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Message from the Dean, Dr. Huda Huijer

The Board of Trustees voted in June 2018 to grant HSON independent faculty status and to appoint Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer as Professor and Founding Dean effective September 1, 2018. Efforts to achieve independent faculty status started in 2010, when a full proposal and a 5-year business plan were submitted to the AUB administration. This was followed by an external review in November 2016 to assess the school’s readiness for independence. HSON revised by-laws were approved by the senate followed by the BOT in November 2018. This is a historic development and a milestone achievement for HSON.

The PhD program in Nursing Science was launched AY 2018-2019. Eighteen applications were received and three students were selected and have enrolled. The PhD program is launched in close collaboration with HSON international partners, Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and University of Michigan (UM) Schools of Nursing.

The Ministry of Higher Education approved the PhD program in Nursing Science on August 14, 2018. We continue to be proud to have the largest number of PhD-holder faculty in Lebanon and the highest number of funded research projects and publication rate. HSON faculty have published in top tier refereed journals and are amongst the most productive and impactful nurse researchers in the Arab world.

A number of HSON faculty have either a joint appointment or clinical associate positions with FM/AUBMC. They have excelled clinically by establishing collaborative clinics in their areas of specialty thus setting the stage for many more to follow.

We are also excited to launch a number of new online hybrid programs at the graduate level and to pioneer new modalities in program development.

HSON continues to place emphasis on research and scholarly productivity, teaching excellence, faculty and student recruitment, and on expanding HSON academic programs based on new and innovative strategic initiatives.

Huda Abu-Saad Huijer RN, PhD, FEANS, FAAN
Professor and Founding Dean
Rafic Hariri School of Nursing
Hariri School of Nursing Independence

In June 2018, the AUB Board of Trustees approved the independent status of the Hariri School of Nursing (HSON). In September 2018, HSON became officially independent from the Faculty of Medicine.

President Fadlo Khuri in his address to the community indicated that:
“"This represents an historic step for the region’s oldest and most distinguished school of nursing. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the founding dean-elect, faculty, and staff of HSON for their outstanding efforts in education, research, service, and leadership in the field of nursing which have led to the schools elevation to independent status”

Dr. Huda Huijer, the founding dean-elect addressed the HSON community indicating that:
“The most important thing is that it is a recognition of the discipline of nursing; that it is an autonomous field of study and not just an extension of medicine. Now AUB—the top university in the country—has recognized the importance of nursing by making its school of nursing independent, with a Dean. This is important for our current faculty and students, but also for recruiting outstanding students and scholars to study and work here.”

HSON is:
• the oldest nursing school in Lebanon and the region
• 114 years old
• the first to receive unconditional accreditation and re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) outside the United States

PhD Program

The PhD program in Nursing Science aims to provide rigorous training for research careers in nursing and healthcare. It develops capacity for scholarly and independent inquiry, critical thinking, and the ability to communicate research findings, and transfer evidence-based knowledge into healthcare practice. Graduates of the program will be prepared to assume positions in academia as faculty, research scientists, educators, and as leaders in health systems.

The PhD program will focus on two elements critical to advancing health:
• physical and mental health, especially among the chronically ill and the aging populations
• care delivery and system-level analysis and improvement.
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PhD student Testimonials

Amani Bayrakdar
“I have acquired a BSN from AUB in 2002 followed by an MSN (Adult-Gerontology track) from AUB in 2007. Naturally, I have always aspired to continue my education through pursuing a PhD in Nursing. The question was never “Will I?”; it was always “When will I?” That is why when AUB’s HSON launched its much anticipated PhD program last year, I was quick to apply. Throughout my career path, I have been acquainted with graduates from many universities. I can confidently state that AUB delivers academic excellence that is unmatched regionally. Moreover, through the renowned high standards of the HSON and its international affiliations and accreditations (namely the CCNE accreditation among others), I am confident that the pursuit of my PhD at AUB will provide me with all the resources and the support needed for me to excel in my field. By pursuing a PhD in the Adult-Gerontology Track, I am aiming to serve as a leader and a resource person in this field who is able to advance and give back to the nursing profession by engaging in numerous direct care and leadership roles in the health care system. Moreover, by acquiring my PhD, I will be able to provide a much needed support in my field of interest. Through research, I will strive to improve patient care and the nursing profession in a multitude of ways; may it be through aiding in the incorporation of evidence into practice, training/mentoring nurses, and serving as a specialist and an educator to health care professionals, organizations, patients and families. This can be achieved by assuming an academic role, a clinical one, or a combination of both. This is really what marks the uniqueness of this profession”.

Rachele Bejjani
“After graduating with a BS in Nursing I went on to work in the Intensive Care Unit at AUBMC for 5 years. This fostered my love for nursing and drew my attention to the importance of quality healthcare. I have since had a desire to expand my horizons and go into research to address gaps and improve the quality of life of people suffering with disease. This is why I was extremely excited to go into the PhD in Nursing program at AUB HSON and I am currently enjoying this enriching experience”.

Rima Saad
“Nursing, in all its aspects, has been for me more than a job; it is a passion and a way of living. From this lens, I was continuously looking for higher levels of nursing experience. After spending more than 15 years in the clinical nursing field and serving in different levels of clinical roles, it was only a logical step for me to move into new limitless horizons that the PhD in Nursing Sciences offers. In fact, it was my need and ambition to know how nursing knowledge is generated that drove me to this endeavor. With the progress of the coursework, I am discovering how the amount and quality of content expand my thinking potentials to produce nursing knowledge. Although this reshaping takes time and efforts but I truly sense and believe that it is personally and professionally fulfilling”.

PhD student Testimonials
New Incoming Faculty
Dr. Houry Puzantian

Houry Puzantian, PhD, RN, FAHA, joined the Hariri School of Nursing as Assistant Professor in September 2018. She received her PhD in Nursing (2011) from the University of Pennsylvania where she also completed postdoctoral work (2013) and MSc in Translational Research. She holds a BSN, and MSc in Pharmacology and Therapeutics from AUB. Prior to joining AUB, Dr Puzantian held an Assistant Professorship in the Department of Biobehavioral Health Science, College of Nursing, at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Research Interests

Dr Puzantian’s research is directed at understanding mechanisms linking risk factors to cardiovascular disease (CVD), with a focus on arterial stiffness in conditions like hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, and chronic kidney disease (CKD). Her current work on the cardiovascular-renal cross-talk may reveal therapeutic targets for the prevention and treatment of CVD and CKD. She is an elected Fellow of the American Heart Association, inducted member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, member of the National Kidney Foundation, and North American Artery.
HSON Funded Research in 2018

Principal Investigator: Marina Adra. Co-investigators: Zepur Aharonian, Abla Sibai. Promoting a Culture of Community in Nursing Homes in Lebanon through Forging Partnership. URB Funding.

Principal Investigator: Nour Alayan. Co-investigator: Tamar Avedissian, Ghada Assaf, Farid Talih. Nurses’ and Pediatricians’ Attitudes, Perceptions, and Practices of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Adolescent Substance Use: A Multisite Cross-Study in Primary Care and School Settings. URB Funding.


Principal Investigator: Nuhad Dumit. Co-Investigators: Gladys Honein, Suzanne Dhaini, The Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Nurses and the healthcare system in Lebanon Funding: Global Health Institute [GHI]
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Scholarly and Other Publications in 2018


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Awards
HSN congratulates Founding Dean Huda Huijer for receiving National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) Career Excellence Award for her work on

Dr. Hala Darwish was inducted to the American Academy of Nursing on November 4, 2018.
Dr. Nuhad Dumit was selected by ICN to serve on the Scientific Steering Committee to revise the International Council of Nursing Code of Ethics for Nurses, October 1, 2018.
Dr. Nuhad Dumit received the award of “The 2018 Leader in LGBT Health Equality Award” granted by ‘The Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health’
Dr. Huda Huijer received the award “The 2018 Leader in LGBT Health Equality Award” granted by the Young Women Christian Association in Beirut
Dr. Huda Hujier received the WAAAUB Nurses’ trophy on December 7, 2018, in recognition of her HSON, national, and international nursing achievements.
Dr. Huda Huijer received the CNRS-L Career Excellence Award for the year 2018 during the ceremony held in the Grand Serail on December 13, 2018.
Dr. Angela Massouh has been selected as a nucleus committee member of the Heart Failure Specialist of Tomorrow [HOT], a committee of the European Society of Cardiology | Heart Failure Association.

Faculty awards and activities
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Major accomplishments
HSN won the second prize of the Faculty Challenge in AUB’s first Giving Day.

Outreach and societal impact
HSN in collaboration with CEC REP continued to provide courses/workshops to registered nurses and nurse leaders in the UAE.
AUB continues to contribute to MACHS efforts in an advisory, training, and management capacity. Dr. Huda Huijer and Dr. Nuhad Dumit are members of the project’s steering committee.
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Dr. Angela Massouh, co-leading the heart failure multidisciplinary disease management program at AUBMC

AUB School of Nursing has been assuming the lead in promoting specialized nurse training through academic and training programs as well as creation of multidisciplinary disease management programs central to these programs is the specialized nurse. Dr. Angela Massouh, an Assistant Professor at HSON, is co-leading the Heart Failure multidisciplinary disease management program at AUBMC. This program is an education, treatment, and research focused program that offers a unique approach to the care of heart failure patients. Through AUBMCs first Heart Failure Symptom Management Clinic, Dr. Massouh along with a multidisciplinary team provide services that range from prevention, treatment, follow-up care, symptom management, self-care education, to implementation of evidence-based multidisciplinary guidelines. She oversees heart failure patients’ ability to perceive their symptoms, perform self-maintenance activities, and manage their disease process by integrating self-care in their day-to-day life.

As the only Heart Failure Clinical Nurse Specialist in the region, Dr. Massouh aims at establishing a unique role for cardiology nurses in Lebanon and the region. She is extensively involved in training bedside nurses on evidence-based practice in heart failure care. The aim behind this capacity building done in partnership with the Order of Nurses, is to role model and train nurses across the country and beyond to create disease management programs in institutions that have the right infrastructure and personnel.

Capacity building

In January 2019, Dr. Gladys Honein facilitated a three day workshop organized by the Clinical Research Institute, Research Education Unit at AUB. This workshop aimed at introducing participants to the qualitative research design including methodologies, data collection methods, thematic data analysis, increasing rigor, and presentation of qualitative studies. Participants were clinicians and researchers from different institutions in Lebanon.

Dr. Honein, co-director of Refugee Health Program

Dr. Honein-AbouHaidar, Assistant Professor at the Hariri School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut was appointed as the co-Director of the Refugee Health Program at the Global Health Institute. Dr. Honein-AbouHaidar works closely with multidisciplinary teams and community stakeholders to develop innovative research underpinned by the principles of equity, inclusiveness and participatory approach to improve equity and quality of services in the community. She is currently involved in several projects with the Refugee Health Program on assessing and evaluating adaptive mechanisms adopted by Syrian refugees to improve their livelihoods. Those projects are covering issues such as using community kitchens to reduce food insecurity, seeking informal care provisions to improve access to health care, and adopting informal coping mechanisms for resilient livelihoods. Her research also partly addresses the burden of the protracted refugee crisis on the host community, in particular the health care system and health workers specifically nurses.

Her contributions to the Refugee Health Program encompass providing insights on research topics, methodological consultations and community services.

She was featured in the GHI newsletter dated September, 2018
Nursing Student Activities

Nursing mini-conference: Undergraduate nursing students in their senior year submitted abstracts and developed research proposals as part of their assignments in the NURS 406 research course, and as a capacity building for future nursing researchers. The mini-conference was organized by Dr. Gladys Honein and Dr. Suzanne Dhaini.

Fundraising event on AUB campus by HSON NSS «Nursing Students Society» for an NGO called Home Of Hope!

HSON graduation gala dinner

HSON graduation gala dinner, class of 2018, was held at Le Maillon Beirut. Attended by faculty, staff and undergraduates and graduate students ...It was a night to remember.

Christmas Gathering

HSON Christmas gathering was held on December 18, 2018 at 1 avenue du Parc, Beirut. It was attended by faculty and staff and we had a marvelous time!
In memoriam of Dr. Selwa Makarem

Dr. Selwa Makarem EdD, RN (1958) was director of the School of Nursing for ten years, from 1993 until her retirement in 2003. Prior to that, she served on the faculty of Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing (1978-1980) and California State University, Fresno School of Nursing (1984-1992) in the USA.

Her association with AUB began with her position as pediatric nurse (1958-1959), nursing supervisor (1959-1969), and as nurse educator (1969-1973). In addition to being a director of the School of Nursing, Makarem served as president of the alumni nurses’ chapter (1993-1995), a position she held many years earlier (1968-1972), and a nursing federation council member in the late 1990s.

Makarem, who graduated from AUB with a BSN degree in 1958, pursued her education in the United States where she earned her MSN degree from Boston University in 1961 and Master’s degree in Education in 1975 and EdD degree from Teachers College, Colombia University in 1978. Under Makarem’s leadership, the school conducted a feasibility study in 1999 substantiating the need for a Master’s in Nursing Science (MSN) degree. She also played a pivotal role in organizing the first international nursing conference in Lebanon in close collaboration with the University of Michigan School of Nursing and Villanova University College of Nursing. She also supported faculty members in going for their graduate studies.

Dr. Makarem was known to be caring, supportive, generous, and an advocate for nurses. After her retirement, AUB awarded her the title of professor emeritus in 2005.

The School of Nursing at AUB and the profession of nursing in Lebanon are indebted to Dr. Makarem’s contributions to the nursing profession at AUB and in Lebanon. AUB and Lebanon have lost a leader and a dedicated professional. Dr. Makarem passed away on June 27, 2018.

We extend our warm and deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. May her soul rest in peace.

Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer
Founding Dean
Hariri School of Nursing