OBITUARY

It is with a great sense of tragic loss that the American University of Beirut, the Dean of the School of Medicine, The Department of Anesthesiology, the Middle East Journal of Anesthesiology and the Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists & Intensive Care, mourn the passing away of Professor Sania Haroun-Bizri on February 15, 2006.

Dr. Sania Haroun-Bizri was a graduate of St. Joseph University of Beirut in 1972. Following her residency in Anesthesiology at the American University of Beirut and her Research Fellowship at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Dr. Haroun-Bizri was appointed in the Department of Anesthesiology, A.U.B in 1980. In 2001, she became the first woman in the Department to be promoted to Professor (Figs. 1 & 2).

Dr. Nadim Cortas (Dean of the School of Medicine & Vice President for Medical Affairs), Professor Sania Haroun-Bizri and Dr. Anis Baraka (Professor & Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology).
Dr. Sania Haroun-Bizri proved herself as a conscientious and dependable faculty member with an excellent background in academic anesthesiology. She actively contributed to both teaching and clinical activities, in particular the open heart program. The Department of Anesthesiology trained the vast majority of anesthesiologists in Lebanon. Students and postgraduate trainees greatly appreciate the contributions of Sania towards their career development.

Dr. Haroun-Bizri was appreciated by her colleagues in Lebanon and was elected President of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists & Intensive Care (Fig. 3,4). She was also a member of the Lebanese Chapter of International Association for the Study of Pain. In addition, she was elected as the Executive Secretary of the 8th Pan Arab Congress of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, which was held in Beirut-Lebanon, September 2004.

Fig. 3
President Sania Haroun-Bizri addressing members of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care.
In addition to her local recognition, Dr. Haroun-Bizri was internationally recognized and was a member of: The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA), The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), The International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS), and the European Society of Regional Anesthesia (ESRA).

Since her appointment at AUB, she authored and co-authored more than 50 papers which were published in international journals.

Dr. Sania Haroun-Bizri is survived by her husband, Dr. Saad Bizri, and three sons Samer, Amer and Fadi.

The last happy moments of Professor Sania Haroun-Bizri as shown by the following pictures (Figs. 4-6) were her unanimous election as President of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesia & Intensive Care, as well as her Chairmanship of the most successful Congress of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesia & Intensive Care 2005.

Fig. 4
President Sania Haroun-Bizri among newly elected members of the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care.
From right to left: Dr. Jamil Shaaban, Dr. Patricia Yazbeck (Vice President), Dr. Maroun Ghabach, President Sania Haroun-Bizri, Dr. Chakib Ayoub, Dr. Atef Al Ali (Treasurer), Dr. Ralph Karam (Secretary).
Fig. 5
Dr. Sania Haroun-Bizri, with Dr. Marie Claire Antakly, and Dr. Mario Aoun, President of Lebanese Order of Physicians.

Fig. 6
Dr. Sania Haroun-Bizri, President of the Lebanese Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care with Dr. Marie Claire Antakly, Past President and Dr. Anis Baraka Editor-in-Chief of the Middle East Journal of Anesthesiology.