

The Initiative for Biodiversity Studies in Arid Regions (IBSAR)

Director: Salma N. Talhouk

Twenty-five faculty and 28 associate members from diverse disciplines created IBSAR as a forum for promoting the conservation of biodiversity. The current faculty members of IBSAR are listed below:

Abdallah, Kamel, PhD	Lecturer; Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship (OSB)
Abou-Fakhr, Efat, PhD	Associate Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Barbour, Elie, PhD	Professor; Animal Sciences (FAFS)
Batal, Malek, PhD	Assistant Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
Bouhadir, Kamal, PhD	Associate Professor; Chemistry (FAS)
Darwiche, Nadine, PhD	Associate Professor; Biology (FAS)
El-Sabban, Marwan, PhD	Professor; Human Morphology (FM)
Hamadeh, Shady, PhD	Professor; Animal Sciences (FAFS)
Houmaidan, Fadia, PhD	Associate Professor; Physiology (FM)
Hwalla, Nahla, PhD	Dean FAFS and Professor; Nutrition and Food Science (FAFS)
Jamali, Dima, PhD	Assistant Professor; Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship (OSB)
Kabbani, Nader, PhD	Assistant Professor; Economics (FAS)
Khattar, Medhat, PhD	Assistant Professor; Biology (FAS)
Knio, Khouzama, PhD	Associate Professor; Biology (FAS)
Makdisi, Karim, PhD	Assistant Professor; Political Science and Public Administration (FAS)
Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD	Associate Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Mohtaseb, Hala, PhD	Chairperson of Biology Department and Professor; Biology (FAS)
Rubeiz, Nelly, MD	Clinical Associate Professor; Dermatology (FM)
Saab, Basim, MD	Associate Professor; Family Medicine (FM)
Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD	Assistant Professor; Chemistry (FAS)
Shehadi, Ramzi, MD	Assistant Professor; Surgery (FM)
Talhouk, Rabih, PhD	Professor; Biology (FAS)
Talhouk, Salma, PhD	Professor; Plant Sciences (FAFS)
Zurayk, Rami, PhD	Professor; Land and Water Resources (FAFS)

Advisory Board Members

The purpose of this Board is to

- advise on the vision and priorities of IBSAR;
- advise on the direction of IBSAR's research programs and activities, and on ways of strengthening the delivery of these programs;
- promote IBSAR to the general community, other institutions, businesses, and governments;
- advise on partnerships, capacity building, and networking;
- advise on, facilitate and assist in fundraising and
- secure contacts and develop public relations.

Abdel Hamid Hallab, PhD	Special Adviser to AUB President, Regional External Programs
Simon Haydar, PhD	Principal Investigator, Wyeth Pharmaceutical Neuroscience Division, Princeton USA
Ann Z. Kerr	Fulbright Coordinator, UCLA International Institute and Member of Board of Trustees of AUB
Mike Maunder, PhD	Director, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, USA
Waled Abdallah Nasser	Lawyer, Walid Nasser and Associates
Michael Wink, PhD	Dean of Research, Faculty of Life Sciences Heidelberg University, Institute of Pharmacy and Molecular Biotechnology
Jose Zaglul, PhD	President EARTH University, Costa Rica

Introduction

Established in 2002, IBSAR's mission is to engage in research, training, and information exchange, to promote the conservation of biodiversity in arid regions, and to explore and develop linkages and opportunities between biodiversity and society.

IBSAR's Objectives

- conducting basic and applied research using state-of-the-art biotechnologies to screen and investigate potential uses of biodiversity
- exploring the socio-economic dynamics of biodiversity conservation, and protecting and restoring native landscapes
- fostering collaboration among various sectors by establishing links with stakeholders, acting as a center of reference for information dissemination, providing consultation and training, and collaborating with regional and international partners
- guiding policy and legislation, compatible with international rules and regulations, for the sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in the region

- exploring and developing economic opportunities for the sustainable use of biodiversity through acting as an incubator of biodiversity innovations that are commercially viable, providing consultancies and training to the public and private sectors, and recommending alternative mechanisms for economic development

Membership and Administration

IBSAR is an interdisciplinary research group and membership is open to all AUB faculty members, students, and junior scientists. All campus facilities are open for research activities of the group, including the Central Research Science Laboratory, the Environmental Core and Molecular and Cellular Biology Core Laboratories, and others.

The center is managed by a director and three committees whose members are appointed by election. The mission and objectives of these committees have been designed to ensure diversity and synergism within the center:

- The executive committee is responsible for coordinating the work of the center and providing guidance to its committees, and is in charge of fundraising.
- The research committee is responsible for the cultivation of research activities, and encourages those leading to patentable innovations.
- The outreach committee disseminates information to society at large and organizes activities that highlight the economic, social, and cultural value of biodiversity for communities.

In addition to coordinating with the appropriate University administrators and an International Advisory Board, IBSAR works with the business community, and with governments and NGOs at the national, regional, and international levels.