ANESTHESIOLOGY AT MEMA 2009
(Beirut, April 23-26)

The Middle East Medical Assembly (MEMA) is jointly organized every year by the Faculty of Medicine of the American University of Beirut (AUB), and THE Medical Chapter of the Worldwide AUB Alumni Association (Fig. 1).

MEMA 2009 is the 42nd Middle East Medical Assembly. The front page of the MEMA 2009 announcement was illustrated by a painting of Ibn-El-Razi examining a child suffering from small pox, reminding everybody all over the world of the major contributions of the Arabs to the medical progress and to the renaissance period (Fig. 2).

During the opening ceremony, Professor Ibrahim Salti, the Chairman, considered MEMA 2009 a signal of the spirit of optimism and enthusiasm that renews the grand and pioneering AUB traditions in continuing medical education. In his message, Dr. Salti acknowledged the cooperation and support of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the AUB Medical Alumni Association and the National Lebanese Council for Scientific Research (Fig. 3).
In line with the MEMA’s tradition, the three-day program was multidisciplinary, which covered the state-of-the-art of the different medical specialties including Anesthesiology. The two-day program of Anesthesiology was organized by Dr. Ghassan Kanazi, the Chairperson of AUB Department of Anesthesiology, in coordination with the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, and the Columbia University, New York.

Dr. Kanazi delivered the Welcome Keynote, and presented Dr. Anis Baraka, the former Chairman and Emeritus Professor of the Department (Fig. 4).

Dr. Baraka delivered the Keynote address about the role played by the Department of Anesthesiology of the American University of Beirut during the tragic years of Lebanon 1975-1990 (Fig. 5).

Dr. Ibrahim Salti, the Chairman of MEMA 2009 was keen to attend the Keynote welcome and address of Anesthesiology (Fig. 6).

Dr. Armin Schubert, Professor, General Anesthesiology, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, reviewed Anesthesia for Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery, as well as what is new about the OR throughput (Fig. 7).

Dr. Maya Jalbut, a graduate of the Department of Anesthesiology AUB, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at Columbia University, New York, reviewed the Adult Congenital Heart Disease, and the Bare Metal Versus the Drug-Eluting Stents (Fig. 8).

Dr. Vivek Moitra, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Division of Critical Care, Columbia University, New York, reviewed Oxygen Delivery and
the Use of Dexmedetomidine for Sedation.

In addition to the different anesthesia lectures, the program of Anesthesiology at the MEMA 2009 included a full day covering scientific presentations about Cancer Pain Management, Neuropathic Pain, Discogenic Pain, and Intractable Headache, as well as a workshop about the Ultrasound-Guided Nerve Blocks of Upper and Lower Extremities. The pain management sessions and the workshop were coordinated by Dr. Nagy Mekhail, Department Chairman of Pain Management at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, and Dr. Loran Mounir Soliman, Director Regional Anesthesia Fellowship and Orthopedic Anesthesia at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio (Fig. 9), as well as by Dr. Danielle Ludwin, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, and Dr. Oliver Panzer, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Columbia University, New York.

One of the highlights of the MEMA 2009 was the fundraising Gala Dinner to raise money for scholarships for medical students to ensure outstanding academic training for future generations of medical professionals. The AUB President, Vice President, MEMA Chairman, and the President of the Alumni Medical Association welcomed all participants at the Gala Dinner (Fig. 10). The fabulous Gala Dinner was indeed a happy celebration of a very successful MEMA (Fig. 11).

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