



LEBMASH
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

LebMASH—the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health, was founded in 2012 by a group of four Lebanese physicians who were eager to promote health equity in Lebanon. Inspired by their education and clinical practice outside Lebanon, they were determined to found an organization that promoted research, education, and policy to enhance the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in Lebanon. Over the years, LebMASH's family grew and its structure strengthened. Today, LebMASH has headquarters in the heart of Beirut, Lebanon with an active Executive Director and staff. The board of directors consists of a multidisciplinary group of physicians, nurses, and psychologists who share the common goal of advancing sexual health and health equity for marginalized groups in Lebanon. We also have a growing number of honorary board members, partners, and volunteers who support our mission and make our work possible.

Since 2012, LebMASH worked in collaboration with the LPA (Lebanese Psychological Association) and the LPS (Lebanese Psychiatric Society) to release historic position statements asserting that homosexuality is not a mental illness, and that any attempt to change one's sexual orientation is futile and could be harmful. Also, in response to horrific reports of violations to the rights of the LGBT community in Lebanon, LebMASH participated in cementing the ban on anal testing in Lebanon. Our work on policy change for the protection of the rights, freedoms, and well-being of the Lebanese LGBT community continues through our call to abolish Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code, an article which prohibits having sexual relations that "contradict the laws of nature." Our work on policy continues as we work with institutions and national organizations to institute anti-discrimination statements to protect LGBT people.

In 2018, we had many accomplishments, especially in relation to examining sexual orientation conversion efforts and promoting awareness of the futility of these practices through conducting a pilot study followed by a national campaign. We also joined our colleagues in other organization that serve the LGBT community to form the Lebanese Coalition for LGBT rights. We are determined to advance our work despite the harassment and provocation by religious entities and interference from Lebanese security forces which all LGBT serving organizations endured in 2018. We stand strong and showcase how these practices have negative physical and mental health outcomes on the LGBT community.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are proud of our activities and accomplishments this year. We continue to hold our annual LebMASH LGBT Health Week in March for the third year in a row and our activities during the week keep growing. We also commenced our LGBT mental health training that was developed in collaboration with the national mental health program at the ministry of public health and we managed to train more than 300 mental health professionals on how to work with the LGBT community and improve the quality of the services they provide. We also launched our HINAD (homosexuality is not a disease) media campaign, that, despite censorship, had a wide reach on televisions, social media, and newspapers.

Our year ended with internal changes growth. We are grateful for the work and commitment of our executive director, Bianca Salloum, and our administrative manager, Maher Sleiman, we would like to thank them and wish them well with their professional endeavors outside of LebMASH. Their tenure at LebMASH was pleasant and successful. Thank you, Bianca and Maher, you will be truly missed, and you will always be members of the LebMASH family.

We are excited to welcome two new additions to our team in 2019, Souad al Challah, our executive director and Saleem Zein, our administrative associate, without whom we wouldn't achieve any of our activities. We are confident that in the coming years we will keep delivering the best quality of work while upholding our organizational values and giving back to our community.

Our hard work and accomplishments would not be possible without the leadership of our executive board and the members who are willing to step up and make every effort to ensure the success of the organization. We are grateful for our donors, funders, and sponsors, as without their support our work would be difficult to accomplish. Last but not least, we would like to thank our honorary board members who have significant contributions and leadership in our fundraising efforts and our partners who graciously represent LebMASH and support our mission and activities. Thank you!

Finally, we look forward to a successful 2019 with continued growth, projects, activities, and policy change to advance health equity and promote policies that safeguard the rights of LGBT people in Lebanon.

LEBMASH EXECUTIVE BOARD

ABOUT LEBMASH

The Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health (LebMASH) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 2012 and registered in Lebanon as of 2014. LebMASH is governed by a board of directors that includes Lebanese health professionals based in Lebanon, the United Kingdom, and the United States. LebMASH aims to achieve equity in health with focus on sexual health and the health of marginalized groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals in Lebanon.

MISSION

LebMASH is an organization of health care professionals that aims to achieve equity in health with focus on sexual health and the health of marginalized groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

OUR LEGAL STATUS

In April 2014, LebMASH became officially registered with the Lebanese government as not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, allowing LebMASH to operate in Lebanon in full compliance with Lebanese law.

OUR LOGO AND OUR VISION

Our vision is summarized by the three yellow dots in our logo: the first dot represents training, education, and research in the area of LGBT health and sexual health; which leads to the second dot that represents awareness and increased knowledge; on which we build the third dot, which represents the impact and change.



LEBMASH

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Spreading awareness and knowledge, as well as influencing attitudes and behaviors of health care providers regarding LGBT health and sexual health in Lebanon.
- Spreading awareness and knowledge, as well as influencing attitudes and behaviors of the general public regarding LGBT health and sexual health in Lebanon.
- Influencing and changing policies and legislations in professional organizations including schools, hospitals and governmental agencies to protect the health rights and well-being of LGBT individuals and sexual health in Lebanon.
- Advancing research regarding LGBT health and sexual health in Lebanon.
- Supporting other organizations that provide healthcare for LGBT and sexual healthcare in Lebanon.

PATRNETSHIPS

LebMASH strongly believes in the importance of developing and maintaining strong partnerships and other collaborative agreements with other organizations and key player that share a similar point of view regarding human rights and sexual health. We believe that such partnerships create better opportunities for serving the community and lead to better outcomes.

LEBMASH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2018

LebMASH's projects and activities were planned based on three foundational pillars: Research, Education, and Policy. These pillars will be used to showcase our accomplishments for 2018.

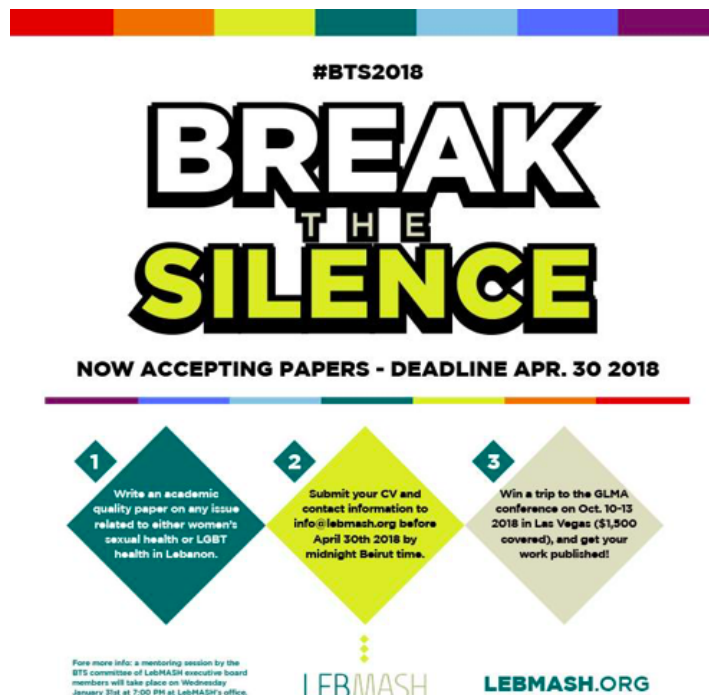
RESEARCH

January 2018: LebMASH Conducted SOCE Study in Lebanon

LebMASH conducted a study to examine Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) practices in Lebanon. In collaboration with Helem, a Lebanese LGBT rights organization, the study aimed to investigate the experiences of lesbian and gay individuals who have been subjected to SOCE, health care providers who have heard about SOCE practices through their clients, as well as providers who provide or claim to provide SOCE. Findings from this study confirmed the mainstream scenario where parents take their gay or lesbian child for SOCE consultation typically based on the advice of a school nurse or teacher. Details of these practices were documented and analyzed. Based on these results, LebMASH identified an action plan to contest SOCE in Lebanon and create awareness through media campaigns, public talks, in addition to conversations with health practitioners, school nurses, and others about the dangers of SOCE.

January 2018: Break The Silence Competition

LebMASH called for students in any health field to submit a review-of-literature or research paper about sexual health or health of sexual minorities in Lebanon. The winner was awarded \$1,500 to support their travel and accommodation to attend the international Gay and Lesbian Medical Association—Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality (GLMA) conference in the U.S. There were several applications submitted and reviewed by the LebMASH Scientific Committee.



#BTS2018

BREAK THE SILENCE

NOW ACCEPTING PAPERS - DEADLINE APR. 30 2018

- 1 Write an academic quality paper on any issue related to either women's sexual health or LGBT health in Lebanon.
- 2 Submit your CV and contact information to info@lebmask.org before April 30th 2018 by midnight Beirut time.
- 3 Win a trip to the GLMA conference on Oct. 10-13 2018 in Las Vegas (\$1,500 covered), and get your work published!

For more info: a mentoring session by the BTS committee of LebMASH executive board members will take place on Wednesday January 31st at 7:00 PM at LebMASH's office.

LEBMASH

LEBMASH.ORG

May 2018: BTS Winners Announced

Reem Nehme, a Psychology student who attends the Lebanese American University, won the 1st prize for her submission *"Parental and Romantic Attachment Styles in Homosexual and Heterosexual Men in Lebanon"*. Reem was awarded \$1,500, which supported her to attend the 36th GLMA Annual Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Health on Oct 10 - 13, 2018 at Flamingo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Rebecca Cattan won the 2nd prize for her submission *"Mental Health Considerations in LGBT People."* Rebecca is a registered nurse at the neonatal intensive care unit and pediatric unit at Lebanese American University Medical Center- Rizk Hospital, and she is completing her degree in Psychology at Lebanese American University.

EDUCATION

March 2018: LebMASH LGBT Health Week

With support from the Dr. Agnes Varis Trust, LebMASH organized the second LGBT Health Week in Lebanon on March 17-19, 2018 with the slogan *"Shakhess Mesh Tashkhiss"*. The main message of this campaign was to emphasize scientific facts that denounce the medicalization of homosexuality by its framing as a psychological, hormonal, or genetic disturbance. The slogan also encompassed LebMASH's 3-signature diamond shaped dots and pillars that represent: research, education, and policy. The week included several activities:

March 12: "Nour's Eyes"

LebMASH kicked off the LGBT Health week with "Nour's Eyes," a satirical video directed by Selim Mourad and produced by LebMASH and Bee on set productions. Nour has green eyes causing a lot of distress to her mom who takes her on a TV show. The guests include a family counselor and an ophthalmologist who pontificate the issue at hand, while Nour who is absolutely fine drifts off and away from them. This video was part of LebMASH's LGBT health week 2018 that raises awareness on LGBT health and fights the medicalization of homosexuality. To watch the video, click [here](#).

March 17: LebMASH LGBT Health Conference “Advancing Excellence in LGBT Health”

Under the patronage of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, with the participation of the Lebanese Order of Physicians and the endorsement of the Lebanese Psychiatric Society, LebMASH held a full day conference at Amphi C hall at l'Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ). The conference covered topics about LGBT mental health, community organizations serving LGBT individuals, LGBT health maintenance, and LGBT health initiatives in Lebanon. The conference was attended by more than 100 health care professionals and students.

The key note speaker was Dr. Rachel Kaplan who is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences at the University of California in San Francisco. She is also an affiliate Faculty at the Center of Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University. Dr. Kaplan has worked on HIV research in the MENA region since 2006 and lived in Lebanon between 2009 and 2010. She discussed her work on potential strategies for addressing sexual and mental health risks and resilience among transgender women in Lebanon. During the conference, several organizations serving the LGBT community talked about their work in addition to respective successes and challenges. These organizations, including Arab Foundation for Equality (AFE), Marsa, Helem, MOSAIC, Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC), Skoun, The A Project, and Embrace, participated in the conference by exhibiting their work on booths stationed outside the main hall.



Advancing Excellence in LGBT Health in Lebanon

Under the Patronage of the
Order of Nurses in Lebanon

With the Participation of the
Lebanese Order of Physicians

With the Endorsement of the
Lebanese Psychiatric Society

LEBMASH

A CME/CNE Conference

17th MARCH 2018 | **8 AM**
6 PM

TOPICS

- Mental Health in LGBT Individuals
- Community Organizations Serving LGBT Individuals: Lessons Learned
- LGBT Health Maintenance
- LGBT Health in Lebanon

Keynote speaker

Rachel L. Kaplan, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor,
University of California San Francisco, USA

Please register for free on <https://www.lebmash.org/lgbt-health-week-2018>

- Open to healthcare professionals

For more information

☎ 76 085 714
www.lebmash.org | info@lebmash.org
f @ LebMASHorg

Location
USJ – Mathaf
Amphi C



Organised by:
SCIENCE PRO

March 18: LGBT Health Student Workshop “Towards Better Sexual Health of LGBT Individuals”

In collaboration with the Nursing Students Society (NSS) and the Lebanese Medical Students' International Committee (LeMSIC) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the annual LGBT Health Student Workshop was held at the AUB Rafic Hariri School of Nursing. This year's student workshop provided health professional students (i.e., nursing, medical, sociology, psychology, social work) with basic knowledge about sexual health, LGBT health issues, and disparities of LGBT communities. The workshop used active learning strategies to provide students with opportunities to practice affirming and inclusive health care regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. The workshop also included a “People's Voices” session where members of the LGBT community in Lebanon discussed their real-life experiences and encounters with the healthcare system, focusing on strategies that students can consider to enhance LGBT health in their future practice. The workshop was attended by about 50 students representing different health professions and academic institutions across Lebanon.



March 19: Roundtable Discussion and Luncheon “HIV/AIDS and the Lebanese Law”

Following the *“HIV and Human Rights: A Study of the Legal and Legislative Framework in Lebanon”* and a study conducted by SIDC and authored by Attorney Nermine Sibai in 2017, this round table discussion was organized by LebMASH, SIDC, SEEDS for Legal Initiatives, Lebanese AIDs Society (LAS) in partnership with the Lebanese AIDS Network Association (LANA) member organizations and in coordination with the National AIDs Control Program in Lebanon (NAP).

March 19: “Meeting the Palliative and End of Life Care Needs of Gender and Sexual Minorities” Workshop

This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Balsam – The Lebanese Center for Palliative Care for health and was the first workshop in Lebanon to focus on palliative and end of life care needs for gender and sexual minorities. The workshop was open to all health professionals or students who work or have an interest in palliative care, or provide care to people with advanced illness. The purpose of the workshop was to increase awareness about the specific needs and issues of LGBT people living with advanced illness. The workshop explored the issues and needs of LGBT people with a specific emphasis on those needing and receiving palliative and end of life care. The discussions provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on and identify ways of providing culturally competent care for LGBT people, their families, and their partners within a palliative care context.



March 19: LebMASH Annual Reception and Award Ceremony

LebMASH celebrated the successes of the LGBT Health Week during our annual reception, which was held this year at Café de Penelope, in which Dr. Nuha Yazbeck Doumit, President of the Lebanese Order of Nurses, was awarded the 4th Annual Leader in LGBT Health Equity Award 2018. Dr. Dumit was recognized for her efforts to promote health equity and her emphasis *“on approaching all individuals with equal respect as nurses pledge to see patients as equal humans.”* The reception was attended by around 75 people representing several NGOs such as Embrace, SIDC, Mosaic, Skoun, Marsa, Helem and the Legal Agenda in addition to Friends of LebMASH, LebMASH Partners, and honorary board members.



March 2018: LGBT Health Curriculum in Collaboration with Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC) and the Association Tunisienne de Lutte Contre les MST et le SIDA (ATL)

In an attempt to assess the existing medical (Medicine, Nursing, Psychology) curricula in Lebanon, LebMASH aimed at updating the Basic LGBT Health Workshop curriculum to include concepts related to sexual health, adapt the program to include competencies that would be relevant to Arab countries in general, and pilot the proposed curriculum. LebMASH conducted several focus groups with students within each of the respective fields and interviewed faculty members as well as stakeholders working in the mentioned practices.

The purpose of these focus groups and interviews was to evaluate the existing, if any, modules, seminars and lectures that were inclusive of LGBT health at any point in the curricula. As for the interviews, they were intended to evaluate the readiness of the faculty to become more inclusive of LGBT health as well as to collect recommendations on how this inclusivity can be realized.

In this project, LebMASH:

- Conducted focus groups sessions with medical, nursing and other health care students
- Updated and expanded the curriculum
- Coordinated with ATL on making the content relevant to Arab countries in general
- Piloted the revised curriculum with a group of Lebanese Healthcare professionals and another workshop with attendees from ATL
- Translated the curriculum to French and Arabic
- Shared lessons learned with a ATL and SIDC as an overview cross-comparison between the Lebanese and Tunisian contexts of their respective LGBT advocacy movements. Of the points covered in the discussion was Tunisia's recent banning of anal testing, the means by which activists in Tunisia managed to push for social reform, and aspects of advocacy addressed within each of the respective contexts. Both sides shared the histories of their countries movements and set a target to document the movements in order to establish closer connections on a regional level. Further collaboration and discussion is needed to ensure that these discussions grow further from blueprints and into action.

April 2018: Participation at MEMA, AUB

Dr. Chadi Ibrahim, LebMASH board member, presented at the Middle East Medical Assembly at the American University of Beirut on April 20, 2018. The presentation was titled *"Mental Health Issues Among LGBT People: An overview of achievements over the past decade and current challenges"* and focused on the struggles facing the LGBT community including the dangers of sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE). Dr. Ibrahim also shared LebMASH's LGBT mental health training program.



May 2018: LebMASH at IDAHOT Conference

The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) 2018 was commemorated in Lebanon by several activities organized by several NGOs serving the LGBT community, such as AFE, Helem, MOSAIC, and Beirut Pride, with Maher Sleiman representing LebMASH at these events. Unfortunately, several of them were stopped and banned following a police raid, as the Lebanese Internal Security Forces arrested a prominent LGBT rights activist and pressured him to cancel Beirut Pride events. LebMASH joined the other NGOs in a statement denouncing the actions of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces and affirming that this is a violation against freedoms.

June 2018: LebMASH LGBT Mental Health Training

To educate mental health providers on the futility and harms of SOCE in addition to basic concepts of LGBT health and sexual health, LebMASH launched the LGBT Mental Health Training module in June 2018, in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program at the Ministry of Public Health, in line with the program's mental health strategy. The training took place on Aug 4, Aug 8, Aug 17, and Sept 8 for 72 Lebanese Order of Physician participants in Beirut and Zahle.

This training covered the following topics:

- Introduction to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Mental Health Needs of LGBT Individuals in Lebanon
- Sexual Orientation Change Efforts in Lebanon
- Best Practices Guidelines for LGBT Individuals in Lebanon
- F.A.Q.: LGBT Individuals and/or their Families



The **Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health (LebMASH)** cordially invites you to our press conference:

"LGBT Mental Health"

Held in collaboration with and in the presence of:
**The National Mental Health Program (NMHP) at the
 Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)**
 &
The US Embassy in Beirut

During the press conference, we will launch the "**LGBT Mental Health Training Manual**" developed in collaboration with the NMHP and with the support of the US Embassy in Beirut.

Date: **Thursday June 21st, 2018**

Time: **6 pm to 8 pm**

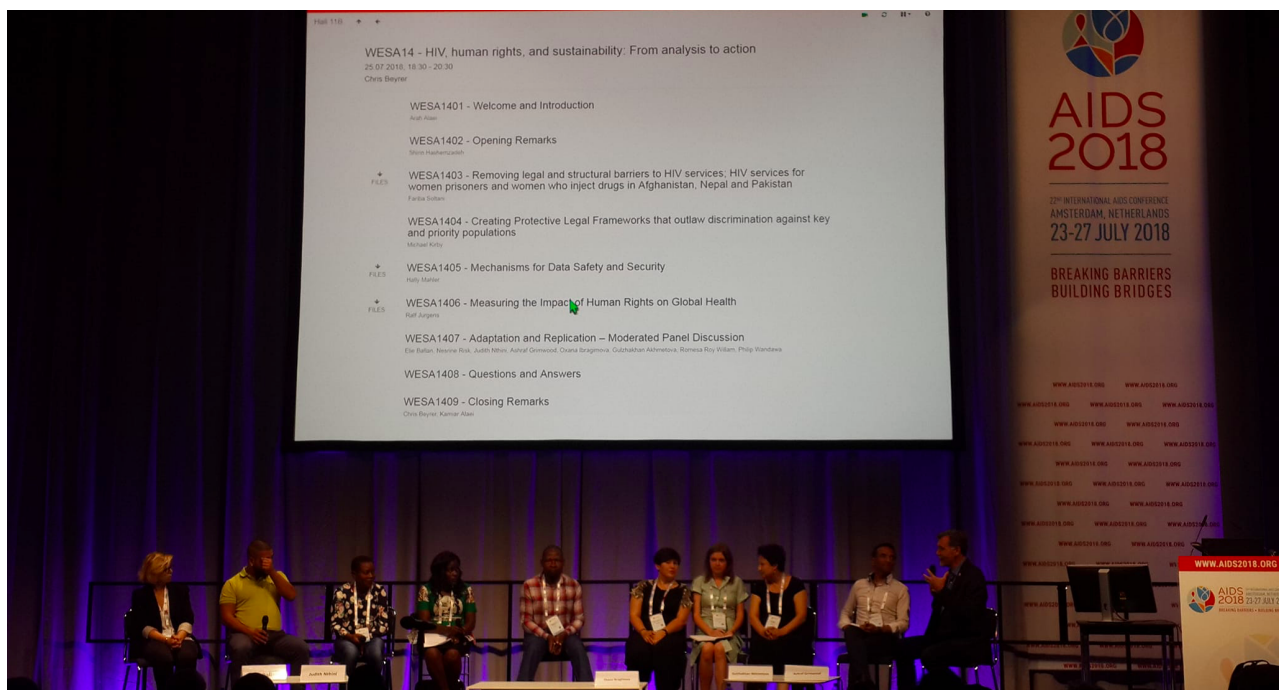
Venue: **The Smallville Hotel, Badaro**

We look forward to your presence.

July 2018: LebMASH at International AIDS Conference

The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health issue in the world. The 22nd International AIDS Conference was held in the Netherlands, Amsterdam on 23-27 July 2018. The theme of AIDS 2018 was “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, shedding light on the need for rights-based methods to reach key populations more effectively, including populations in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the North-African/Middle Eastern regions where epidemics are growing. AIDS 2018 aims to promote human rights based and evidence-informed HIV responses that are tailored to the needs of particularly vulnerable communities – including people living with HIV, displaced populations, men who have sex with men, people in closed settings, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, women and girls and young people—and collaborate in fighting the disease beyond country borders. LebMASH was represented at AIDS 2018 by Bianca Salloum and Tarek Koussaifi.

During the conference, Dr. Nesrine Rizk, a LebMASH partner, received the "Me and My Healthcare Provider" award from the International AIDS Society at the International AIDS 2018 conference. Me and My Healthcare Provider is a campaign that is part of the International AIDS Society's (IAS) Nobody Left Behind initiative, which focuses on the broader needs of key populations affected by HIV – men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, sex workers and people who inject drugs. Me and My Healthcare Provider celebrates the many doctors, nurses, receptionists, pharmacists and other frontline healthcare providers who are doing the right thing by delivering quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services to key populations, often in the face of discriminatory laws, traditions and belief systems.



August 2018: Workshop at the Lebanese Order of Nurses

Data from the SOCE pilot study showed that health care professionals, especially mental health experts, rely on counseling and sometimes prescription of hormones to “change” one’s sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual leading to devastating mental health outcomes. This practice has been discredited and prohibited by both international and national health authorities. The study also showed that one of the first groups to refer lesbian and gay young adolescents to undergo SOCE are school nurses and other healthcare professionals at school. In an effort to put an end to SOCE in Lebanon, one of our main objectives is to educate school nurses on the futility and harms of SOCE in addition to basic concepts of LGBT health and sexual health.

To get one step closer to achieving our goal, LebMASH delivered a LGBT Mental Health Training workshop to a group of 15 school nurses at the Lebanese Order of Nurses during the month of August 2018. This was the first workshop planned with the order of nurses and aims at reaching more school nurses and eventually reducing the harm of school referrals of lesbian and gay individuals to undergo SOCE.

This training covered the following topics:

- Introduction to sexual orientation and gender identity
- Mental health needs of LGBT individuals in Lebanon
- Sexual orientation change efforts in Lebanon
- Best practices guidelines for LGBT individuals in Lebanon
- F.A.Q.: LGBT individuals and/or their families

September 2018: 2nd MEPA Talk Beirut

Dr. Chadi Ibrahim, LebMASH board member, spoke at the Middle East Psychological Association (MEPA) conference at the Smallville Hotel, Badaro on September 15, 2018 about sexual concerns and sexual dysfunctions as an integral part of a person's health and their impact on physical and the mental health. The talk titled "*Sexuality and Psychological Factors that Impact it*" discussed the psychological factors that affect these conditions in addition to identifying proper methods to take a sexual history, how to conduct a sexology interview, as well as some treatment and therapeutic considerations.



October 2018: LebMASH at GLMA Conference in Las Vegas

LebMASH was well represented at the 36th GLMA Annual Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Health, organized by Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) which was held from Oct 10 - 13, 2018 at Flamingo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. GLMA's Annual Conference educates practitioners, policy advocates, educators, administrators, researchers and students - from across the health professions - about the unique health needs of LGBT individuals and families. The conference is a forum for discussion and exploration of how best to address these needs as well as the needs of LGBT health professionals and health profession students. GLMA's Annual Conference also reports on research into the health needs of LGBT people. Board members: Dr. Hasan Abdesamad, Dr. Suha Ballout, Dr. Omar Fattal, Dr. Omar Harfouch, Ms. Bianca Salloum, and Reem Nehmeh (BTS winner) attended the conference. Dr. Suha Ballout and Dr. Hasan Abdesamad presented a poster titled *"Interactive, Interprofessional, and Culturally Sensitive Basic LGBT Health Curriculum for Students"* sharing the successful process of creating the LGBT Health student workshop in Lebanon.



November 2018: LebMASH at SSS

Dr. Sarah Abboud represented LebMASH at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality annual conference in Montreal, Canada in November 2018. The conference provided the opportunity to share a common interest in understanding the best and newest research, time to connect with peers, and network with other disciplines in the sexuality field. Dr. Abboud presented a poster presentation and an oral presentation. The poster presentation described the process of developing LebGUIDE, which is an online directory of LGBT-affirming healthcare providers in Lebanon. In the oral presentation, Dr. Abboud reported on the findings from the first qualitative phase of LebGUIDE that explored the experiences of LGBT individuals with the healthcare system in Lebanon and their expectations from LGBT-affirming providers.

The poster presentation for LebGUIDE is displayed on a wall. It includes the following sections:

- Conclusion:** The development of an LGBT-affirming healthcare provider directory is an achievable goal in Lebanon that has the potential to enhance access to care and that may be replicated in other similar settings.
- Background:**
 - Over the past decade, Lebanon has witnessed significant developments in the area of LGBT rights: activism, visibility research, and policy.
 - LGBT community remains marginalized: faces challenges and discrimination on social, legal, and healthcare levels.
 - Significant challenges and obstacles to receiving healthcare services
 - Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health:
 - Spread awareness and knowledge: influence attitudes and behaviors of health care providers and the general public regarding LGBT health
 - Change policies and legislations in professional organizations including schools, hospitals and governmental agencies to protect the health rights and well-being of LGBT individuals
- Objectives:**
 - To developed the first directory of LGBT-affirming healthcare providers in Lebanon, named LebGUIDE
 - To enhance the access of LGBT individuals to healthcare services, well-informed and LGBT-affirming healthcare providers, of various specialties, in Lebanon.
- Table:**

Purpose	Examine experiences of LGBT individuals with healthcare providers	Examine the attitudes and behaviors of healthcare providers towards LGBT individuals	reception and service provision of eligible healthcare providers towards LGBT patients
Methods	Qualitative design: face-to-face semi-structured interviews	Quantitative design: self-reported screening instrument	Qualitative design: semi-structured phone interviews
Participants	LGBT individuals and community-based stakeholders (N=19)	Physicians and psychotherapists identified from national lists of providers	Healthcare providers who qualified based on their responses on the screening instrument
Contribution	Guided the development of the screening instrument	Identified 141 providers who completed the screening survey	Final list of 50 providers considered LGBT-affirming
- Results:**
 - LebGUIDE <https://www.lebmash.org/lebguide/>
 - Dynamic, easy-to-use directory, and monitored by LebMASH
 - Allows LGBT individuals to rate their experiences when receiving care provided by the listed healthcare provider (live-star rating system and comments section)
 - Users of LebGUIDE can suggest that certain healthcare providers be added
 - Healthcare providers can also request to be added to the directory
- Conclusions:**
 - This project is another milestone for the advancement of LGBT health in the Arab world.
 - LebGUIDE has the potential to positively influence the adoption of more LGBT-affirming approaches from healthcare providers
 - LebGUIDE is a tool that may encourage LGBT individuals to overcome some of the barriers related to their service use, and may motivate them to seek healthcare services.
 - Future research is needed to focus on the impact of this directory on LGBT individuals' access to healthcare services, and ultimately on their overall health outcomes.
- Acknowledgments:**

LebGUIDE research assistants: Nour Sabra, Daniel Gharraie, Christa Gharraie, Zohar Gharraie, Sami Gharraie, Youssef Gharraie, and Rana Gharraie. External collaborators: Dr. Sarah Abboud, Dr. Chantel Gharraie, and the Syrian Refugee Settlement at the Lebanese American University.
- Funding:**

United States Embassy in Lebanon and the Agency for Global Health. The funding source had no role in either the study design or the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data.

Dr. Sarah Abboud is standing next to the poster, wearing a blue lanyard with a badge that reads "Sarah Abboud, Chicago, IL, Member".

November 2018: WPATH Congress on Transgender Health in Buenos Aires, Argentina

LebMASH was represented at this conference by Dr. Hasan Abdessamad, LebMASH board member. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Scientific Symposium was held on November 2-6 at Hilton Buenos Aires. The conference brought together healthcare professionals, volunteer leadership, students, and members of the community under one roof for four and a half days and allows supporters to help each other reach the mission to promote evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, public policy, and respect in transgender health. LebMASH was represented at the conference by Dr. Hasan Abdesamad, LebMASH board member.



POLICY

March 2018: Lebanese Coalition for LGBT Rights

Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) organizations in Lebanon have been working in consort since their inception. Helem (or Lebanese Protection for LGBTQs), the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE), Marsa Sexual Health Center, MOSAIC, M-Coalition, and LebMASH offer a wide range of complementary services and support to the LGBTQ community in Lebanon, and have either applied for joint or collaborated on joint ventures, particularly at the advocacy level. In 2017, Helem, AFE, Marsa, MOSAIC and LebMASH started meeting on a monthly basis to coordinate efforts and execute joint actions more efficiently to achieve equity for the LGBTIQ community in Lebanon. In May 2017, the General Security sought to suspend all activities related to the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) event organized by Helem and its partner organizations which constituted the first instance when this group of organizations worked collectively as a unit to counter the ban and decided to formalize their collaboration through creating a coalition to build power to achieve collective goals for LGBTIQ rights.


For planning strategy and direction, a retreat of the Lebanese Coalition of LGBT organizations was held on March 28-29, 2018. The conversation revolved around documenting and uncovering abuse by state agencies, the private sector, and professional associations, as this process is key to the success of any advocacy and policy change put forward by the LGBTQ groups. Helem and LebMASH's strategy has been to make these bodies accountable for actions (ex. Ministry of Justice, Internal Security Forces, Ministry of Health, etc.) that are against their declared values, and embarrass them in the public domain with international professional bodies they belong to through articles in the media and on social media.

At the end of the retreat, a SWOT analysis and discussion among the coalition members lead to identifying a strategy for advancing LGBT rights in Lebanon. LebMASH committed to focus on:

- LGBT Health/ sexual health (HIV/AIDS)
- Research studies
- Education and training of health care professionals and students
- Policy change – lobby with professional organizations

September 2018: New President, Dr. Chadi Ibrahim

Dr. Chadi Ibrahim was elected president of LebMASH for 2018-2020. Dr. Chady Ibrahim is a Psychiatrist and graduate of Saint Joseph University, Lebanon. He pursued a fellowship in Clinical Sexology at Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. He worked as a junior instructor and visiting lecturer at the faculty in Louvain. Dr. Ibrahim has a major interest in psychosomatic medicine and cognitive behavioral therapy. In addition to Clinical practice, he has been working with multiple Non-Profit organizations and teaching at the Lebanese University. LebMASH is looking forward to successful tenure under Dr. Ibrahim's presidency.



LEBMASH

LGBT Health Week 2018

#شخص_مش_تشخيص

"The LGBT health training manual which is a collaboration between LebMASH and the mental health program at the ministry of public healths aims at increasing the capacity of mental health professionals when working with LGBT individuals"

Dr. Chadi Ibrahim

November 2018: Position Statements Against Human Rights Violations

The Gender and Sexuality Club at AUB was organizing a Halloween-themed mixer for Beirut's queer community. It was supposed to be a fundraiser that would help the club in its mission to make their campus, as well as the country, more inclusive, raise awareness about sexuality and gender and other activities they work at diligently for the greater good. The event was accused of promoting immorality by the General Mufti and was cancelled, while its purpose of the provision of a safe space for a marginalized community on the account of its bodily autonomy, gender expression, and non-normativity was glossed over. Following AUB's Gender and Sexuality Club's direct attack by the General Mufti, LebMASH partook in position statements against human rights violations.

November 2018: HINAD Campaign is launched

Based on findings from the SOCE study, LebMASH launched the Homosexuality is Not a Disease (HINAD) campaign to raise awareness around homosexuality not being a disease and more importantly highlighting the harmful effects of attempts to change people's sexual orientation. The campaign included a series of events and activities including a media campaign. The media campaign was also meant to include billboards, however, these were banned by the General Security, without a given reason. The billboards were meant to display the three following messages:

- Homosexuality is not a disease
- Homosexuality is a natural state
- Attempts to convert gay people are harmful and should be banned

It's worth mentioning that these messages are scientifically backed, have been endorsed by major mental health professional organizations around the world, and have been endorsed by our own Lebanese Psychiatric Society and Lebanese Psychological Association in 2013. Despite the ban, LebMASH conducted a successful campaign and received widespread media coverage.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

September 2018: LebMASH Summer Bash

On September 2, 2018, LebMASH celebrated our donors, supporters, and honorary board members in Washington, USA and British Columbia, Canada. The event took place at Twenty20 MAD in Seattle and was attended by about 30 people who enjoyed wine and authentic Lebanese food by Byblos Deli. The brunch was an appreciation event for GivingLoop donors and was led by Linda Baker, Honorary Board member, and Hasan Abdesamad, Executive Board member. Dr. Abdesamad spoke about the mission of LebMASH and its accomplishments throughout the year.



October 27: MonsterMASH

On October 27, 2018, LebMASH celebrated Halloween in New York for the 6th year in a row. The event took place at The Loft and was attended by more than 100 people who enjoyed Arabic music, a variety of shows, and Lebanese food donated by Manousheh, Toun and Balade. The Halloween party was a fundraiser event that was led by the Honorary board member Nizar Alouf and host committee members: Hala Abdelmalak, Nayla Hadchiti and Dr. Sami Khalife, in collaboration with LebMASH board member Dr. Omar Fattal. Nayla spoke about the importance of the work that LebMASH is doing and emphasized the activities related to SOCE and its impact on the LGBT community in Lebanon. The event raised \$26,460 and was a big success.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

LebGUIDE

To ensure safe healthcare access for LGBT individuals, we developed LebGUIDE, the first LGBT-affirming healthcare providers' directory in Lebanon. The directory includes clinicians from different specialties (surgery, infectious diseases, dermatology, sexology, psychiatry, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, etc.) and from different areas in Lebanon. Our plans are to expand LebGUIDE to cover all regions in Lebanon and all specialties and sub-specialties, and to ensure its visibility to and use by LGBT individuals. LebGuide can be accessed [here](#).

LGBT Mental Health Training

LebMASH, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), developed an LGBT Mental Health training manual covering the following topics:

- Introduction to sexual orientation and gender identity
- Mental health needs of LGBT individuals in Lebanon
- Sexual orientation change efforts in Lebanon
- Best practice guidelines for LGBT individuals in Lebanon

This training will continue to be delivered to healthcare professionals practicing in Lebanon.

LebMASH LGBT Health Week

LebMASH will continue to have its annual LGBT Health week in March. The theme and activities for 2019 will be announced in due time.

SOCE Campaign

LebMASH will continue to examine SOCE practices in Lebanon through maintaining a hotline for people to report SOCE practices. LebMASH also plans to continue to spread awareness about the harmful physical and mental health outcomes of SOCE among health care professionals and the public.

Lebanese Coalition for LGBT Rights

LebMASH affirms the importance of continuing to work with the Lebanese Coalition for LGBT Rights. We will keep our commitment to focus on:

- LGBT Health/ sexual health (HIV/AIDS)
- Research studies
- Education and training of health care professionals and students
- Policy change – lobby with professional organizations

MEDIA APPEARANCES

« Hinad », une campagne pour lutter contre les stéréotypes médicaux liés à l'homosexualité au Liban
L'Orient le Jour, posted on November 09, 2018

'I had suicidal thoughts': Gay Lebanese speak out against conversion therapy
Reuters, posted on November 08, 2018

Experts start campaign against gay 'conversion therapy'
The Daily Star, posted on November 11, 2018

There is nothing to treat, homosexuality is not a disease
Annahar, posted on November 11, 2018

The case to end sexual orientation change efforts in Lebanon
Executive, posted on November 09, 2018

LebMASH Launches HINAD to Affirm Homosexuality is Not a Disease
Beiruting, posted on November 09, 2018

المثلية "مش مرض"...ولا "علاج" لها!
Al Akhbar, posted on November 08, 2018

The case to end sexual orientation change efforts in Lebanon
Executive, posted on November 09, 2018

"Homosexuality Is Not A Disease": Campaign raising awareness about homosexuality in Lebanon
LBCI-English, posted on November 08, 2018

LEBMASH MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Sarah Abboud, RN, PhD

Dr. 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 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.

Hasan Abdessamad, MD, FRSC, FACOG

Dr. Hasan Abdessamad is an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist board-certified in the United States and Canada. He received his M.D. from the American University of Beirut. He pursued OBGYN residency training at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland. He is the Chair of the OBGYN Department at High-line Medical Center in Burien, Washington. He is an active member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). He is a co-founder and first president of LebMASH.

Suha Ballout, RN, PhD

Dr. 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. Dr. Ballout is also a board member of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition in Boston, Massachusetts.

Claude Chidiac, RN, MSc, FHEA

Claude Chidiac graduated from the American University of Beirut with a BSc in Nursing. He completed an MSc in Palliative Care Clinical Practice at University College Dublin, Ireland. He obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice in Higher Education from King's College London, UK, and subsequently became a fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK. He is currently undertaking a PhD in Palliative Care with the International Observatory on End of Life Care, Faculty of Health and Medicine, at Lancaster University, UK. His research interests are around end of life care for marginalized populations; sexuality and life-limiting illness; symptom management and needs of people with dementia at the end of life.

Omar Fattal, MD, MPH

Dr. Fattal is a graduate of the American University of Beirut Medical School. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Health. He completed his residency in Psychiatry at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Fattal is currently the Assistant Chief of Psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He is a co-founder and past president of LebMASH.

Chady Ibrahim, MD

Dr. Ibrahim graduated as a Psychiatrist from the St. Joseph University in Lebanon. He has a degree in Clinical sexology from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. He has worked with multiple Non-Profit organizations as a consultant psychiatrist and a certified trainer with WHO. He teaches at the Faculty of Nursing and Speech Therapy at the Lebanese University and the Faculty of Medicine at Saint Joseph University.

Tarek Koussaifi, MCI, RN

Tarek has a BS degree in nursing, and a specialty in wound care and tissue integrity. Since 2009, he has been active with several NGOs in Lebanon, and a couple abroad in LGBTIQ+ health, especially in HIV/AIDS. Over the past decade, he has given HIV/AIDS testing, education, counseling, initiated/moderated support groups for people living with HIV, and taken further studies and research about the pandemic.

Michel Nawfal, MD MA

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 owns a private practice in Lebanon: "Nawfal Clinics" and 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 directors of the Middle-East Eating Disorders Association (MEEDA) as a Social Affairs Director since January 2017. Dr. Nawfal is also the vice president of the Middle East Psychological Association (MEPA) since September 2017.

OUR TEAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bianca Sallum, MPH, BSN

Bianca has a background in nursing and holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Balamand in Beirut. She first joined LebMASH as a volunteer and then helped, as a volunteer coordinator, in building and mentoring the LebMASH volunteer network. Since she assumed her current position as Executive Director, she successfully organized several LebMASH activities including two LGBT Health Week campaigns in both 2017 and 2018. She also nurtured collaborations with partner organizations and professional organizations locally and internationally. Bianca has a special interest in mental health of marginalized groups.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Maher Sleiman, BSN

Maher graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. He volunteers at the Migrant Community Center in Beirut as an English teacher and volunteers for Embrace as a Lifeline operator. He has a passion for LGBT rights advocacy and gender equity issues in Lebanon and the MENA region. Maher joined LebMASH as a volunteer in 2016 and was later recruited as the administrative associate in 2017.

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Nizar Alouf

Mr. Alouf was born in Lebanon and completed his law degree from BAU in Beirut. He then immigrated to the United States and ventured into a wide variety of professional endeavors ranging from managing self-owned international family business to contract work with U.S. based institutions such as Joseph Aboud, for pro t agencies like epiconsults, Inc; as well as not for pro t organizations like Tropical Diseases Task Force, Inc; and 180 Degrees_Lebanon to name just a few. Mr. Al Ouf is also involved in managing contract work handling data management projects for major financial institutions in NYC. His passion for community work towards bridging the gaps in today's healthcare systems in the U.S. and abroad is represented in his involvement with major fundraising activities with various agencies.

Sami Khalife, MD

Dr. Khalifé is a psychiatrist in private practice in New York City and a candidate in psychoanalytic training at The William Allison White Institute. He graduated from the Lebanese University Faculty of Medicine in 2002 and completed a residency in Psychiatry at the Cleveland Clinic followed by a fellowship in Mood Disorders at the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Khalifé is the co-author of the Handbook of AIDS Psychiatry. He was selected as one of New York Top Doc-tors by USA Top Docs in 2016. He is an avid collector of modern and contemporary art.

Linda Baker

Ms. Baker worked as an R.N., mainly in the psychiatry department from 1969 until 1985 when she completed training as a hypnotherapist. Soon afterwards she began seeing clients and continues doing so up until this day. For many years, she and her husband took foster teens into their home and several of them were gay, lesbian and transgendered. She has volunteered for many groups in the LGBTQ Community for over three decades now. These have included, but are not limited to: Safe Schools, PFLAG, Lambert House (a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth), group leader for Seattle Area Support Groups, leader for Our Circle (for those with HIV/AIDS) and she is currently the vice president for Seattle Frontrunners. Her interest in LebMASH's work stems from her awareness of "some of the discriminatory issues that LGBTQ people face in the Middle East." She feels "that education, healthcare and support is essential for LGBTQ people to survive and grow their self-worth, be proud of who they are and have the ability to share information with their families and friends. Being LGBTQ is normal and natural, and it is only through education, resources and conversation that ignorant beliefs and stigmas can be erased."

Nayla Hadchiti

Ms. Baker worked as an R.N., mainly in the psychiatry department from 1969 until 1985 when she completed training as a hypnotherapist. Soon afterwards she began seeing clients and continues doing so up until this day. For many years, she and her husband took foster teens into their home and several of them were gay, lesbian and transgendered. She has volunteered for many groups in the LGBTQ Community for over three decades now. These have included, but are not limited to: Safe Schools, PFLAG, Lambert House (a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth), group leader for Seattle Area Support Groups, leader for Our Circle (for those with HIV/AIDS) and she is currently the vice president for Seattle Frontrunners. Her interest in LebMASH's work stems from her awareness of "some of the discriminatory issues that LGBTQ people face in the Middle East." She feels "that education, healthcare and support is essential for LGBTQ people to survive and grow their self-worth, be proud of who they are and have the ability to share information with their families and friends. Being LGBTQ is normal and natural, and it is only through education, resources and conversation that ignorant beliefs and stigmas can be erased."

Jonathan Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson has a passion for exploration, travel and experiencing new cultures. As an out gay man he has used financial, place and privilege to advocate for gay rights throughout the world. He is also understanding that while he can support & push for change it must be driven locally by those who know the local culture and the best ways to reach sexual minorities. It is with this idea in mind that he supports LebMASH as it is internationally funded but the core of its management and mission is local to Lebanon and the Middle East. Outside of travel Jon is an avid distance runner, foodie and loves the outdoors and wide-open spaces.

Rana Sharara-Chami, MD

Dr. Sharara-Chami graduated with distinction from the American University of Beirut medical school in 2001. She completed residency in Pediatrics at North Carolina Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She stayed on faculty at Boston Children's for 3 years before joining back her Alma Mater in 2010 as an assistant professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Sharara-Chami is an avid teacher and has received several teaching awards throughout her career. For the last 6 years, she has been attending in the Pediatric ICU, leading the Simulation program at AUB-MC and has several ongoing research projects in Pediatrics, Pediatric Critical Care and medical education. She is also heavily involved in resident education. She's been recently appointed Associate Program Director for the residency program and is the fellowship co-director for Graduate Medical Education at AUB-MC.

Hala A Malak

Hala A Malak is an award winning design critic, curator, educator, researcher, strategist and Middle East expert with her own particular view of the world. Born in Beirut during the civil war, she grew up, worked and studied all over the world – Lebanon, USA, Canada, Dubai, Holland, Morocco, London and Paris. Her multicultural background is reflected in Hala's versatile approach and she has continuously transcended stereotypes and challenged the status quo in her purpose for exploration and expression. Hala is President of Design and Flow, a strategic design collective that facilitates actionable change by reframing design and empowering designers to positively impact the world. She is also an Associate Professor of Design Strategies as well as the Associate Director of Strategic Design and Management BBA program at Parsons School of Design in New York. She currently resides and works out of Brooklyn.

PARTNERS

Marielle Kattaa

Ms. Baker worked as an R.N., mainly in the psychiatry department from 1969 until 1985 when Marielle el Kattaa received bachelor degree in 2009 in midwifery from the Lebanese university, have a university diploma in obstetrics and prenatal classes from USJ, certified for mhGAP by WHO, currently working as a midwife in St George hospital Ajaltoun. A strong advocate for health promotion, therefore she is involved in several health youth awareness campaigns. Her professional interest focuses on sustaining sexual health and her current project as LebMASH partner is to promote sexual health among sexual minority. In addition, she is a member of the scientific committee of midwifery syndicate.

Sandrine Atallah, MD, MHM, FECSM

Dr. Sandrine Atallah is a clinical sexologist and a medical hypnotherapist. She graduated as a Medical Doctor from the Saint Joseph medical Faculty. She then obtained her degree in clinical sexology from René Descartes University, Paris V, Faculty of Medicine, and her degree in Medical Hypnosis from Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris VI, Faculty of Medicine. She has also qualified as a Fellow of the European Committee of Sexual Medicine. Along with her private medical practice in sexology and hypnosis at La Clinique du Levant in Beirut and at Clemenceau Medical Center, she teaches Clinical Sexology at several universities (Saint Joseph medical Faculty in Beirut and LAU) Board member (ordinary director) of the MESSM (Middle East Society of Sexual Medicine: <http://www.messm.org/site/>) and chairman of its Public Awareness Committee, she is actively working on promoting sexual health in the Middle East. Being particularly interested in contemporary issues dealing with sexuality, she is also a board member of the SFMS (Société Francophone de Médecine Sexuelle).

Alain Daher, MD

Dr. Daher is an OBGYN surgeon practicing in Lebanon. I graduated from Saint Joseph University (Lebanon) in 2006 and from the faculty of Medicine Paris Descartes (France). I am also a lecturer in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Saint Joseph University-Medical School. Dr. Daher graduated as a Medical Doctor from the Saint Joseph University-Medical School in 2006. Then moved for 4 years to Paris, practicing in several renowned hospitals (Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital; Curie Institute ; Cochin-Port Royal Hospital...) and obtained a degree in breast pathology from the University of Versailles (Paris-France), a degree in cervicovaginal pathologies from the faculty of Medicine of Lille (Lille-France), a degree in urodynamic, perineal explorations and Neuro-Urology from faculty of Medicine Paris Diderot (Paris VII, France), a degree in Exploration and Practical Handling of Infertility from Faculty of Medicine Paris Descartes (Paris, France) and a degree in minimally invasive surgery/Robotic surgery from school of surgery (Nancy, France).

Nesrine Rizk, MD

Dr. Nesrine Rizk is an Instructor of Clinical Medicine, subspecialty Infectious Diseases, in the Department of Internal Medicine of the American University of Beirut. She graduated from the AUB with a degree in Medicine in 2001 and completed specialty training in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio with an additional fellowship training in HIV/AIDS Medicine. Dr. Rizk was the Program Director of the HIV program at the Yale-affiliated Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center in New Haven, CT and a member of the Yale AIDS Program and an active medical staff at Yale New Haven Medical Center. Dr. Rizk joined the medical group practice of the ID Division of the AUB in July 2012 and has been active in clinical and educational activities as well as research projects. Dr Rizk is a passionate advocate of People Living with HIV and AIDS. She is experienced in the treatment and management of the HIV infection. Her experience also covers the management of metabolic and oncologic complications in this field. She has continued to provide the same medical care to the patients in Lebanon. Dr Rizk holds the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Infectious Diseases certification. She is also a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) and a certified HIV Expert.

Vanessa Van Vliet

Vanessa van Vliet is a clinical psychologist and integrative psychotherapist with a 4-year extensive training in Criminology from the School of Criminology of the University of Montreal. She also specializes in psychodynamic psychotherapy. Her professional experience covers children, adolescents and adults from various cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, in addition to her broad experience in the fields of addiction and prisons. She has also worked with marginalized populations such as delinquents, LGBT and refugees. Aside from her ongoing clinical practice, she is currently working with torture survivors at the Centre Nassim for the rehabilitation of torture victims, as well as abused women and children, and intimate violence perpetrators at KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation. Vanessa is a human rights activist. She is particularly passionate about gender equality, LGBT rights in Lebanon and the improvement of the Lebanese judicial and prison systems in terms of psychological assessments and rehabilitation of criminals and delinquents.

Hala Kerbage, MD

Hala Kerbage is a psychiatrist currently practicing in Beirut. She works in Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital and Saint-Joseph University, as well as in NGOs dealing with Syrian displaced. Her research interests evolve around the relationship between mental health and society, social constructs of mental illness and legal aspects of psychiatry.

Antoine Beayno, MD

Antoine Beayno, MD is currently a 3rd year resident in psychiatry at American University of Beirut Medical Center. He graduated from medical school from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in 2016. His interests in the field are mental health issues and awareness, LGBT mental and physical health, mental issues of HIV positive patients.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Jonathan Harb

VOLUNTEERS

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Paola Abi Habib

Chantal Al Alam

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Jad Mourad

Hady Salameh

Saad Salem

Sahar Tarhini

MichelTawil

EvelynTouwair

Emile Whaibeh

Omar Zmerli

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MAKE A DONATION

-GivingLoop

GivinLoop.org/LebMASH

-Netcommerce:

Donate.LebMASH.org

-Act For Lebanon

<http://www.actforlebanonusa.org/donate-lebmash/>

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