

Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU)

The Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) supports in planning, designing, and conducting systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and studies of health research methodology.

Director

Elie Akl, MD, PhD Jan 2012 – Present

Coordinator

Lara Kahale, RN, MSc, PhD(c) Dec 2012 – Present

CEU Research Fellows

Assem Khamis, MD, MPH	Aug 2017 - Present
Ibrahim Tsolakian, MD	Aug 2017 – Jun 2018
Maram Hakoum, MD	Jun 2015 – Jun 2017
Rima Abdul Khalek, PharmD	Oct 2015 – Apr 2016
Andrea Darzi, MD, MPH	May 2014 – Jan 2016
Tamara Lotfi, MD	Jul 2013 – Jan 2015
Khaled Shawwa, MD	Dec 2013 – May 2014

CEU - MPH Practicum students

Maryam Omran, RN	Jun 2017- May 2018
Karim N Daou, MD	Jan 2017 – July 2017
Mohamed Nomier, MD	Jan 2017 – July 2017
Rana Charide, BS	Jan 2016 – May 2016
Assem Khamis, MD	Jan 2016 – July 2016
Andrea Darzi, MD	May 2014 – Dec 2014
Reem Waziry, MD	May 2014 – Jul 2014
Reem Khaliel, MD	2014

CEU - MRVP students

Nahla Jouni	Academic Year 2015-16
Hussein Noureldine	Academic Year 2015-16
Acile Nahlawi	Summer 2015
Hiba Zeid	Summer 2015
Divina Hasbani	Summer 2015

Ahmed El Rahyel	Fall 2014
Rayan Hajjar	Fall 2014
Mohammad Al Akel	Summer 2014
Mira Itani	Summer 2014
Dana Naamani	Summer 2014
Ihsan Hammoura	Summer 2014
Nada Al-Matari	Summer 2014

CEU - FRRP Residents

Charbel Matar, MD	2016
Hiba El Rayes, MD, MPH?	2016
Sami Bdeir, MD	2015
Romy Kallas, MD	2014
Lina Al-Khaled, MD	2012

CEU - Other Volunteers

Fadel al Turki, MD	2017
Joseph Habib, MD	2016
Eliane Abou-Jaoude, MD	2015
Elias Abou-Jaoude, MD	2015
Mounir Al Gibbawi, MD	2015
Sirine Anouti, BS, MPH	2015
Sami Chouciar, MD	2015
Lama Kilzar, BSc	2015
Serge Koujanian, MD	2014
Munes Fares, MD	2013
Alain Harb, MD	2013
Hashem Rajab Beik, MD	2013
Batoul Diab, BS, MSc	2013
Rami Tarabay, MD	2013

CEU activity summary

Activity	Number of projects	Principal investigators
Ongoing FM faculty research projects	9	9
Ongoing CEU projects	4	4
Completed FM faculty research projects	14	11
Completed CEU projects	3	8
Activity	Number of presentations	Speakers
Oral and Poster Presentations	31	11
Workshops	7	9
Activity	Number of conferences	Participants
International meetings	1	8
International conferences	3	CEU team

Ongoing - Support for AUB faculty research projects			
Study title	Principal investigator(s)	Year	Department
Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors use in patients with respiratory failure and metabolic alkalosis	Dr. Samir Mallat	2017-2018	Internal Medicine
Implantable cardioverter in non-ischemic heart failure	Dr. Marwan Refaat	2017-	Internal Medicine
Osteomyelitis in conflict wounds	Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah	2016-	Surgery
Carbamazepine for interpersonal aggressive behavior	Dr. Farid Talih	2016-	Psychiatry
SR bladder cancer and NAT1	Dr. Hassan R Dhaini	2016-	Environmental health
Attitudes of youth towards substance use	Dr. Joseph Khoury	2016-	Psychiatry
Aspirin and upper gastro-intestinal bleeding	Dr. Kassem Barada	2015-	Internal medicine
mTOR inhibitors in renal transplant patients	Dr. Samir Mallat	2015-	Internal medicine
Rotavirus and norovirus in MENA	Dr. Nada Melhem	2015-	Medical laboratory sciences
Traumatic brain injury in Lebanon	Dr. Firas Kobeissy	2015-	Biochemistry and molecular genetics
Ongoing CEU projects			

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Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU)
Clinical Research Institute (CRI)

Study title	Principal investigator(s)	Year	Number of publications
Investigating the variations in meta-analyses in 20 systematic reviews addressing the same PICO question: a case study	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Assem Khamis	2017 - present	pending
Verification of conflicts of interest disclosures in health research	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Assem Khamis	2017 - present	pending
The reporting of funding and conflicts of interest in health publications	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Maram Hakoum	2017 - 2018	3
Conflict of interest disclosure policies of journals	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Khaled Shawwa; Dr. Maram Hakoum; Dr. Assem Khamis; Dr. Karim Daou	2013-2018	3
Addressing missing data in systematic reviews	Dr. Elie Akl; Ms. Lara Kahale	2013-present	6
Anticoagulation in patients with cancer	Dr. Elie Akl; Ms. Lara Kahale	2013-present	13

Completed - Support for FM faculty research projects			
Study title	Principal investigator(s)	Year	Department
Prophylactic cranial irradiation in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials	Dr. Fady Geara; Dr. Karine Al Feghali	2015 - 2017	Radiation oncology
Effects of different doses of vitamin D supplementation in the middle east and north Africa region	Dr. Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan	2014-2016	Internal medicine
Insertion of arterial cannulation using ultrasound guidance technique for pediatric patients	Dr. Marie Aouad	2014-2016	Anesthesia
Free versus fixed combination antihypertensive therapy for essential arterial hypertension	Dr. Samir Mallat	2013-2016	Internal medicine
Minimally invasive parathyroidectomy guided by intraoperative parathyroid hormone monitoring (IOPTH) and preoperative imaging versus bilateral neck exploration for primary hyperparathyroidism	Dr. Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan	2012-2016	Internal medicine
Attitudes of public health academics toward receiving funds from for-profit corporations	Dr. Rima Afifi	2014-2015	Health promotion and community

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			health
Bundle branch block and mortality	Dr. Samar Nouredine	2014-2015	Nursing
Family interventions for youth well being	Dr. Rima Afifi	2014-2015	Health promotion and community health
Full-dose versus half dose clarithromycin for treatment naïve patients with proven helicobacter pylori infection: a systematic review	Dr. Ala Sharara	2014-2015	Internal medicine
ICDs in patients with cardiac sarcoidosis: a systematic review	Dr. Marwan Refaat	2014-2015	Internal medicine
Association between low vitamin D levels and the diagnosis of asthma in children: a systematic review of cohort studies	Dr. Salman Mroueh	2012-2014	Pediatrics
Vitamin D supplementation in children with asthma: a systematic review and meta-analysis	Dr. Salman Mroueh	2012-2014	Pediatrics
LVAD arrhythmia: a systematic review	Dr. Hadi Skouri	2013	Internal medicine
Surgical versus medical management of patients with acute ischemic mitral regurgitation: a systematic review	Dr. Wael Jaroudi	2013	Internal medicine

Completed CEU projects

Study title	Principal investigator(s)	Year	Number of publications
Authorship in reports of clinical practice guidelines: A systematic cross-sectional analysis	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Mohamed Nomier	2017	pending
Physician and pharmaceutical industry interaction	Ms. Racha Fadlallah; Dr. Hneine Brax	2013-2017	6
Safe injections	Dr. Alain Harb; Ms. Batoul Diab; Dr. Rami Ballout; Dr. Rami Tarabay; Ms. Rola El Rassi	2013-2016	3
Vitamin D and asthma in children	Dr. Lina Alkhaled	2013-2015	

Oral and Poster Presentations

Title	Location	Speaker	Date
Perioperative anticoagulation in patients with cancer	FRRP open house, AUBMC, Lebanon	Dr. Charbel Matar	May 2018
Effects of aspirin on mortality and re-bleeding in patients with non-variceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding: a systematic review and meta-analysis	8th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Dr. Rony Aoun	Mar 2017
Cochrane Living Systematic Reviews: guidance, piloting and early evaluation	Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, South Africa	Dr. Elie Akl	Sept 2017
Do intellectual relationships create conflicts of interest?	Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, South Africa	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Sept 2017
Identifying and dealing with participants with missing outcome data in trials: framework for systematic review authors	Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, South Africa	Ms. Lara Kahale	Sept 2017
Verification of the accuracy and completeness of disclosures of Conflict of Interest in the medical literature: a systematic survey	Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, South Africa	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Sept 2017
Characteristics of funding of clinical trials: a methodological survey and a proposed guidance	7th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Feb 2017
Individual and institutional financial conflicts of interest reported by authors of randomized controlled trials: a systematic survey	7th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Mr. Hussein Nouredine	Feb 2017
Reporting of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest by authors of 200 randomized controlled trials: a methodological survey	7th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Ms. Nahla Jouni	Feb 2017
Reporting of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest in systematic reviews on Health Policy and Systems Research: a methodological survey	7th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Ms. Lama Bou-Karroum	Feb 2017
Requirements of Health Policy and Services journals for authors to disclose financial and non-	7th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Dr. Assem Khamis	Feb 2017

financial conflicts of interest: a cross-sectional study			
Categorizing conflicts of interest in healthcare research: a proposed framework	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Elie Akl	Sept 2016
Individual and institutional financial conflicts of interest reported by authors of randomized controlled trials: a systematic survey	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Sept 2016
Characteristics of the reporting of funding by trial authors: a systematic survey of 200 randomized controlled trials	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Oct 2016
Reporting of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest by authors of 200 Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews: a methodological survey	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Oct 2016
Reporting of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest by authors of 200 randomized controlled trials: a methodological survey	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Oct 2016
Reporting of financial and non-financial conflicts of interest by authors of health policy and systems systematic reviews: a methodological survey	24th Cochrane Colloquium; Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Oct 2016
Analysis of participants with potential missing outcome data in 653 trials: a methodological survey	24 th Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea	Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2016
Impact of missing outcome data for trial participants included in 100 meta-analyses: an imputation study	24 th Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea	Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2016
Reporting of conflicts of interest by authors of systematic reviews: a methodological survey	6th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day	Dr. Maram Hakoum	Feb 2016
Extent and handling of missing dichotomous outcome data for	23 rd Cochrane Colloquium, Vienna, Austria	Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2015

participants in 672 trials included in 100 Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews			
Extent and handling of missing dichotomous outcome data in 100 Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews	23 rd Cochrane Colloquium, Vienna, Austria	Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2015
Handling missing participant data for dichotomous outcomes in randomized controlled trials: systematic survey of the methods literature	23 rd Cochrane Colloquium, Vienna, Austria	Dr. Andrea Darzi	Oct 2015
Reported versus actual analytical methods to handle missing participant data in meta-analysis: a survey of 100 systematic reviews	23 rd Cochrane Colloquium, Vienna, Austria	Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2015
Parenteral anticoagulation in patients with cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis	5 th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Ms. Lara Kahale	Feb 2015
Extent of missing outcome data for participants in trials included in five Cochrane systematic reviews: a descriptive analysis	22 nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad, India	Dr. Elie Ramly; Ms. Lara Kahale	Sep 2014
Handling trial participants with missing dichotomous outcome data when conducting a meta-analysis: a methodological survey of proposed approaches	22 nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad, India	Ms. Lara Kahale	Sep 2014
Impact of missing outcome data for participants in trials included in five Cochrane systematic reviews: an imputation study	22 nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad, India	Ms. Lara Kahale	Sep 2014
Reporting missing outcome data for participants in randomized trials: a methodological survey of proposed approaches	22 nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad, India	Dr. Khaled Shawwa; Ms. Lara Kahale	Sep 2014
Anticoagulation for patients with cancer and central venous catheters: a systematic review and	4 th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day, American University of Beirut, Beirut,	Dr. Elie Ramly; Ms. Lara Kahale	Feb 2014

meta-analysis	Lebanon		
Identifying participants with missing data in trials included in systematic reviews: challenges and potential solutions	4 th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Dr. Elie Ramly; Ms. Lara Kahale	Feb 2014
Interventions targeting physicians' interaction with pharmaceutical companies: a systematic review	4 th Annual AUB Biomedical Research Day, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Ms. Lara Kahale; Dr. Lina Alkhaled	Feb 2014

Workshops			
Title	Location	Speaker	Date
How to conduct systematic review	AUB, Beirut, Lebanon	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Assem Khamis; Ms. Lara Kahale; Ms. Racha Fadlallah; Ms. Rana Charide; Dr. Tamara Lotfi	Sep 2017
Addressing missing participant data in systematic reviews: Part I – Dichotomous outcomes	24th Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea	Dr. Elie Akl; Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2016
How to conduct systematic review	American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Andrea Darzi; Dr. Assem Khamis; Ms. Lama Bou-Karroum; Ms. Lara Kahale; Dr. Maram Hakoum; Ms. Racha Fadlallah; Dr. Tamara Lotfi	Sep 2016
How to conduct systematic review	American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Andrea Darzi; Ms. Lama Bou-Karroum; Ms. Lara Kahale; Dr. Tamara Lotfi	Mar 2016
Identifying participants with missing outcome data in	23rd Cochrane Colloquium, Vienna, Austria	Dr. Elie Akl; Ms. Lara Kahale	Oct 2015

trials included in systematic reviews: challenges and suggested solutions			
How to conduct systematic review	American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Andrea Darzi; Ms. Lama Bou-Karroum; Ms. Lara Kahale; Ms. Racha Fadlallah; Dr. Tamara Lotfi	May 2015
Addressing missing participant data in systematic reviews: part I – dichotomous outcomes	22nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad, India	Dr. Elie Akl; Ms. Lara Kahale	Sep 2014
International meetings			
Title	Location	Participants	Date
Guidance for addressing missing data in systematic review and trials	McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada	Dr. Elie Akl; Dr. Alfonso Iorio; Dr. Alonso Carrasco-Labra; Dr. Gordon Guyatt; Dr. Jason Busse; Ms. Lara Kahale; Dr. Madison Yhang; Dr. Matthias Briel; Dr. Thomas Agoritsas	Jan 2017
International conferences			
Title	Location	Date	
Global Evidence Summit Using evidence. Improving lives. 25 th Cochrane Colloquium	Cape Town, South Africa	September 2017	
Challenges to evidence-based health care and Cochrane , 24th Cochrane Colloquium	Seoul, South Korea	Oct 2016	
Filtering the information overload for better decisions, 23rd Cochrane Colloquium	Vienna, Austria	Oct 2015	
Evidence–Informed Public Health: Opportunities and Challenges, 22nd Cochrane Colloquium	Hyderabad, India	Sep 2014	