



LSPRAS 50th Anniversary Conference

A scientific and social event not to be missed

Beirut - April 26-28, 2016

For its 50th Anniversary in 2016, LSPRAS is organizing a major 3 days conference endorsed by ISAPS in Beirut dedicated to Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery, and Burns and Humanitarian Medicine in collaboration with the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters - MBC and the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine - IAHM with special participation of the Illouz Foundation.



This Newsletter is a forum for all Association members to share their knowledge as well as important information about their activities. You are all invited to send your contribution to batyeh@terra.net.lb

The newly renovated SURSOK MUSEUM venue for the OPENING CEREMONY of the LSPRAS 50th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE



Sursock Museum, which is officially known as **Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock Museum**, is a modern art and contemporary art museum in Beirut, Lebanon.

The wealthy and prominent Beirut aristocrat Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock built the private villa that now houses the museum in 1912. The building exemplifies Lebanese architecture with its Italianate, specifically Venetian, and Ottoman architectural influences. It is located in the historic Rue Sursock street in the Achrafieh district of Beirut. The street is home to other mansions that were built in the 19th century by Beirut's most prominent families.

Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock decreed in his will that the villa will be transformed into a museum and when he died in 1952 he bequeathed the villa along with his entire art collection to the city of Beirut. He stated in his will, the museum has mainly two missions: one is to educate the



audience to the arts in general ... two, a kind of focus on local practices, whether ancient, modern or contemporary. A nine-year delay in implementing Sursock's will followed. During that time, former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun issued a decree turning the villa into a *palais d'hôtes*, housing various visiting heads of states. The museum opened its doors in 1961 with an exhibit of works of contemporary Lebanese artists, setting a precedent for cultural events in Beirut. More than a hundred exhibitions have been held at the museum displays including works of Lebanese and international artists. The museum's permanent collection includes modern art, Japanese engravings and Islamic art. The museum

collection consists of 5,000 pieces, such as paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glassware, and iconography, dating from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Part of it belonged to Sursock himself, while other bits were acquired during the course of the museum's exhibitions and the Lebanese version of Paris' Salon D'Automne art show, which the institution hosted annually. It may be a small collection, but very interesting because every single item has a story behind it,

Although the museum never closed during the Civil War, it went from being a place that stimulated passionate debate to a place of cultural irrelevance.

The museum underwent its first renovation in the 1970s whereby the entire second floor was made into one big room. This enlarged the permanent exhibition space. Unfortunately, the 1970 renovation overhauled much of the original interiors; including its' original stained glass windows. Gone are the interior's staircases, replaced with much smaller ones and an elevator. The only rooms that remained from 1912 are Nicolas Sursock's office and damascene style parlor room. The recently concluded second renovation was led by Jacques Abou Khaled, Senior Architect of JA Designs Architects and Designs, and French Architect, Jean-Michel Wilmotte.

The Museum has been officially out of action for eight years, a long time by any measure. Now, after years of delays and setbacks and unforeseeable circumstances, the Sleeping Beauty of Lebanon's art scene has been revived and reopened on October 9, 2015.

The new renovation preserved all distinctive art-works and architecture of the museum. In the old villa everything was kept as it was but the actual building was in very poor condition, so everything had to be redone. While the old villa offered around 2,000 square meters of floor space, the new extension of the museum added four new underground floors beneath the current garden at a cost of \$12 million boasting around 8,500 square meters creating new facilities in the museum to meet international standards.

The museum's exterior, set behind a grand double staircase leading to the first floor and studded with ornate balconies, looks like a wedding cake of sorts. One especially beautiful feature of the restored house is its colorful vitrail windows, made out of mouth-blown glass pieces held together with lead. The new "facilities" include a fully equipped 170-seat auditorium, a library, a cavernous temporary exhibition hall with skylights, temperature-controlled high-security storage spaces, a training center, a bookshop, a music room, and a restoration atelier. Above ground, a glass-fronted bookshop and cafe stand in stark contrast to the neo-Renaissance style of the main building.



THE LEBANESE DOCTOR IN DIASPORA

adapted from: "The Real Man Behind the Genius". Philip A Salem. DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal, Volume 6, Number 1, 2010, 42-44. "The Other Side of the River: Red China Today". Edgar Snow. New York: Random House, 1962. "The People's Doctor: George Hatem and China's Revolution". Edgar A Porter. 1997.

One of the distinctive features of our Lebanon, which is geographically crucified in the Orient between Israel, Syria, and the Mediterranean Sea, is its permeating presence in the world and the impact of this presence on world civilization. There are very few countries that could boast about the impact they made on world science, culture, and economics as much as Lebanon, and there is no other country of its size that has contributed as much to mankind.

From the time of the Phoenicians to the present time, the Lebanese had ambitions far beyond their own geography. They immigrated to the various corners of the world, not only to accumulate material wealth, but also to share in the making of other civilizations. Wherever you travel, you meet people of Lebanese origin. They are in all segments of life. Because of war and turbulence in Lebanon in the last half century, many Lebanese immigrated to the Gulf countries, Africa, Canada, Australia, the United States, and Latin America. Industrious and tenacious, they worked hard to succeed and prosper. In spite of immense economic difficulties, you would never find a single Lebanese refugee living in a tent at the expense of the United Nations, or see a single Lebanese beggar in the streets of Paris, London, or New York. This is a question of pride and dignity for them.

Most of the Lebanese doctors who are leaders in medicine and research live in

the Americas, mainly in the United States. A few live in France, England and Canada; but you can find them anywhere you go in the world. Even in Australia there are some Lebanese doctors who rose to prominence.

The story of the Lebanese doctor in Diaspora began in the Americas. The first wave of immigration from Lebanon was in the middle of the 19th century, and most of the immigrants went to the United States and soon thereafter to Brazil and other Latin American countries, like Argentina and Mexico.

These immigrants had no skills and were not educated. The only language they spoke was Arabic, but they worked hard to make a living in their new adopted countries. They all had something in common: the determination to build a new life, and the determination to provide their children with a good education. Not themselves the product of education, they realized its importance and ensured that their children had that of which they were deprived. Many of these children became doctors, and many made it to global fame.

Successive generations of doctors of Lebanese descent led to the establishment of great medical institutions abroad. Two of which are in Latin America: the Syrian-Lebanese Hospital of Buenos Aires, and the Syrian-Lebanese Hospital of São Paulo (Portuguese: Hospital Sírio-Libanês), one of the most famous hospitals in Brazil.

The **Hospital Sírio-Libanês** is the product of philanthropy consolidated with cutting-edge technology, qualified professionals, patient respect, and continuous expansion. It was founded by the large Syrian and Lebanese community of São Paulo in 1921 due to major contributions from wealthy Lebanese families, most notably the Jafet family. It is one of the most important and well-known hospitals in Brazil and South America due to the quality of care it provides. It is located in the Bela Vista district, next to Paulista Avenue, central zone of São Paulo city, Brazil. The 54,000-square-meter facility employs 2,500 people, including the most qualified physicians in 60 areas of specialization, 277 beds, two surgical wards, two intensive care units, and capacity for fifty operations per day.



The Hospital Sírio-Libanês is the venue for the 4th World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent in São Paulo April 2017.

The largest Syrian-Lebanese communities in Brazil and Argentina are predominantly comprised of families who fled the Middle East after the Turkish occupation. Because they came from countries which were



Hospital Sirio Libanes Buenos Aires Republica Argentina 5 centavos circa 1940 rare vignette

under the Ottoman Empire, they were referred to as *Turcos*. The word "Turco" did not distinguish Turks from Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, or other Middle Eastern nationals. However, the overwhelming majority of these immigrants were Lebanese. Also, at that time, Lebanon was part of Greater Syria and Latin-Americans could not distinguish those who came from Lebanon proper from those who came from Syria; thus, they were all called Syrian-Lebanese. It is now estimated that Brazilians of Lebanese descent number between 8-9 million. In São Paulo itself, there are 5 million. Also, it is estimated that

Argentiniens of Lebanese descent number between 4-5 million.

In Mexico, the Lebanese presence is very palpable, but mostly in the business sector. Carlos Slim Helu, the richest man in the world, is of Lebanese descent. Both his father and mother were Lebanese. There are no Lebanese hospitals in Mexico, but there are two Lebanese clubs which are among the most prestigious in the country. There is the Central Club in downtown Mexico, and the Freddy Attalah's Lebanese Club in the suburbs. One of the Presidents of Mexico, Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, once said "if you don't have a Lebanese friend, make sure you find one". Not only are the Lebanese influential there, but they are very well liked. In regard to medicine, there is a very active medical society for Mexican doctors of Lebanese descent.

In the United States, one of the biggest achievements the Lebanese have made in medicine is the establishment of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The hospital was established by the Lebanese entertainer, Danny Thomas. Though not a doctor, he has contributed immensely to the field of medicine.

Although the major impact of the Lebanese doctor in Diaspora was in the Americas, one Lebanese doctor made it to fame in China. He was Shafick George Hatem who was born on September 26, 1910 to a Lebanese-American family in Buffalo, New York. His father, Nahoum Salaama Hatem immigrated to the United States from the village of Hammana in the Metn Mountains of Lebanon in 1902. Dr.



Shafick George Hatem
Dr. Ma Haide 马海德
1910-1988



Hatem attended pre-med classes at the University of North Carolina and studied medicine at the American University of Beirut and the University of Geneva. While he was living in Geneva, he made

the acquaintance of some students from China. On August 3, 1933, he and a few friends boarded a ship in Trieste, Italy that took them to several ports in Asia, including Singapore and Hong Kong. Eventually, the three young doctors landed in Shanghai. Hatem established his medical practice in Shanghai and he changed his name to Ma Hai-te (Ma Haide). It was in Shanghai where he was introduced to communism and he eventually joined the Communist Party of China. At some point in his life, he became the personal physician of Mao Tse Tung. Hatem remained a doctor with the communists until their victory in 1949. Thereafter, he became a public health official. He was the first foreigner to be granted citizenship in the People's Republic of China, and many Chinese credit him with helping to eliminate leprosy and many venereal diseases in post-war China. He received the Lasker Medical Award in 1986. He died in China in 1988 and was buried at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery. During his lifetime, he was honored in his town, Hammana, Lebanon, where the main square of the city was named after him.



George Hatem (Ma Haide) with Mao Tse Tung (right) in Yan'an in 1939

This was the story of Lebanese doctors who were sons of immigrants. Lately, many Lebanese doctors born in Lebanon have immigrated. Most of these doctors went to the United States. I do not know of any other country that has contributed more to American medicine than Lebanon.

Currently, there are a few hundred Lebanese doctors who are leaders in the fields of cancer, heart disease, and other specialties. There is hardly a university or hospital in America where you do not find a medical leader who is of Lebanese descent.

Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent - Contact Survey

This survey is designed to create a database of all plastic surgeons of Lebanese descent. Kindly take a minute to fill in your details in order to keep us all connected. To fill-out the brief survey click on the following link: <http://1drv.ms/1zZm0hU>

'Like' our official Facebook page to keep in touch with the latest news, photos, and to connect with others <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Plastic-Surgeons-of-Lebanese-Descent-APSLD/350753135094707>

All the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent photos are available on the following link of our page <http://1drv.ms/1yyuyag>



Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst

A great woman from Lebanon

Former UN delegate, public health advocate, distinguished philanthropist. Born in Tripoli, Lebanon in 1925, she graduated from The American University of Beirut in 1947. Following her graduation, Mamdouha El-Sayed earned a post-graduate diploma from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and a master's in Public Health Education from UC Berkeley. Brilliant, charismatic and fearless, she went to Libya with the World Health Organization, advising the newly independent government on public health issues, and championing the need for hospitals and nursing programs. This led to a post with UNICEF, and then to the United Nations, where she was appointed by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to be a delegate to the UN General Assembly, and was one of only a few females to assume such a post. In 1961, she married Elmer Bobst, a successful businessman and pharmaceutical executive who shared her interests in public health. He was a leader in the war on cancer, and a driving force behind former President Nixon's signing of the National Cancer Act in 1971. Together, Elmer and Mamdouha created The Bobst Foundation. Their first major joint contribution was The NYU Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, in 1973. After Elmer died in 1978, Mrs. Bobst took over as president of the foundation and continued its mission of and devotion to philanthropy, making numerous significant and transformative donations to the fields of medicine and health, education, social justice and animal welfare. While impossible to list all the generous activities of the Bobst Foundation, key beneficiaries include: New York University; NYU Langone Medical Center;

Princeton University (The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice); The American University of Beirut (The Elmer and Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst Chemistry Center); The American University of Beirut Medical Center - AUBMC (The Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst Breast Unit); Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (The Bobst International Center and The Bobst Pavilion); and The Animal Medical Center (The Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Hospital). At AUBMC, the Foundation has made numerous transformative donations including: mammography and radiology equipment, the Linear Accelerator, the Mamdouha Bobst Mammography Fund, The Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst Medical Student Fund, gifts towards the AUB Medical Emergency Fund and The Displaced Needy Patient Fund. They have also supported collaboration with the Mamdouha El-Sayed Cancer Center of Tripoli. More recently, it has developed an affiliation between AUB and the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice at Princeton University.

The Bobst Foundation has also donated generously throughout the years to the American Cancer Society and the ASPCA. Mrs. Bobst set up numerous scholarship funds for several universities across the world, as well as fellowship programs throughout various medical colleges.

Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst was a Trustee of New York University, a Trustee of New York University School of Medicine Foundation, an Honorary Life Member of the American Cancer Society, and on the Board of Overseers of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She was a woman of great humility and faith, who adopted and lived American values while never forgetting her homeland, Lebanon. She passed away peacefully on Sept. 10, 2015, in her New York City apartment.

Rebuilding Beirut

As the modern city rises, archaeologists uncover evidence of its complex history and changing fortunes

"This city is one of those that must live and relive, come what may," wrote the nineteenth-century French geographer Élisée Reclus. "The conquerors pass on and the city is reborn behind them." Phoenician port, Roman beachhead, Byzantine lawgiver, Ottoman backwater, and Paris of the Middle East, Beirut has been an urban chameleon. In the past century alone, it morphed from the center of Arab culture, intrigue, and nightlife into a symbol of sectarian strife as a 15-year civil war laid waste to its boulevards and buildings. "Beirut is a phenomenon, beguiling perhaps, but quite, quite impossible," concludes British writer Jan Morris.



What we know of Beirut's ancient history is more a series of snapshots than a continuous record. Sixty thousand years ago, early humans made stone tools on the tongue of land that extends out from the Lebanon Mountains and forms the city's modern boundaries. Archaeologists have uncovered a small Neolithic village dating to 4000 B.C. near today's airport. As civilization emerged in the third millennium B.C., the first major cities along the Mediterranean coast took root nearby. Byblos, now a half-hour drive up the coast, flourished, while Tyre and Sidon grew to the south. These important ports became centers for the seafaring Phoenicians, a trading people who spread across the region between the sixteenth and fourth centuries B.C.

It was the expansion of the Roman Empire in the first century B.C. that finally gave Beirut a chance to outshine its more famous rivals. The city lacked a good harbor, but it did have a bay that could shelter a large number of ships. In 31 B.C., the Roman general Marc Antony's fleet lay at anchor here, and his ally and lover, the Egyptian queen Cleopatra, had coins stamped in her likeness at a Beirut mint as well. But that same year Octavian—soon to be the emperor Augustus—defeated both at the Battle of Actium in Greece. The emperor then chose Beirut as a beachhead for Roman domination of the East. Unlike the larger and more established cities of Tyre or Sidon, Beirut proved friendly to the

outsiders. The tough tribes living in the Lebanon Mountains had long plagued the city, and Beirut's inhabitants welcomed two Roman legions as protection. Augustus also settled Roman veterans here, and turned Beirut into a *colonia*, or tax-free zone.

With prosperity, the arts and intellectual life flourished. By the third century A.D., Beirut was "the center for the teaching of Roman law," according to Gregory Thaumaturgus, a Christian writer of the time. Rome and the Byzantine capital of Constantinople (modern Istanbul) also had law schools, but contemporary texts show that Beirut quickly became the place to go in the East to study law. Within a century, the chronicler Libanius praised the city as "mother of the laws."

Beirut's law school survived and prospered, despite the church's suspicion of non-biblical learning. As the Roman Empire collapsed in the West, the Byzantine Empire emerged as its heir in the East during the fifth century A.D. Beirut, strategically located between Constantinople and Alexandria, was the focal point of imperial rule. The lawyers of Beirut proved well-equipped to interpret imperial decrees and set codes of justice for the Byzantines. When the emperor Justinian called for reform of the legal codes, he turned to Beirut's scholars to oversee the revision.

The new code's publication in A.D. 533 marked the heyday of Beirut's intellectual influence. But on a July day in A.D. 551, an earthquake registering an estimated 7.6 on the Richter scale rocked the city, killing tens of thousands of people and toppling most of its monuments and buildings. The law school moved to hated rival Sidon. In the following centuries, Arab armies, Crusader knights, and Mamluk rulers captured Beirut in succession. The Ottomans absorbed the town into their empire in the eighteenth century. By then, Beirut was the same sort of sleepy port town it had been before 31 B.C. Ottoman authorities later built the region's quarantine facility there, requiring all ships in the area to halt in port to contain the spread of disease. The city eventually attracted Western missionaries and commercial interests, putting it on a course for a renewed era of prosperity. Universities sprang up, a publishing industry grew, and an improved port and new road to Damascus gave Beirut the opportunity for a new start—until it was again destroyed, this time by civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990.

Beirut today is a work zone of jackhammers and bulldozers and construction cranes. This is a city changing shape. The ambitious rebuilding is billed as the largest such public project anywhere in this decade. It will redevelop a 400-acre swath of central downtown largely destroyed by the fighting.

Once extravagant Beirut always reveled in wicked contrasts. It was a bit of Europe in the Middle East. It was falafel and French food, Arab robes and Guccis. Now, after a multibillion-dollar reconstruction project, the city center features plush apartments and posh cafes, refurbished Ottoman-era buildings and boutiques by Burberry and Versace.

Beirut's archaeologists are mindful of the demands of a city undergoing tremendous changes. In urban archaeology, you need to know when to use a brush and when to use a backhoe. And in a city that thrives on reinvention, archaeologists have to keep one step ahead of the next Beirut.





Plastic Surgery Graduation Party at Belmond Copacabana Palace, Rio de Janeiro. Congratulations to **Samir Janne Hasbun**, **Luiggi Fayad**, and **Javier Abdala** members of Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent – APSLD, November, 2015



LSPRAS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Beirut, LEBANON, April 26-28, 2016

19th MBC Meeting

10th International Humanitarian Conference



Phoenicia Hotel
Conference venue



Sursok Museum
Opening Ceremony



Villa Linda Sursok
Welcome Reception and Dinner



Casino du Liban
Gala Dinner



LEBANON - CHRISTMAS 2015



NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY - SAME PERIOD



Endorsed by:





1st GBAM GERMAN BRAZILIAN AESTHETIC MEETING
 “Surf and Curve”
 April 22 – 24, 2016 | Munich, Germany

April 22-24



MUNICH BEIRUT 2016

April 26-28

LSPRAS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
 Lebanese Society of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

19th MBC Meeting Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns & Fire Disasters

10th IAHM Conference International Association for Humanitarian Medicine






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**DOUBLE MEETING
 DOUBLE FUN**

IVth WORLD CONGRESS OF PLASTIC SURGEONS OF LEBANESE DESCENT



**In Association with the
Lebanese Society of Plastic
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**April 2017
SÃO PAULO - BRAZIL**

