AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CRI) is delighted to launch its

12TH CYCLE OF THE FACULTY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (FAP)

FORMAT: IN-PERSON/HYBRID

OCT 14, 2026 – MAY 19, 2027 | **WEDNESDAYS**, 5:00 – 6:00 PM BEIRUT TIME *(TWICE PER MONTH)*

FAP aims to provide support in clinical and health research for early career faculty members in local and regional universities and medical institutions. The program includes a seminar series + mentorship and support to develop a research proposal for funding applications.

PROGRAM FEES: 2000$ (WITH CME CREDITS FOR PHYSICIANS)
Lebanese medical institutions (listed below)**: 1000$ | AUB faculty: 500$** (WITH CME CREDITS FOR PHYSICIANS)

- Beirut Arab university (BAU)
- Holy Spirt University of Kaslik (USEK)
- Lebanese American University (LAU)
- Lebanese University (LU)
- Saint George University of Beirut (SGUB)
- Saint-Joseph University of Beirut (USJ)
- University of Balamand (UoB)

Those who are interested in joining the program need to register by filling the below survey by **September 14, 2026**

REGISTER HERE

This program is in collaboration with the Healthcare Professional Development Center (HPDC), which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

FACULTY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CRI)

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HPDC)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB) - BEIRUT, LEBANON

Organized by: the Clinical Research Institute (CRI)
Program director: Elias Ghossoub, *MD, MSc*
Program coordinator: Sara Khansa, *MBA*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the program is to provide training in clinical research for early career faculty members in local and regional academic medical institutions with the ultimate aims of:

1. Supporting the development of junior faculty members into clinical researchers.
2. Creating capacities and a supportive faculty platform to promote research collaborations locally and regionally.

The program achieves these objectives through:

i. A seminar series on several research and faculty advancement topics and,
ii. Offering mentorship and support for applicants to develop an integrated project, typically in the form of a research proposal to be submitted for funding.

TARGET AUDIENCE & ELIGIBILITY

Early career faculty members and physicians (Instructor or Assistant Professor ranks) in academic medical institutions in Lebanon and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with basic or limited knowledge and experience in clinical research, who are interested in developing their clinical research projects/programs.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Completing a brief entry survey, which includes a few questions related to contact information, previous research experience, and research interests.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

At the end of the program, participants will be able to:

- Develop a research proposal in their area of specialty.
- Recognize key concepts and different aspects/stages of clinical research.
- Recognize key elements of academic career advancement.
- Identify local and international resources that can assist in advancing their research.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

At completion, participants will receive a **certificate of attendance** (conditional on attending over 80% of the sessions) and a **certificate of completion** (conditional on submitting a research proposal). For medical doctors registered for CME credits, an *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* certificate will be issued at the completion of the program by the HPDC based on attendance.

Participants are also expected to provide feedback and evaluation of the program and its impact on their academic growth (e.g., funding, promotion, publications, collaborations).

PROGRAM CONTENT & INFORMATION

The program will consist of two components:

- A seminar series on clinical and health research and faculty advancement topics.
- An Integrated Project (IP) consisting of developing a research proposal throughout small group meetings and with support from a mentor with renowned expertise in clinical research.

In addition, awards and further CRI resources and training opportunities are available for FAP participants, as detailed below.

1. **Program agenda:** Seminar series and IP sessions with assigned mentor occur every other Wednesday, 5-6 pm Beirut time (hybrid format).

Each one-hour is *1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* (except for the non-CME introductory session).

DATE	SEMINAR	SPEAKER
OCT 14, 2026	Welcome and introductory session	FAP director & mentors
OCT 21, 2026	Research career planning	FAP mentors and guest speakers
NOV 4, 2026	Formulating a research question	**Marlene Chakhtoura**, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine & CRI Director
NOV 18, 2026	**Integrated Project – mentored group discussion I:** Research question	
DEC 2, 2026	Scientific writing	**Elie Akl**, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor of Clinical Medicine & Vice Provost for Research
DEC 16, 2026	ABCs of research designs	**Martine Elbejjani**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & FAP & REU Director
JAN 13, 2027	**Integrated Project – mentored group discussion II:** Research design and methodology	
JAN 27, 2027	ABCs of statistics	**Hani Tamim**, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics & Director of the Biostatistics Unit
FEB 10, 2027	Resources for grants application	**Yasmina El Achkar**, MSc, Grant Development Officer **Lynn Sinno**, MPH, Research Assistant
FEB 24, 2027	**Integrated Project – mentored group discussion III:** Analysis and anticipated results	
MAR 24, 2027	**Integrated Project – mentored group discussion IV:** Challenges	
MAR 31, 2027	Leveraging faculty and institutional resources	**CRI faculty & guest speakers**
APR 14, 2027	**Integrated Project – mentored group discussion V:** Addressing Reviewers' comments	
APR 28, 2027	Ethical considerations in clinical research	**Rami Mahfouz**, MD, Director of the Human Research Protection Program
MAY 12, 2027	Scientific publishing and scholarly assessments	**Khalil Kreidieh**, BS-MLT, MS, CC, CL, Academic and Special Projects Coordinator
MAY 19, 2027	Program evaluation	Wrap up discussion with FAP Faculty

2. Integrated Project (IP)

Participants are expected to develop throughout the program a research proposal to be submitted for intramural or extramural funding. This is achieved through integrating information from the seminar sessions and through 5 IP discussion sessions with a mentor to develop different stages of the proposal. The IP discussion sessions are scheduled throughout the program and are conducted in small groups allowing for participants to present and discuss their progress with their group-peers and mentor. The final version of the IP is sent for peer review with evaluation and feedback provided for participants.

3. Awards

A total score based on the reviewers' evaluation is used to rank IPs. The top 3 participants with the highest IP scores coupled with attendance of above 80% will receive awards to be distributed during the CRI Clinical Research Open House (end of May).

4. Additional Research Training Opportunities

FAP participants are highly encouraged to attend, in parallel to the FAP program, lectures from the Medical Research Lecture series as well as workshops organized by the CRI Research Education Unit (REU) to acquire more solid knowledge about specific research topics of interest. To facilitate their attendance, FAP participants have the priority to attend REU workshops and the attendance fees for attending their first workshop are completely waived.

List of REU Workshops

All details related to each workshop *(date, objective, registration fees, etc.)* will be announced in separate emails.

DATE	WORKSHOP TITLE	SPEAKER(S)	FORMAT	THEME
SEPT 24&25, 2026	Statistics made easy	**Hani Tamim**, PhD	**IN-PERSON**	**RESEARCH METHODS & ANALYSIS**
OCT 12–16, 2026	How to conduct systematic reviews	**Joanne Khabsa,** MPH **Ola El Zein,** PhD **Razane Youssef,** MSc **Lili Zeidan,** Msc	**HYBRID**	**LITERATURE SEARCH**
NOV 16, 2026	REDcap	**Eliana Hanna**, BA **Aya Hammoud**, MPH	**HYBRID**	**DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT**
JAN 11–15, 2027	Qualitative Research in the Age of AI: how to conduct it	**Gladys Honein,** PhD **Lina Onsi Daouk,** MSc, CIM	**HYBRID**	**RESEARCH METHODS & ANALYSIS**
MARCH 22&23 2027	Using Hospital Records for Research	**Marlene Chakhtoura,** MD, MSc **Eman Sbaity,** MD, FEBS, MSc **Abeer Dakik,** MSc, CIM **Hasan Mallah,** PhD	**HYBRID**	**DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT**
APRIL 19–22, 2027	Essentials of Clinical Trials	**Marlene Chakhtoura,** MD, MSc **Yara Haydar,** BA **Aya Hammoud,** MPH **Lara Al Hakim,** PhDc **Abeer Dakik,** MS **Jamale El-Eid,** PhD **Rony Zeeny,** PhD **Diala Al Najjar,** PharmD **Hani Tamim,** PhD	**HYBRID**	**RESEARCH METHODS & ANALYSIS**
FEBRUARY 2027	AI Tools for Research	**TBD**	**HYBRID**	**CRI AI SERIES**

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the essential areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the American University of Beirut Medical Center. The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC designates this live activity for a maximum of 18.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Faculty Disclosure Statement

The Healthcare Professional Development Center at AUBMC has implemented a policy to comply with the current Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education "Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education" requiring identification, mitigation and disclosure of all faculty financial relationships with ineligible companies.

Contact Details:

Ms. Sara Khansa, Research Education Unit (REU) officer
Email: cri@aub.edu.lb | Tel: +961-1-350 000 - Ext: 5452

A MENTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

"The FAP was a wonderful experience, and the best part of it was the follow-up with the mentee, which is very important. The way the program is structured allows for this interaction"

— **Rami Mahfouz**, MD, MPH, IFCAP, Professor & Director, Human Research Protection Program, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, AUBMC

TESTIMONIALS

“FAP is essential for any faculty starting his/her career, it gives you a clear plan for the future, helps you to set goals as well as to set a plan to achieve these goals**”**

— **Nour Moukalled**, MD, Assistant Professor, Department Internal Medicine, AUBMC

“The mentorship strengthened our skills in proposal writing and how to reply to reviewers’ comments**”**

— **Mona Hnaini**, MD, Assistant Professor, Department Internal Medicine, AUBMC

“The Faculty Advancement Program is a crucial component for the personal growth of all faculty members, it sharpens our soft skills and research skills and it also builds our team building capacity**”**

— **Firas Kreidieh**, MD, Instructor, Department Internal Medicine, AUBMC

“FAP helped me in developing my clinical research skills**”**

— **Hilda Ghadieh**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Balamand

“The continuity of following up helps you to structure and organize your research**”**

— **Rakan Nassereldine**, MD, Minister of Public Health, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, AUBMC

“The FAP was a game changer. It enhanced my research skills, expanded my network, and gave me practical tools that I use every day. I highly recommend it.**”**

— **Maya Romani**, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, AUBMC

REGISTER NOW