

Announcement

Children Can't Wait:

A roundtable discussion on the special needs of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (ND) in times of conflict. The discussion will be held as part of the **48th MEMA: First Global Conflict Medicine Congress**. May 11-14, 2017 at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Background and Mission Statement:

As war and conflict become a way of life for millions of children in our region (Middle East and North Africa), we seek to highlight the special needs of children with neurodevelopment disabilities (ND) (including physical, mental and intellectual). During war and conflict, these already vulnerable children are further compromised by physical injury, disease, violence, displacement and the loss of appropriate interventions services.

Focus:

We aim to provide an inclusive multidisciplinary forum for all stakeholders to share their experience and to promote collaboration in this neglected field. Stakeholders include healthcare workers, educators, researchers, community advocates, social workers, government ministries, local and international organizations, policy makers and other interested parties.

Specific Focus Topics:

1. Understanding the situation on the ground:
 - a. Who is affected? What is being provided to them? Who is doing what?
 - b. Existing policies and guidelines (successes and gaps).
 - c. Individual experiences with children with ND in the conflict setting
 - d. Research findings (past and ongoing)
2. Looking towards the future:
 - a. Practical steps for implementation of interventions
 - b. Research questions and how they can be addressed
 - c. Imagining the post-conflict future (and how do we prepare our children for it).
3. Other topics related to the mission of the roundtable

Key Dates and Deadlines:

Roundtable Date and Time: Thursday May 11, 2017, 12:30-3:30 pm.

Registration: Please go to <http://mema.aub.edu.lb/register/> and select ***Children Can't Wait*** roundtable from the drop down menu.

Registration Fees to the 48th MEMA are:

LBP 100,000 for physicians requesting AMA PRA Category 1 credit™

LBP 50,000 for physicians requesting Lebanese Order of Physician credits

LBP 50,000 for the Children Can't Wait roundtable

Workshop fees are separate from main registration fees.

For questions about the registration process, please use the contact link on the conference website. For questions about the roundtable presentations and content, please contact Dr. Ramzi Nasir at rnasirconsulting@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you in Beirut!

The Organizing Committee:

Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah: Head of Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery; co-Director, Conflict Medicine Program, AUBMC, Beirut, Lebanon.

Dr. Rose-Mary Boustany: Professor of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine/Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Director, AUBMC Special Kids Clinic and Neurogenetics, Beirut, Lebanon.

Dr. Ghassan Issa: General Coordinator, Arab Resource Collective (ARC), Director, Arab Network for Early Childhood Care and Development (ANECD), Beirut, Lebanon.

Dr. Ramzi Nasir: Consultant Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, Royal Free Hospital Foundation Trust, UK. Adjunct Physician, Boston Children's Hospital, USA.