

Student Workshop Presenter Biographies



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.