and sexuality a taboo and view their lives as insignificant.



Dounia Iskandarani, RN, LebMASH Volunteer

Dounia Iskandarani is a second year Nursing Master’s student at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her interest in human sexuality and sexual health stems from the lack of education on these topics, even though they are considered human rights by the WHO since 1974. Through LebMASH, she is looking forward to receiving the necessary education and then spreading the knowledge to the community.



Ali Taher, MD, PhD, FRCP

Prof. Ali Taher, is a Professor of Medicine at the Division of Hematology & Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, at the **American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)** located in, Beirut, Lebanon. He is also the Director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute and an adjunct Professor of Hematology & Medical Oncology at Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Dr. Taher has been invited to over **150** conferences both regionally and internationally as a key note speaker, chairperson and moderator. He has received numerous awards for his contribution in research and in benign hematology. Dr. Taher has over **400** articles published in leading peer-reviewed international journals.