



**Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR) Annual Meeting 2026**

**January 31, 2026; 09:00am – 02:00pm**

Issam Fares Lecture Hall, SML Plaza, Faculty of Medicine, AUB

Riad El Solh Street, Hamra, Beirut

**AGENDA**

<b>09:00 am – 09:05 am</b>	<b>CIDR members group picture</b>	
<b>09:05 am – 09:30 am</b>	<b>Introduction &amp; Brief update on CIDR activities</b>	<b>Dr. Ghassan Dbaibo &amp; Dr. Ghassan Matar</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Dr. Ghassan Matar</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
09:30 am – 09:50 am	Longitudinal T and B cell recall responses following vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine BNT162b2	Dr. Michel Massaad
09:50 am – 10:10 am	Immunomodulatory Effects of the Epstein-Barr Virus	Dr. Elias Rahal
10:10 am – 10:30 am	The human gut microbiota: a source of diagnostic biomarkers and bacteriotherapeutic candidates in ulcerative colitis	Dr. Melhem Bilen
10:30 am – 10:50 am	Exosomal pHERV-W ENV as a dynamic biomarker for relapse prediction and prognosis in multiple sclerosis	Dr. Esber Saba
10:50 am – 11:10 am	Acinetobacter in the Rubble: Heavy Metals, Conflict, and the Evolution of Extreme Drug Resistance	Dr. Antoine Abou Fayad
11:10 am – 11:30 am	Reviving Neglected Battles: Can Imiquinalines Change the Story of Parasitic Diseases?	Dr. Hiba El Hajj (Virtual participation)
11:30 am – 11:50 am	Epigenetic Regulation in Glial Cells: Insights from a Fruit Fly Model with Implications for Glioma Biology	Dr. Margret Shirinian
11:50 am – 12:20 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Dr. Ghassan Dbaibo</b>	
12:20 pm – 12:30 pm	Oral step-down therapy for Gram negative bacteremia INVEST trial: International multicenter study	Dr. Ali Taoube
12:30 pm – 12:40 pm	Epidemiology, characteristics and treatment outcomes of Carbapenem-Resistant <i>Enterobacterales</i> bacteremia: A 4-year retrospective study at a tertiary care center	Dr. Ghaydaa Abou Daher
12:40 pm – 12:45 pm	Immunity Gaps and Seroprevalence of Measles: A Retrospective Single-Center Study from Lebanon	Dr. Hiam Al Hosari
12:45 pm – 12:55 pm	BCG scar reactivation in Kawasaki disease: Results from the Pan-Arab Kawarabi survey and a scoping Review of the Literature	Dr. Dima Khreis
12:55 pm – 01:05 pm	Nasopharyngeal carriage rates, prevalent serotypes, and antimicrobial resistance of <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> in Lebanon: A National Cross-Sectional Study	Mr. Sab Shehab (Virtual participation)
01:05 pm – 01:15 pm	Genomic Characterization of Invasive Disease- Causing <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> in Lebanon 2003-2025	Dr. Fatima Dakroub
01:15 pm – 01:20 pm	The Burden of Invasive group A streptococcus infections: A retrospective single tertiary care center experience in Lebanon	Dr. Sarwat Farhat
01:20 pm – 01:30 pm	A molecular identification assay for the rapid diagnosis of invasive fungal infections in hospitalized patients	Dr. Solay Farhat
01:30 pm – 01:40 pm	Associations of RSV Viral Load with Symptoms and Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection	Dr. Mona Kassem
01:40 pm – 01:50 pm	Genomic and Clinical Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Lebanon: A Prospective Multicenter Study 2020-2024	Dr. Samar Dalle
01:50 pm – 02:00 pm	SARS-CoV-2 in hospitalized children: epidemiology, characteristics, and outcomes 2020-2025	Dr. Amani Haddara