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Winship and Emory's Khuri Named President of American University of Beirut



Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, deputy director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, and executive associate dean for research at Emory University School of Medicine, today was named president of American University of Beirut (AUB) in Beirut, Lebanon. He will begin his tenure there on September 1, 2015 following a formal inaugural ceremony.

Khuri, who is also the Roberto C. Goizueta Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research, is considered one of the leading translational clinical investigators and physicians in lung and aerodigestive medical oncology in the

world. In his 13 years at Emory, Khuri has been instrumental in leading the development of some of the most important cancer-related programs in the State of Georgia and throughout the nation.

"Fadlo Khuri has been a driving force behind Winship Cancer Institute's positive trajectory since he first joined Emory in 2002," says **S. Wright Caughman**, MD, CEO of Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center and executive vice president for health affairs at Emory. "His influence can be seen in many areas, including his pivotal role in earning National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Designation for Winship in 2009. We will miss Fadlo greatly but look forward to the many new exciting relationships that Emory will now forge with AUB."

"Fadlo's extraordinary leadership over the last decade has fully aligned cancer care with cancer research at Winship," says **Walter J. Curran, Jr.**, MD, Winship's executive director. "He has played a pivotal role in the recruitment, retention, and mentorship of a whole generation of Winship's cancer caregivers and researchers."

Khuri, who grew up in Beirut, previously served on the faculty of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His maternal great grandfathers, paternal grandfather, father and mother were graduates of AUB. His father served as chair of the school's Department of Physiology and dean of the AUB Medical School.

"My thirteen years at Emory have been professionally the happiest and most productive years of my life," says Khuri. "Emory has afforded me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally thanks to the collaborative and creative environment that is fostered here. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with, learn from and mentor some of the finest scholars and individuals in the world. I am especially grateful to all of my patients for everything they have taught me."

AUB is one of the preeminent universities in the Middle East and is ranked among the top universities in the world.

Emory Leads in F31 Grants

According to the latest information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) RePORTER database, Emory ranks #1 among all institutions nationwide in active F31 grants, both in number of grants and total dollars.

The F31 grant mechanism is a highly competitive award from the NIH given to exceptional pre-doctoral students engaged in research. Typically, these awards fund up to three years of PhD training. Approximately 30 percent of current F31 recipients are the trainees of Winship investigators. Additionally, twenty percent of all Emory F31s are from the NIH's National Cancer Institute and are directly related to cancer research.

Paula Vertino, PhD, director of Graduate Studies for the Cancer Biology Graduate Program of Emory's Laney Graduate School, notes that this is more than just a win for the students. "This is really a testament to the commitment of Emory faculty and Winship investigators to graduate education," says Vertino.



Let's Walk the Talk!

In honor of 2015 National Walking Day, join Winship Cancer Institute's group walk on Wednesday, April 1st at 10 a.m. This 30-minute walk will promote wellness and physical activity. Meet in front of the 1st floor valet entrance on Uppergate Drive. Register at surveymonkey.com/s/EmoryWalkingDay2015.

Colorectal Screenings Save Lives

It's a fact that colorectal cancer screening saves lives, but the message may not be reaching our colleagues around the Emory University campus. Screening rates among employees at the university and Emory Healthcare fall short of the national average. As part of the **Healthy Emory** campaign, a colorectal cancer educational program was offered to employees of Emory's Campus Services. More than half of the department's employees participated. When surveyed afterwards, 86 percent of employees said that the presentation was valuable and increased their knowledge about colorectal cancer. More importantly, the number of employees who had never been screened decreased by 10 percent. For more information about Healthy Emory, contact Michael Stauffer, michael.j.stauffer@emory.edu.

winshipcancer.emory.edu



Winship Pilot Grant Recipients Announced

Fifteen proposals were funded through Winship's most recent round of pilot grants focusing on transformative science in Winship's research programs. Each award comes with a year of funding of up to \$25,000 per project from Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) funds or philanthropic contributions.

Program pilots funded through CCSG funds

David Pallas, PhD² - "Role of the PP2A/PP4 Methyltransferase"

Renee Read, PhD² - "Testing Verteporfin Treatment in Glioblastoma"

Jiusheng Deng, PhD⁴ - "GIFT4-converted Leukemic Cells for CLL Immunotherapy"

Christopher Flowers, MD⁴ and **Jeffrey Switchenko, PhD⁴** - "Quantifying BTEX exposure: Improving our Understanding of the Relationship between proximity to Toxic Release Sites and Risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma"

Georgia Chen, PhD³ - "Targeted Theranostic Nanoparticles for Photodynamic Therapy of Unresectable Tumors"

Veronika Fedirko, MPH, PhD⁴ - "Gut microbiome and Colorectal carcinogenesis: A pilot case control study Adenoma"

Carlos Moreno, PhD¹ and **Harold Saavedra, PhD¹** - "Targeting SOX4 and E2F3 in Bladder Cancer"

Paula Vertino, PhD¹ and **Xiaodong Cheng, PhD¹** - "Targeting the Histone Demethylase JARID1B in Cancer Therapy"

Program pilots funded through philanthropic contributions

Stefan Kaluz, PhD² - "The Mechanism & Therapeutic Applications of the Metabolism Regulating function of Arylsulfonamide KCNI in Ewing Sarcoma, (*Antinori Fund*)"

Lanny Liebeskind, PhD³ and **Mark Goodman, PhD³** - "Development and Preclinical Testing of a "L" Large Neutral Amino Acid Imaging Biomarker for Systemic Tumors with High LAT Expression" (*McCarty Fund*)

Andrew Miller, MD⁴ - "Inflammation-Induced CNS Glutamate in Patients Undergoing ChemoIMRT for Head and Neck Cancer" (*Gray Fund*)

Rita Nahta, PhD² - "Co-Targeting ER and HER2-positive Breast Cancer" (*Owenby Fund*)

Mala Shanmugam, PhD² - "Investigating Pyruvate Dhydrogenase Activation Stimulated by Nutrient Deprivation in Multiple Myeloma" (*Antinori Fund*)

Ya Wang, PhD¹ - "The Mechanism Underlying How High Linear Energy Transfer Radiation Kills More Tumor Cells" (*McCarty Fund*)

Program affiliations: Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics¹, Cancer Cell Biology², Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics³, Cancer Prevention and Control⁴

Radiation Oncology Launches New Website



Check out the new Emory Department of Radiation Oncology mobile-friendly website! The site features a live news stream as well as an enhanced patient education section. Explore the site at radiationoncology.emory.edu.