

April 11, 2022

Dear AUB Community,

We are pleased to share with the AUB community the following update on the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) and the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Professor Fuad Ziyadeh has decided to step down from his role as the chair of the IRB effective April 15th, 2022 to focus on his new role as the Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine. During his chairmanship that started in 2012, Professor Ziyadeh led the IRB in an exemplary fashion and contributed to its evolution to where it stands today. He steadfastly and wisely shepherded its operations, provided guidance to the IRB staff and faculty team, supported its two boards along with the Social and Behavioral Sciences-IRB co-chair Professor Michael Clinton and the Biomedical-IRB vice-chairs Professor Rami Mahfouz and until recently Associate Professor Deborah Mukherji. He was instrumental in the efforts that ensured the HRPP/IRB met all the standards required for the Joint Committee International accreditation of AUBMC as an academic medical center for three multi-year cycles in a row. Professor Ziyadeh did not spare time or effort to continuously support and advise AUB faculty members and students in securing IRB approval for their studies, including during the recent challenging times with the COVID-19 pandemic. We wholeheartedly thank Professor Ziyadeh for this dedication and efforts to uphold the mission of HRPP and IRB at AUB and shall remain ever grateful to him as an AUB community.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Rami Mahfouz, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, will be assuming the role of IRB chair effective April 16th, 2022. Professor Mahfouz has served on the Biomedical-IRB as an active member since 2010 and as a vice-chair since 2015. His commitment to the HRPP/IRB has led to many accomplishments and contributed to improvement in the IRB research review process. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job and he will play a leadership role in the efforts aimed to modernize HRPP/IRB operations and uphold the HRPP/IRB mission to protect subjects in research conducted under the auspices of AUB.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that Professor Nathalie Khoueiry-Zgheib, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, will be assuming the role of vice-chair for Biomedical-IRB as of April 16th, 2022. Professor Zgheib has served on the IRB as a full member since 2012, sharing and providing much needed expertise and knowledge in evaluating and reviewing clinical research studies. She will similarly play a remarkable role in advancing the mission of the HRPP/IRB.

We are most confident that the new team will uphold the mantle and take the Biomedical-IRB to new heights of excellence.

Please join me in thanking Professor Ziyadeh for his exemplary service and commitment to which he will be always remembered and thanked, and in wishing Professors Mahfouz and Zgheib all the best in their new roles.

Sincerely,

Zaher Dawy, PhD
Provost

Ali K. Abu-Alfa, MD, FASN, FAHA
Director, Human Research Protection
Program

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) at AUB is responsible to safeguard the rights and welfare of human subjects participating in Biomedical and Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) research activities conducted under the auspices of AUB. It is committed to protect, ensure respect and foster awareness for those rights. This is achieved by governing and authorizing the conduct of research that follows the three ethical principles of the Belmont Report namely: Respect for Persons; Beneficence and Justice; and that abides by the principles of responsible research conduct scientific integrity.