

## The Lebanese American University (LAU) Simulation Center Hosts Training on Neonatal Emergencies

*(The first course of its kind in Lebanon that helps neonatologists achieve mastery in the field.)*

The Lebanese American University (LAU) Clinical Simulation Center hosted a two-day practical training course specifically targeting the management of neonatal and pediatric emergencies. The course is the first of its kind in Lebanon, and it aims to teach health professionals technical and non-technical skills through repetitive practice to mastery learning. Clinical Simulation Center Director Dr. Vanda Abi Raad believes in the value of simulations. “The goal for healthcare professionals is to achieve mastery learning, which can only be accomplished through practice and scenarios that increase in difficulty.”

The benefits of simulations go beyond technical training. Dr. Ninette Hawat, clinical instructor of pediatrics at the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine and the course’s facilitator, highlighted areas where healthcare professionals can hone their soft-skills set: “Simulations are designed to build participants’ confidence; doctors and nurses must manage the psychological component of their work, and practical simulations address that.”

Dr. Maroun Matar, assistant professor and head of the Neonatology Division at the School of Medicine, agreed that simulation is a key component in medical training. “Through simulations, healthcare professionals gain experience in team management to provide standardized care, which ultimately leads to better patient outcomes.”

Other LAU instructors present were Dr. Abeer Hani, a pediatric neurologist, and Dr. Krystel Malek, a pediatric anesthesiologist.

The course was attended by neonatologists,



pediatricians, nurses and medical residents from across Lebanon. Sally Azwat, a practicing nurse, was a first-time participant at the Clinical Simulation Center. “I didn’t expect it to be so real, but I know the stress I felt [during the simulation] has a positive result.” Pediatrician Dr. George Zemter said, “This course gives [healthcare professionals] a unified approach to managing critical neonatal situations.”

The Clinical Simulation Center, housed in the Chagoury Health Sciences Center on LAU’s Byblos campus, features highly advanced replications of hospital environments. The center is outfitted with state-of-the-art neonatal and pediatric equipment provided by a grant from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program to provide the highest quality simulation experience. “High-fidelity models” are programmed to perform and respond as humans would in the center’s unique training scenarios, giving trainees a life-like experience and invaluable preparation.



## Bellevue Medical Center Fights Colorectal Cancer for the Second Consecutive Year



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For the second year in a row, on the occasion of the International Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Bellevue Medical Center (BMC) launched an awareness campaign to prevent this disease, which ranks the world’s third most common tumor and the second cause of death, noting that 90% of patients that undergo an early detection can be cured. The campaign aims to highlight this type of tumors by explaining all symptoms as well as ways to prevent it.

Most people with colorectal cancer do not show any symptoms in the early stages. According to the international recommendations, every 50-year-old person must undergo routine screening tests for early detection. The Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) remains the most accurate screening test and is recommended annually, while colonoscopy is the ideal

test to be performed every 10 years. To urge citizens to do so, Bellevue Medical Center, the only hospital in Lebanon providing FIT, offers free screenings for the duration of the campaign from 1st to the end of March, and provides free consultation for those whose analysis have shown positive results.

The campaign, organized last year by the hospital, was a great success, for it helped raise awareness around this silent disease. In fact, the statistics indicated that the majority of Lebanese are not aware of this type of tumor, hence this year’s campaign has spread further awareness. According to the professor Cesar Yaghi, most cases detected, when symptoms occur, are already in an advanced stage. He then underlined the close link between the level of awareness and the frequency of screening necessary for detecting numerous cancers and treating them in their primary stages or before the malignant disease since early detection can diagnose benign cases that precede years of malignancy hence helping save the lives of many patients.

The campaign also covers many activities, including an interactive awareness stand at the hospital and a social media campaign.