

## Personal Statement

I have completed my PhD studies in Biomedical Sciences in NUI Galway, Ireland, and a masters of Public Health from University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA. I have more than 10 years' experience in clinical and public research. I have 16 publications as main and co-author, and several poster and oral presentations at national and international conferences. Currently, I am the research director at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, where I am an instructor and conduct research trainings for students, research analysis, reporting and research seminars. In addition, I manage the research team and responsible for proposals, grants and all research applications and reports.

In 2010, I have established the Youth Development Organization (YDO), a youth based voluntary NGO in Mount Lebanon, aiming to engage youth effectively in their community and get involved in several activities with municipalities, educational centers, other NGOs and active bodies, and we were able to establish a network of active players nationally and in the MEDA region in addition to the EU partners. YDO is currently involved as change agent in the major structural/cultural transformation and an agent for organizational development, cultural transformation journey and capability building initiatives. As YDO director, I have facilitated several workshops and trainings with MEPI-LAA, UNESCO-Netmed, Federation of Shouf Municipalities, Federation of Jabal Sheikh Municipalities and other workshops in schools and universities.

Currently, we are conducting nationwide research project aiming at assessing the understanding of gender mainstreaming among Lebanese population under the "Equality Across Generations" project conducted with Save the Children and funded by UN Women. As YDO Director I was also responsible for several research projects implemented with local and international organizations. We had conducted with UNESCO baseline assessment of youth and women needs in Mount Lebanon and Beirut; GIZ for national marketing assessment which is taking place in North Lebanon, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon; MINARET, a regional project with Royal Scientific Society Jordan and funded by SIDA to perform stakeholder analysis and baseline assessments with stakeholders and governmental institutions for the water, energy and food development in Shouf Sweijani, Karak Jordan and Monastir Tunisia. These projects are a combination of basic desktop research, survey collection, focus groups and public workshops. In our workshops, we combine the aspect of deep mindset shifts and transformation with practical capability building and aim at developing culture-change-agents as well as team work facilitators and linking to their mindset and capability development needs.

Due to my academic background as researcher, and understanding the importance of research studies and reports in development of any firm, I have established YDO Research and Innovation center which aims at developing youth skills in research and training youth to conduct research, report academically and present the results in a professional way. In our research projects, we help municipalities and organizations to develop research information and databases to assist in any developmental projects.

Despite my main research involvement is in medical and public health field, the research skills that I have gained over the past years, and my active involvement in social and NGO work, I believe that I am able to write effective and successful grants, moderate and facilitate projects and research activities and manage a team effectively and successfully. I am highly keen to develop further my skills and get engaged in international firm to further foster my credentials. You can find attached my academic CV. For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Rola Jaafar

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## **ROLA FAWZI JAAFAR**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

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#### **CURRENT POSITION**

- Research Associate, Department of Surgery at American University of Beirut Medical Center
  - Research Training workshops
  - Research Design, Proposals and Grants writing, Analysis and write up
- Founder and Director of Youth Development Organization (YDO)

#### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 06/18- ongoing: Trainer at KA2 Erasmus Plus funded project “Media and Critical Thinking Against Radicalization”, for participants from Greece, Italy, Tunisia and Jordan.
- 03/18 – 10/18: Survey research consultant for YDO for project funded from UN Women on Gender Equality
- 02/17 – 12/17: Survey research consultant for MINARET project conducted by National Research Council Jordan and Municipality of Jdeideh on Socioeconomic status of Jedideh community
- 05/17 – 10/17: Research consultant for Right to Play project for Youth needs.
- 06/16 – 06/17: Assistant Vice President of Research and Innovation at Modern University of Business and Science. Role involves:
  - Research development and Research Office Coordinator
  - Research trainings for faculty
- 01/09 – 06/11 Clinical Research Assistant, Department of Internal Medicine, American University of Beirut Medical Center
- 01/07 – 09/09 Research Assistant, Department of Pediatrics Oncology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- 10/05- 10/06 Clinical Research Assistant Department of Ophthalmology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

#### **RESEARCH RELATED EXPERIENCE**

- Member of Organizing Committee of the MEMBS 2019 (Arab Molecular Biology Congress) to be held in Beirut Nov 13-15, 2019.
- Jury member at the Epidemiology Research Day organized by Beirut Arab University, Beirut, April 10, 2019.
- Jury member at the Twenty Fifth Annual Science, Mathematics and Technology Fair on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Jury member at the “HearMeToo: Speak up against violence against women and girls” organized by ESCWA and LAU. Dec 6, 2018.
- Jury member at the Entrepreneurial Spark Event, organized by Lebanese American University, Sept 15, 2018
- Jury member at the 24th Annual Science Mathematics and Technology Fair organized by the American University of Beirut, April 14, 2018

### **AWARDS and GRANTS**

1. MPP grants AUB 2017 and 2018
2. AMR Global Development Award 2017.
3. AUB MPP Research Grant Awards 2016-2017 (4 awards)
4. UK Biochemical Society Travel Grant Award for attending 7th Global Summit on Cancer Therapy conferences held during October 05-07, 2015 in Dubai, UAE.
5. Beckman Research Grant: Sept 2014 and June 2015
6. Thomas Crawford Hayes Scheme Award: 2014
7. 2nd prize abstract award at the 14th Pan Arab Cancer Congress. Tawam Hospital, in affiliation with Johns Hopkins Medicine, Emirates Palace. November 13-15, 2014 Abu Dhabi
8. EMBARK Irish Research Council for Science and Technology Award (2012 – 2015 PhD scholarship)
9. MERETI Scholarship, University of Maryland Postgraduate Studentship (2011)
10. Graduate Research Studentship, Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut (2005)
11. MP Marwan Hamadeh Student Fellowship (1999 - 2006)

### **COURSES and CERTIFICATES**

1. Implementation Research, TDR MOOC Certificate, UNICEF/UNDP/World bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). April to July 2018.
2. Postgraduate Course: Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer. American University of Beirut. Jan – April 2016.
3. Certificate of Attendance MMI Course: Techniques & Strategies in Molecular Medicine. 3-4 Dec 2013 at Trinity College Dublin.
4. Conference Certification: “Current Controversies in Research Ethics: Research Integrity, Research Ethics Committees and International Clinical Trials. Beirut, Sept 16-17, 2011
5. Certification of Animal Handling and Research. IACAC. June 2009
6. Certification of Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams. National Institute of Health (NIH). October 2005

### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

- UNESCO Netmed
- PRIM&R. Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)
- AnnaLindh Foundation
- European Association of Cancer Research
- British Biochemical Society
- International Association of Bioethics
- SALTO EUROMED

### **COMPUTER SKILLS**

1. Statistical software: SPSS, SAS
2. General purpose software: Office, CorelDRAW, Cyfologic
3. Bioinformatics software: ChromasPro (Nucleic acid sequence analysis)

### **LANGUAGES**

Arabic and English excellent read, spoken and written, with satisfactory knowledge of French

### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request

### **CONTACT INFO**

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