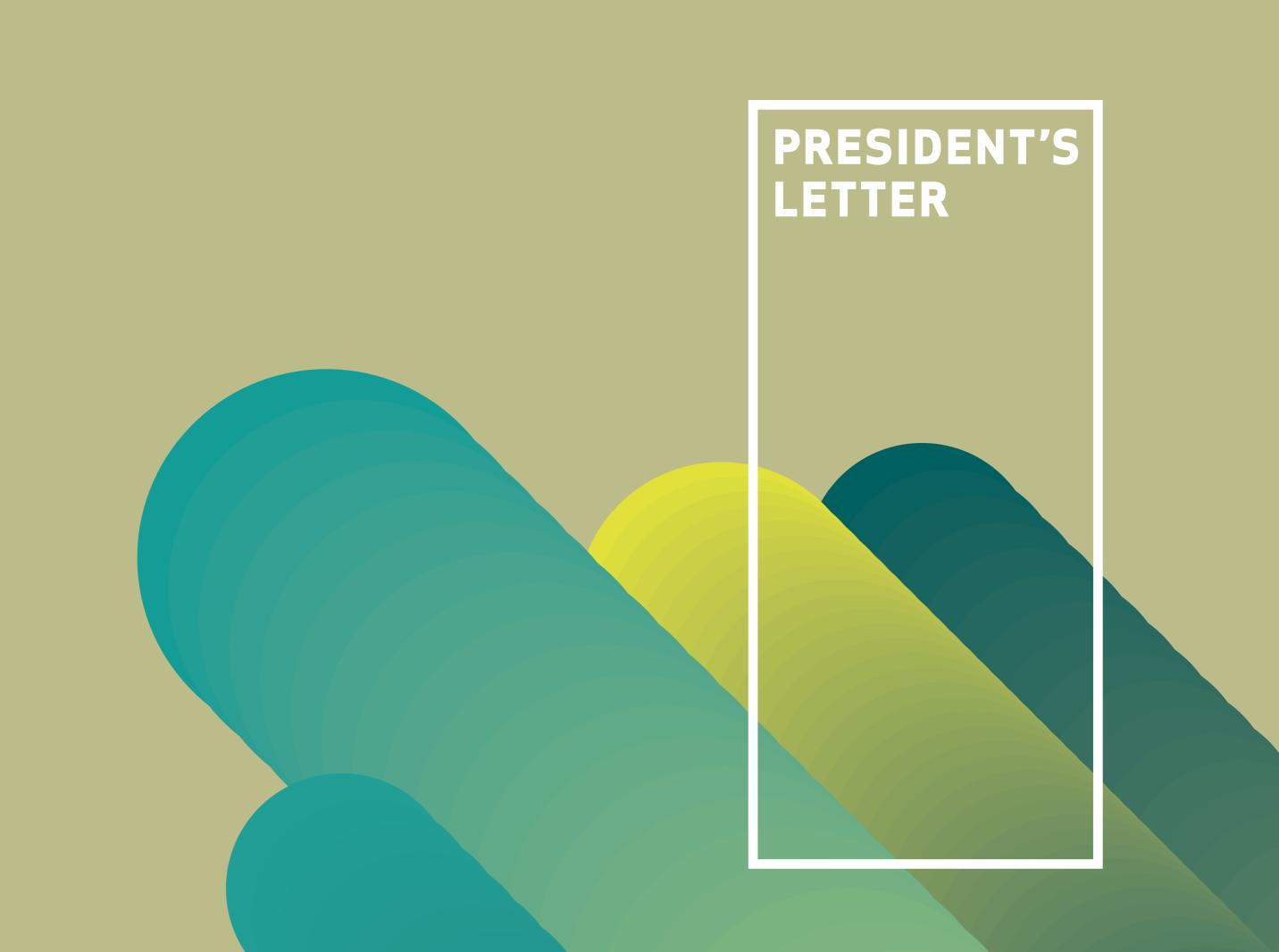


2017 ANNUAL REPORT

LEBANESE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUAL HEALTH



As I get closer to the

end of my term as LebMASH's president, I can't help but reflect on the growth and success that this organization is undergoing. I am still most amazed by how much I have learned from the qualities that distinguish this organization, and I wanted to share them in my last presidential address.

The LebMASH team is extremely driven by its cause to achieve LGBT health equity - making sure that our LGBT community can access high quality care in Lebanon. Our growing team of volunteers prospers in an environment of self-growth and enthusiasm. Our volunteers collaborate, learn from each other and strive to make a change in the health professional community and the LGBT community itself. Our staff works tirelessly to achieve the highest quality outcomes of our initiatives and projects. They evaluate LebMASH's overall performance and are always looking for opportunities to improve. Our Honorary Board Members are committed to providing the best resources for LebMASH to grow and for our projects to reach its broadest audience. Our Board Members are constantly coordinating and providing guidance for the rest of the team to make sure the LebMASH wheel keeps turning. Most importantly, the whole team ensures that the LebMASH environment is a safe environment where people can voice their ideas and find support when needed.

I was able to notice that LebMASH is truly unique by applying its 3 pillars: research, education and policy development. These pillars form the solidifying grounds for any initiative that we take. Our most recent project on Sexual Orientation Changing Efforts (SOCE) was guided by interviews with victims of such practices. These interviews helped us design our intervention accordingly. Our most recent launch of a hotline to report and provide support for victims of SOCE was our first intervention to stand by our LGBT youth who are being forced into such practices. Our policy approach would be next in addressing counselors who are still practicing SOCE, and initiating a plan to tackle the issue on both the micro and macro levels. Our key informant analysis on transgender health is also one to guide our future interventions in educating future physicians, nurses and mental health professionals on transgender health guidelines.

I am constantly impressed by the education that LebMASH provides to different health professionals. Since its foundation, LebMASH has focused on educating our fellow providers on LGBT health from the basics to more specific health information.

LebMASH's focus on education in LGBT mental health was solidified this year with our collaboration with the National Mental Health Program at the Ministry of Public Health as well as the United States Embassy in Beirut. This national collaboration with governmental entities launches a big step towards integration of LGBT mental health issues in institutions and practices across Lebanon. Watching health professionals from different fields and areas come to learn and discuss barriers that face LGBT mental health in Lebanon, as well as brainstorming about solutions to overcome these barriers are both proof that LGBT health issues in Lebanon will not be ignored anymore and that LebMASH is a key component in that battle. LebMASH and its team are distinguishably resilient.

As we try to reach our goals, we are often faced with barriers. The most recent one was during the launch of our media campaign on the harms of SOCE. As we were trying to reach the broadest crowd through billboards and TV ads, our campaign got censored by government officials. Even though this news was devastating to all of us, we made sure that our campaign continues and that we can reach our LGBT youth with our new hotline through different means on social media.

Finally, I think the best quality that Leb-MASH holds and the one I learned from the most is its grass-roots nature. The support we get in fundraising, volunteering and even networking holds the organization together. Seeing so many people believe in our cause and support both the cause and the team unconditionally is what keeps this organization going. Our yearly Halloween Fundraiser and all the work that goes through it is such a big push for us to double our efforts and make sure our goals are met. Our receptions in Beirut with community organizations and allies spikes our motivation to achieve what our communities are trusting us to do.

It has been a great honor to work with the talented people in this organization and to be the president of such a growing and motivated group. I am happy that Dr. Chady Ibrahim will fill my position in September 2018 and I am confident that he will lead this organization to further growth and harmony. I am also sure that he will learn as much as I did from the unique experience of working with such exceptional people. Meanwhile, LebMASH will remain there for our communities advocating and fighting for health equity at each step of the way.

Omar Harfouch
LebMASH President

About LebMASH

LebMASH is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 2012 and registered in Lebanon as of 2014, and governed by a board of directors that includes Lebanese health professionals based in Lebanon, the United Kingdom and the United States. Leb-MASH aims at advancing sexual and reproductive health for all individuals in Lebanon, with particular focus on the health of LGBT and other marginalized populations in Lebanon.

Our Mission

Advancing healthcare for LGBT individuals and sexual/reproductive health for all individuals in Lebanon.

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; on which supports the second dot that represents awareness and knowledge; on which we build the third dot, which represents the impact and change.



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.

Partnerships

LebMASH strongly believes in the importance of developing and maintaining strong partnerships and other collaborative agreements with other organizations and key players 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.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

TALK AT HELEM COMMUNITY CENTER: HORMONAL THERAPY

On January 31st, Dr. Chady Ibrahim gave a talk about Hormonal therapy for transgender individuals at Helem's community center.

TALK AT HELEM COMMUNITY CENTER: LGBT MENTAL HEALTH

On February 22nd, Dr. Chady Ibrahim gave a talk about LGBT's mental health at Helem's Community Center.

LGBT HEALTH WEEK 2017



With support from the Dr. Agnes Varis Trust, the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health (LebMASH) organized the first LGBT health week in Lebanon under the slogan "marginalization is bad for health" to raise awareness among the public, the media, and healthcare professionals about the negative effects of marginalization and discrimination on the health of LGBT individuals. The week included various activities outlined below.

Saturday March 11th

A full day medical conference was held at Amphi C hall at l'Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) where seventy healthcare professionals attended. The speakers and moderators at the conference included LebMASH board members as well as experts from different health areas in Lebanon.

Several NGOs that focus on sexual health in their work, including Marsa, Soins Infirmiers et Developpement Communautaire (SIDC) and Embrace, participated in the conference by exhibiting their work on booths stationed outside the main hall.

Sunday March 12th

A full day workshop was held at Issam Fares Hall at the American University of Beirut (AUB) where fifty students (full capacity) attended. The attendees came from various practices such as medicine, nursing, psychology and social work. The workshop was delivered by LebMASH board members Dr. Suha Ballout and Dr. Hasan Abdessamad and Executive Director Bianca Sallum. The activity included short presentations, training on sexual history taking, role playing, a Q&A panel with members of the LGBT community, cultural competency training.



Monday March 13th

A press conference panel was held featuring the following speakers:

Dr. Nuhad Dumit - President, Order of Nurses in Lebanon

Ms. Nadia Badran – President, Social Workers' Syndicate in Lebanon

Mrs Nour Kik - Policy and Advocacy Officer, National Mental Health Program, MoPH

Dr. Omar Fattal - Board member and immediate Past President of LebMASH

Dr. Dumit reminded everyone of the Nurses oath which "emphasizes on approaching all individuals with equal respect as nurses pledge to see patients as equal humans".

During the press conference LebMASH launched the 3 campaign videos that were later disseminated on social media.

- 1. The **first video** features a sexual health specialist who wants to treat all his patients equally. He explains that unfortunately, article 534 of the Lebanese penal code prevents him from doing his job effectively. He calls for this law to be abolished.
- 2. The **second video** highlights how the support that this loving mom gave her son helped him get the proper care for his HIV. It highlights how having a supportive family is a protective factor.
- 3. The **third video** highlights the fact that homosexuality itself is not a mental illness but being subjected to chronic stress puts LGBT people at a higher risk of having mental health issues. Family support is a protective factor against having mental health issues.





Wednesday March 14th - OBGYN Grand Rounds - AUBMC

During Grand Rounds at the Department of OBGYN at AUB, Dr. Hasan Abdessamad from LebMASH presented on lesbian health. Fifty people attended this lecture including Dr. Anwar Nassar, the chairman of the department, Dr. Karam Karam and Dr. Adnan Mroueh.

Talk at Faculty of Health Sciences – AUB: "Effects of Discrimination on the health of LGBT people".

A lecture on the effects of discrimination on the health of LGBT people was presented in a lecture at Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB by Dr. Omar Fattal from LebMASH. Thirty people attended including Dr. Iman Nuwayhid, the Dean of the school of Public Health at AUB.

LebMASH Annual Reception and Award Ceremony

For the LebMASH annual reception and award ceremony at Madame Om in Gemmayze, 75 people attended. Dr. Omar Fattal from LebMASH presented the "Leader in LGBT Health Equality Award" to Dr. Sami Risha from USJ for his persistent efforts in supporting the mission and work of LebMASH and advancing the education of medical students and residents at USJ in the area of LGBT health. The event was very well attended and representative from several NGOs such as Embrace, SIDC, Mosaic, Skoun, Marsa, Helem and the Legal Agenda.



Collaborating with professional organizations

COLLABORATING WITH THE LEBANESE ORDER OF NURSES

In 2017, LebMASH's collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Nurses resulted in a statement issued by the president of the order reminding all Lebanese nurses of their duty to provide care to all without any form of discrimination including that which is based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

COLLABORATING WITH THE LEBANESE SYNDICATE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

In 2017, LebMASH collaborated with the Lebanese Syndicate of Social Workers. The president of the syndicate stressed on the importance of fighting discrimination in social work. Collaborating with the Lebanese Order of Physicians

In 2017, LebMASH started a collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Physicians (LOP) in an effort to produce a non-discrimination statement by the LOP including that which is on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Trans* Health

In 2017, LebMASH conducted a **study** to assess the knowledge and competence of health-care providers in providing trans* specific care. This stakeholder analysis identified several areas of knowledge that need to be developed.

Additionally, and also in 2017, LebMASH published the Arabic version of the WPATH Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People. For the complete Standards of Care in Arabic please *click here*.

LGBT Mental Health Talk at IDAHOT

On May 20th, our Executive Director Bianca Sallum represented LebMASH in the NGO panel organized by Helem for IDAHOT 2017 giving a talk on LGBT Mental Health. This event was initially supposed to take place in a public venue. However, due to direct and indirect threats by extremist religious groups, the NGOs eventually held the conference live on Facebook.

Break the Silence Grant Competition

The 2017 winner of LebMASH's 5th Annual "Break the Silence" competition was Emile Whaibeh for the paper titled "SWOT Analysis of Antiretroviral Therapy Management in Lebanon." Emile earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences and is currently completing his Master's in Public Health at the University of Balamand, Beirut, Lebanon. Emile won the \$1,500 BTS Grant allowing him to attend the 35th Annual Conference on LGBT Health in Philadelphia, USA in September 2017. He had a great experience and wrote a reflection that is available on our website. He is currently being mentored by one of our board members to publish his paper in a peer-reviewed journal.

Dounia Iskandarani also won second place for her paper titled "Cervical Cancer and HPV screening: A pending matter in Lebanon".

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. Over a one-year period (September 2016 to September 2017) clinicians completed a survey followed by a one-on-one interview to ensure their LGBT-affirming attitudes and behaviors. The overall purpose of LebGUIDE directory is to provide safe and non-discriminatory care to LGBT individuals, who can in turn provide a review and an evaluation of the care received by any of the clinicians on the list. Our hope is to encourage healthcare providers to be cognizant of their implicit and explicit biases against the LGBT community in order to provide equitable care to all. Our future 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. You can find the online version of LebGUIDE that was first published on September 6th here.

LebMASH launches the ongoing GivingLoop campaign

In June 2017, LebMASH launched its ongoing crowdsourcing fundraising campaign via GivingLoop. Currently 77 supporters are contributing to LebMASH \$1,406 monthly. Join those movers and shakers and start your monthly donation here **givingloop.org/lebmash**. A contribution as little as \$1/month can make a huge impact. This campaign made it possible for LebMASH to open and sustain our office in Beirut.

Opening of LebMASH Office

On September 7th, LebMASH celebrated the opening of its first office since its establishment in 2012 in Beirut in the presence of LebMASH team, board members, honorary board members, partners and volunteers.

Receiving the GLMA LGBT Health Achievement Award

On September 16th, LebMASH was the recipient of the 2017 LGBT Health Achievement Award at the 35th GLMA Annual conference on LGBT Health held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This prestigious award has honored, since 1999, different schools, organizations and individuals who contribute to the advancement and inclusion of LGBT health issues in healthcare. LebMASH has been working on three fronts to advance the healthcare of LGBT individuals in Lebanon: Research, Education and Policy.

LebMASH's experience is an exemplar of a journey of marginalization and resilience that led to successful and challenging outcomes with many lessons learned.



AUB - Talk with Nursing Student Society: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

On September 29th, Dr. Angela Massouh, LebMASH board member, and Mr. Maher Sleiman, then LebMASH volunteer, presented a talk about Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections at the American University of Beirut. The event was hosted by the Gender and Sexuality club and was attended by 25 attendees and members of the club. The presentation addressed healthy sexual behaviors and tackled the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It introduced the audience to the several modes of transmission, detection, and prevention of common STIs. It also debunked common myths on sexual health. The presentation was very well received and a healthy and stimulating discussion ensued.



Halloween 2017

On Oct 28th, LebMASH held its 5th annual NYC fundraiser: LebMASH Halloween Party and raised about \$15,000. The event took place at the Loft in New York City and was very well attended. More than 150 people showed up to dance to Arabic music by Australian Lebanese DJ Ray Isaac, nibble on Middle Eastern hors d'oeuvres generously donated by Toum

and Manouche, and enjoy authentic Lebanese wine donated by Ksara and delicious mixed Vodka drinks from Zirkova, and, of course, to support LebMASH's work.

Dr. Omar Harfoush, LebMASH's president, spoke about the mission of LebMASH and updated attendees on the recent projects that LebMASH has been engaged in.

Dr. Harfoush also shared that in September 2017; LebMASH was recognized by GLMA – Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Health with the 2017 GLMA Achievement Award at GLMA's annual gala dinner in Philadelphia.



Online Art Auction 2017

LebMASH concluded in October 2017 an online fine art auction that turned out to be a huge success raising more than \$60,000. The auction included artworks by Hussein Madi, Nabil Nahas, Samia Halaby, Akram Zaatari, Ziad Antar, Ayman Baalbaki, Ali Cherri, Nayla Romanos Ilya, Hala Shoukair, Rhea Karam, Monika Sziladi, Silvia Poloto, Alex Dodge and other artists.

Talk at the "Regional orientation workshop on responding to the needs of MSM in MENA"

LebMASH participated in the "Regional orientation workshop on responding to the needs of MSM in MENA" that took place on November 2nd to 6th, 2017. Several Arab activists working with People Living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations and specifically with MSM attended the workshop. LebMASH Executive Director Bianca Sallum was invited to talk about LebMASH's experience in fighting discrimination against MSM and the LGBT community within the healthcare system in Lebanon.

World AIDS Day Fair at LAU

On December 4th, LebMASH volunteer Hady Salameh represented LebMASH at the World AIDS Day Fair at the Lebanese American University (LAU) – Byblos Campus. For this fair, LebMASH chose to highlight research focusing on women living with HIV including results of a **study** conducted by a LebMASH intern in 2015 in Lebanon.

Talk at Sexual Pleasure Panel - NASSS: Sexual pleasure and sexual rights

On December 11th, LebMASH partner, Dr. Chady Ibrahim, gave a talk on sexual pleasure and sexual rights at AUB. The panel was organized and moderated by Dr. Faysal El Kak, the Founder of the Network of Arab Scholars on Sexuality/ Sexual health (NASSS). Participants included sexologist Dr. Sandrine Atallah, MOSAIC psychologist Pascale Kolakez and the A Project founder, Rola Yasmine.

World AIDS Day - LebMASH on TV

On December 14th, LebMASH volunteer Tarek Al Koussaifi spoke about the HIV epidemic on A'alam al Sabah show on Future TV.

The interview tackled sensitive topics that were not discussed openly before, and shed light on the common misconceptions, stigmatization, and myths that still exist.

ONGOING PROJECTS

LGBT Mental Health Training

LebMASH, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), started to develop 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 later be delivered to 150 mental health experts practicing in Lebanon.

Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE)

LebMASH started a research study to understand the characteristics of SOCE practices in Lebanon. Data collection will be in collaboration with Helem and will target 3 main groups: Lesbian and gay individuals who have been subjected to SOCE in Lebanon, LGBT inclusive healthcare providers who have heard about SOCE practices in Lebanon and providers themselves who practice SOCE in Lebanon. The results of this study will be used to inform an action plan to fight SOCE in 2018.

Updating the LGBT Health Module for Healthcare Students developed by LebMASH

Based on the imminent need, the purpose of this proposal is to develop an evidence-based Basic LGBT Health Curriculum specific for Arab healthcare providers using active learning activities and building on the experience existing programs.

In this project, LebMASH aims at updating the Basic LGBT Health 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. Between September 2017 and March 2018, LebMASH will:

- 1. Conduct focus groups sessions with medical, nursing and other health care students
- 2. Update and expand the LGBT Health curriculum
- 3. Coordinate with a Tunisian NGO [ATL] on making the conten relevant to Arab countries in general
- 4. Pilot the revised curriculum with a group of around 20 Lebanese Healthcare professionals and attendees from Tunisian NGO in March 2018
- 5. Sharing lessons learned with a Tunisian NGO in March 2018

The expected outcome of this project is to develop a Basic LGBT Health Curriculum for Arab countries to introduce LGBT health content to healthcare professionals. Over time, the content and structure of the program is envisioned to include evolving and emerging LGBT health topics in addition to including this content in existing institutional curricula.





click on this icon to follow the link

(LebMASH Elects Omar Harfouch as its Third President"

El Nashra, posted on January 22, 2017 by Staff reports

"Lebanese gay couple not prosecuted under 'order of nature' law"

Washington Blade, posted on February 4, 2017 by Maximilian Sycamore

"Marginalization is bad for your health... Awareness campaign to respect the human how it was!"

> An-Nahar, posted on March 9, 2017 by Sarah Trad

"«Marginalization is bad for your health»: Lebanon hosts LGBT awareness week"

> L'Orient Le Jour, posted on March 13, 2017 by Charlotte Steencackers

(Our list of the top 20 Arab activists for 2017"

> Stepfeed, posted on March 15, 2017 by Jason Lemon

(Pour en finir avec la marginalisation de la communauté LGBT..."

> LBCI News, posted on March 20, 2017 Interview with Dr. Omar Fattal

"LGBT Health Week 2017"

ANB TV - Al Majalla Al Sohiya with Jacqueline Chehwane, aired on March 22, 2017 Interview with Dr. Hasan Abdessamad

"Lebanon Plans LGBT Sexual Health Week"

Los Angeles Blade, posted on March 24, 2017 by Staff reports

"Health rights of homosexual individuals in Lebanon"

Future TV - Bala Toul Sire with Zaven aired on April 8, 2017 Interview with Dr. Hasan Abdessamad

"LebMASH: Marginalization is bad for health"

Stepfeed, posted on April 27, 2017 by Staff reports

(In Search of Sex-Ed"

Public Health Post, posted on June 13, 2017 by Loulwa Soweid

"Good Luck Getting Healthcare if You're Queer in Lebanon"

Tonic, posted on June 20, 2017 by Kareem Chehayeb



PRESIDENT

Omar Harfouch, MD, MPH

Dr Harfouch is the president of the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health. He is a medical graduate of Saint Joseph University in Beirut. He holds a Master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology and LGBT health. Dr. Harfouch currently serves as a post-doctoral research fellow for the EQUALITY study at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

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, FRCSC, 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 Highline 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 Leb-MASH.

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, RN, MSc, FHEA 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 associate director of inpatient psychiatry and the Unit Chief of the Latino Inpatient Psychiatry Unit at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He is a co-founder and immediate 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.

Hossam Mahmoud, MD, MPH

Dr. Hossam Mahmoud is a Board Certified psychiatrist, practicing in the Greater Boston Area. He has an M.D. from the American University of Beirut Dr. Mahmoud completed his residency training at Northwestern University in Chicago. He has practiced psychiatry in the United States and Canada. Dr Mahmoud has served on the boards of directors of Heartland Alliance and the Illinois Psychiatric Society Council.

Angela Massouh, PhD, RN

Dr. Angela Massouh is a Cardiology Clinical Nurse Specialist and a Clinical Instructor at the American University of Beirut. She graduated from the AUB with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. In 2013, she has a PhD focusing on Biobehavioral research from the University of Colorado, Denver. Dr. Massouh is interested in health equity and subsequently LGBTQ health and rights in Lebanon.

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.

PROJECT MANAGER

Hady Naal, BA

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. Hady plans on pursuing this area of research during his post-graduate studies.

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Nizar Al Ouf

Mr. Al Ouf 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 endeavours ranging from managing self-owned international family business to contract work with U.S. based institutions such as Joseph Aboud, for profit agencies like epiconsults, Inc; as well as not for profit 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.

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 LGBTO 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 LGBTO 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

Nayla Hadchiti is New York-based Art Advisor, Creative Director, Philanthropist and seasoned traveler. With a background in Advertising and Contemporary Art, she has been a Patron of the Arts and a strong supporter of Middle East initiatives. Recently, in her professional capacity, Nayla served as the consultant to the Marrakech Biennial 6th edition, a non for profit art exhibition in Marrakech, Morocco. She originated and managed its first business plan and sponsorship proposals and served on the fund-raising committee attracting international sponsors, creating recognition for the event outside Morocco by organizing events and meetings in both New York and London. She also coordinated and produced the multi-layered opening day ceremony. As a mom who lost her son to cancer, she is a strong supporter of Solving Kids Cancer, sharing her experience and promoting the group's research to find cures for various types of children's cancer. She has also used her network to help the Children of Armenia Fund to secure a future

for underprivileged Armenian children and restructure their villages.

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 Doctors by USA Top Docs in 2016. He is an avid collector of modern and contemporary art.

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 support 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.

PARTNERS

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 (Pit-

ié-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).

Marielle Kattaa

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 focus 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.

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.

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.



Volunteer Coordinator

Jonathan Harb

Volunteers

Ibrahim Abdo Ribal Maatouk

Paola Abi Habib Elie Matta

Chantal Al Alam Jad Mourad

Dr. Ahmad Abu Mohammad Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer

Ibrahim Awada Spencer Rutherford

Ghassan Bou Saba Hady Salameh

Dr. Johnny Chahine Saad Salem

Tarek El Koussaifi Samy Taha

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Our Address

 ${\sf Sami\ I\ Solh\ Street}$

Adlieh Area, Ashrafieh

Beirut, Lebanon





