

CURRICULUM VITAE
Dr. Assem Al Hajj
Medical Director at Clemenceau Medical Center

20/12/2021

DEMOGRAPHIC AND PERSONAL INFORMATION**Current Appointments**

Title	Hospital Name and Location	Dates held
Medical Director	Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC) affiliated with Johns Hopkins International Beirut, Lebanon	2005 - Current
Attending, General Surgery	Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC) affiliated with Johns Hopkins International Beirut, Lebanon	2005 - Current
Visiting Consultant General Surgeon	Clemenceau Medical Center (CMC) Dubai	2021- Current

Personal Data

Office address:	Clemenceau Medical Center affiliated with Johns Hopkins International P.O.Box 11-2555 Beirut, Lebanon +961 1 372888 Ext 1105
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Work Email:	assem.hajj@cmc.com.lb

Education and Training

Degree	Institution Name and Location	Dates attended
Bachelor of Science - Chemistry	American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon	Sep, 1982 - Jun, 1985
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)	American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon	Aug, 1985 - Jul, 1989
Intern, General Surgery	American University of Beirut Medical Center Beirut, Lebanon	Jul, 1989 – Jun, 1990
Resident, General Surgery	American University of Beirut Medical Center Beirut, Lebanon	Jun, 1990 – Jun 1994
Fellow, General and Gastrointestinal Surgery	Brigham and Women's Hospital West Roxbury VA Hospital Boston, Massachusetts, USA	Feb, 1996 – Jun, 1997

Professional Experience

Title	Hospital Name and Location	Dates held
Attending, General Surgery	Bikhazi Medical Group Beirut, Lebanon	1997 - 2005

PUBLICATIONS:

Gebran, Anthony MD; Khalil, Elissa Abou md; Moheb, Mohamad EL MD; Albaini, Obey MD; Warea, Mohamad El MD; Ibrahim, Rand MD; Karam, Karin MD; Helou, Mohamad Othman El MD; Ramly Elie P.MD; Hechi Majed El MD; Matar, Ayah BS; Zeineddine, Jana BS; Dabar, George MD; Hajj Assem Al MD; Saad, George Abi MD; Hoballah, JamalMD; Safadi, Bassem MD; Kaafarani, Haytham M. A. MD MPH, The Beirut Port Explosion Injuries and Lessons Learned, Annals of Surgery: November 23, 2021

Mansour HA, Bitar E, Fares Y, Makedessi AA, Maalouf A, Ghoul ME, Mansour MA, Chami A, Khalil M, Jalkh A, Cherfan D, Fares J, Khuri FR, Mansour AM; Beirut Port Ammonium Nitrate Explosion Consortium. The Beirut Port Explosion: injury trends from a mass survey of Emergency admissions. LANCET. 2021 Jul 3

Case Reports

A.HAJJ, C.TAYAR, H.NASSER, I.IHAB, D.CHALHOUB- Glissonian Capsule Fistula after Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Surgical Infections Case Reports. Dec 2016.59-62.

Khoury G, Geagea T, **Hajj A**, Jabbour-Khoury S, Baraka A, Nabbout G. Laparoscopic treatment of hydatid cysts of the liver. Surg. Endosc. 1994 Sep;8(9):1103-4

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES

Clinical Focus

I am a general surgeon with a practice dedicated to the treatment of breast, and endocrine tumors; and an interest in minimally invasive surgery. I strive to always give my patients compassionate care, both in clinic and in the operating room. I work closely with colleagues in endocrinology, medical oncology, radiology, gastroenterology, and pathology; and I strive to deliver the state-of-the-art multidisciplinary care. Sometimes, multiple options can exist for these conditions and it is critical that patients have an in-depth understanding of their treatment options. If surgery is necessary, our team will answer questions and explain, what patients might anticipate in the pre and peri-operative period.

Certification

Certificate	Date of Issue
Educational Commission For Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)	1993

Medical, other state/government licensure

State/Government Licensure	Date of Issue
Doctor of Medicine (Beirut, Lebanon)	1995

Boards, other specialty certification

Specialty Board	Date of Issue
Arab Board of General Surgery	1998

Clinical Productivity

Between Jan-Dec 2018, I evaluated over 2,500 patients in clinic.

During the same year, I performed around 908 surgical procedures in the operating room of which 36.3% were minimally invasive surgeries, 24.6% were breast surgical procedures and 18.1% were thyroid/parathyroid endocrine tumors.

The rest of my clinical load covers general surgery cases, including but not limited to perianal diseases, biopsies, open laparotomies, insertion of implantable venous access catheters, etc.

Clinical Draw from outside local/regional area

Between Jan-Dec 2018, I evaluated over 600 non-Lebanese patients (most being from the regional area; specifically, Iraq). Of the non-Lebanese patients evaluated in clinic, I operated on 253 patients during 2018 at Clemenceau Medical Center.

Clinical Program Building / Leadership

The clinical load in the department of General Surgery at CMC has been steadily increasing, along with the complexity of cases. This increased patient volume, has allowed us the opportunity to establish several university affiliations including the Lebanese University (LU) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) within Lebanon. Part of affiliation CMC is providing rotations for their first and second year residents.

Through its affiliation with Johns Hopkins International, CMC has expanded from an almost entirely based clinical operation to a medical organization with a tripartite mission in providing, research, excellent patient care and medical education. Indeed, under my supervision, CMC has offered clinical electives for several medical residents from The Johns Hopkins University.

With the increasing number of patients, we have strengthen our capability to continue to provide clinical excellence and compassionate care to all of our patients with surgical emergencies, traumatic injuries and critical illnesses. Under my leadership, I increased the department of surgery team by adding Dr. Mahmoud Harb, after he completed fellowship training in Trauma & Critical care at the American University of Beirut.

I have also been personally interested in growing our breast surgical oncology program by establishing part-time affiliations with the best breast reconstructive surgeons in the country along with introducing new techniques like reverse mapping for sentinel lymph node procedure and lympho-venous anastomosis to help decrease the rate of lymphedema.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Educational Focus

I provide daily teaching rounds with the 1st and 2nd year residents rotating at Clemenceau Medical Center from the Lebanese University (LU) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) in which I spend at least 45 minutes discussing the patients and post-operative management while going through pertinent topics in General Surgery. I also provide orientation and check-in with the Johns Hopkins residents that come for elective rotations.

As for the operating room, most of my cases are covered by a surgical resident. During each procedure, I narrate the case while demonstrating the key steps and anatomy for the assisting resident. The residents act as a first assistant and as such are allowed to perform key steps within the procedure under my direct supervision.

Teaching

Classroom instruction

Course Title	Venue	Role	Date
Anatomy & Physiology	Lebanese University School of Public Health	Instructor	1999-2004
Introduction to Gastrointestinal Diseases	Lebanese University School of Public Health	Instructor	1999-2004

CME instruction

CME Instruction	Venue	Role	Date
Innovation & Excellence: A Global Forum	Johns Hopkins Medical Center – Baltimore, Maryland	Learner	Nov, 2006
9 th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer	Barcelona, Spain	Learner	Jun, 2007
6 th European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC 6)	Barcelona, Spain	Learner	Apr, 2008

11 th Annual Lebanese Congress of Surgery	Beirut, Lebanon	Learner	Nov, 2008
Internal Medicine Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Mar, 2009
International Pathology Workshop	Johns Hopkins Medical Center – Baltimore, Maryland	Learner	Feb, 2010
7 th European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC 7)	Barcelona, Spain	Learner	Mar, 2010
Internal Medicine Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	May, 2010
18 th International Congress of the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery	Geneva, Switzerland	Learner	Jun, 2010
Infection Control Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Mar, 2011
19 th International Congress of the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery	Torino, Italy	Learner	Jun, 2011
16 th World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO 2016)	Hamburg, Germany	Learner	Sep, 2011
8 th European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC 8)	Vienna, Austria	Learner	Mar, 2012
17 th World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO 2017)	New Delhi, India	Learner	Sep, 2012
21 st International Congress of the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery	Vienna, Austria	Learner	Jun, 2013
18 th World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO 2018)	Istanbul, Turkey	Learner	Aug, 2013
1 st Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Oct, 2013
6 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Dec, 2013
2 nd Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Oct, 2014
From Traditional Therapies to State-of-the-art Biomedicine	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Sep, 2015
20 th World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO 2015)	Vienna, Austria	Learner	Aug, 2015
3 rd Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Oct, 2015
Multidisciplinary approach of cancer from the Surgeon's Perspective during the Cancer Care Forum Conference	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Speaker	Oct, 2016
5 th Annual Gastroenterology & Hepatology Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Sep, 2017
22 nd World Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO 2017)	London, UK	Learner	Sep, 2017
5 th Annual Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Oct, 2017
BLS for Healthcare Provider Course	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Dec, 2017
6 th Annual Gastroenterology & Hepatology Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Sep, 2018
6 th Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Oct, 2018
2 nd Annual Anesthesia Meeting – Perplexities in	Clemenceau Medical	Learner	Nov, 2018

Anesthesia	Center (JHMI)		
Onco-fertility Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Learner	Nov, 2018

Workshops /seminars

Workshops/Seminars	Venue	Role	Date
Groin Hernia Repair with Ultrapro* Hernia System in Day-Case Surgery	Ospedale Umberto I, Mestre, Italy	Learner	2007
Off-Site Robotic Console Surgeon Training	IRCAD-EITS, Strasbourg, France	Learner	2012
Training in Minimal Access Surgery	University of Strasbourg, France	Learner	2013

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES *(in chronological order, earliest first by start date under each subcategory)*

Research Focus

The number of patients has been steadily increasing over the past few years which demonstrate that Clemenceau Medical Center has grown into an attractive medical facility in Lebanon and in the region. As the result of higher volumes and the increased patient case mix, we have started to organize our overall research activities. More specifically regarding my own area of expertise, I have started organizing and prospectively collecting information from the medical records on CMC patients with breast and endocrine conditions.

Within the coming few years, I'm expecting to have published on multiple topics in breast surgery including our rates of re-excision in partial mastectomies, the prevalence of breast cancer in young patients in the Lebanese society and time-to-surgery for patients presenting from regional areas for treatment at our institution. As for my thyroid practice, we have been noting an increase in the prevalence of papillary carcinoma in younger patients that we will be reporting on in the near future.

One ongoing computational pathology study, involves the collaboration among the Johns Hopkins Bayview Breast cancer, Johns Hopkins School of Engineering and CMC. I am involved directly in the study, working both with the Hopkins team and my colleague, Dr. Selim Nasser, Chair of CMC pathology department. For the study we have selected 260 cases from the CMC database.

Research Program Building / Leadership

To help build our research program and facilitate our future endocrinology projects and publications, we encouraged and supported one of our young and enthusiastic faculty, Dr. Maya Barake, to complete a Master of Science in Health Research at the American University of Beirut in 2016. Dr. Barake initially joined CMC in 2013 after completing a fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Plans are in place to analyze our thyroid and parathyroid database. Dr. Barake has a very busy practice and is well versed in biostatistics and principles of performing clinical research. She is the first author on multiple original articles and poster presentation in international conferences.

In 2018, Dr. Shirin Muhsen was recruited at CMC after completing her clinical and research fellowships at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Dr. Muhsen will be managing and organizing our prospective databases in surgical specialties. As the new director of the surgery residency program, she will be overseeing the breast and surgery research projects' progression.

I have started establishing the necessary infrastructure and scientific teams after we identified our clinical research interests and strengths now that we have the clinical load and momentum to publish our data.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES *(in chronological order, earliest first by start date under each subcategory)*

Institutional Administrative Appointments

Role/Committee	Description	Dates held
Medical Director; Clemenceau Medical Center	As a medical director, I monitor and supervise the level of care we provide. I work closely with the executive management team to implement strategies that enhance patient care and improve our medical practice. *Active member of the Executive management board since 2005	2004 - Current
Director; OR Committee	The purpose and task of this committee is the effective functioning in the operating room for the safety surgical treatment of patients. Among the managerial responsibilities of this committee is the development of an organizational policy with the purpose to safeguard patients and personnel by monitoring the schedule, rate of surgical site infections and common problems arising in daily practice.	2005- Current
Member; Clinical Data Documentation Committee	This committee oversees and tracks delinquencies in medical charting while overseeing the quality of documentation in our medical records.	2005- Current
Member; Medical Staff Credentialing Committee	This committee reviews other provider's credentials to determine if their qualification and experience is sufficient to provide clinical services. It also provides credentialing and recredentialing upon evaluation.	2004- Current
Member; Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	The pharmacy and therapeutics committee is responsible for managing the formulary system while overseeing policies and procedures related to all aspects of medication use within the institution. Other responsibilities of the P&T committee include medication-use evaluation, adverse-drug-event monitoring and reporting, medication-error prevention, and development of clinical care plans and guidelines.	2005- Current
Member; Morbidity and Mortality Committee	This committee discusses and reviews incidents from the initial event to the mortality and morbidity meeting and implementation of identified actions or outcomes.	2005- Current
Member; Quality and Patient Safety Committee	This committee focuses and reports on high level outcomes, patient safety, effectiveness of care and patient experience.	2005- Current

Professional Societies

Role	Society	Dates
Member	Lebanese Order of Physicians	1990-Current
Member	International Hepato-Pancreatico Biliary Association	1995-1997
Member	Lebanese General Surgical Society	2000-Current
President	American College of Surgery – Lebanon Chapter	
Fellow	American College of Surgeons	2004-Current

Conference Organizer

Conference Organizer	Venue	Role	Date
1 st Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2009
2 nd Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	May, 2010
3 rd Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2011

4 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	May, 2012
5 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2013
6 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2014
Surgical Symposium	Johns Hopkins Medical Center – Baltimore, Maryland	Organizer	May, 2006
7 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2015
8 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	May, 2016
9 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2017
Robotic Surgery Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Jun, 2018
10 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Jun, 2018
11 th Annual Women's Health Symposium	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Organizer	Apr, 2019

Session Chair

Conference	Venue	Role	Date
1 st Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Moderator	Oct, 2013
3 rd Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Moderator	Oct, 2015
6 th Cancer Care Forum	Clemenceau Medical Center (JHMI)	Moderator	Oct, 2018

Consultantships

Organization	Venue	Date
Insightra Medical	Key Opinion Leader (KOL) for introducing and evaluating meshes used in hernial repairs	2015-2017

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Services

	Location	Date
Volunteering to evaluate and perform same day surgeries on patients in an underserved area	South Hospital Sidon, Lebanon	1997-1998