

Under the Patronage of H.E. Prof. Tamara El Zein, Minister of Environment  
The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) cordially invites you to

# Doctoral Studies Days Middle East Edition

When Knowledge is Shared, the Future is Shaped

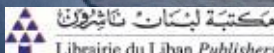


**USEK**

HIGHER CENTER  
FOR RESEARCH



Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique



Librairie International & Science Égyptienne

**May 21–23, 2025**

## Program

**1:00–2:00 PM Registration.**

**2:00–2:30 PM Opening Ceremony**

**Prof. Ranya Salameh**, Dean of the College of Doctoral Studies, USEK

**Reverend Father Talal Hachem**, President of USEK

**His Excellency Dr. Nizar Hani**, Minister of Agriculture.

**Her Excellency Prof. Tamara El Zein**, Minister of Environment.

**Masters of Ceremonies** Ms. Sitrida Beaino (MTV), Dr. Rabih Nabhan (USEK).

## Wednesday, May 21

**2:30–3:45 PM Session 1:** Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability

**Chair:** Prof. Richard Maroun, USJ – Lebanon

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Lara Hanna Wakim, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** A highly efficient iron-doped UiO-66 for rapid removal of tetracycline antibiotic from water, **Ghadeer JALOUL**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 2:** Microplastic inputs to the Mediterranean Sea during wet and dry seasons: The case of two Lebanese coastal outlets, **Rosa SAWAN**, CNRS-L – University of Littoral Côte d'Opale, Lebanon–France.

**Presentation 3:** Perception locale de la foresterie urbaine dans la commune de Mbour, Sénégal, **Papa Diène FAYE**, Senghor University of Alexandria – Egypt.

**Presentation 4:** Training program in environmental education/secondary schools, **Nada BOUHAMDAN**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 5:** Effect of nanoparticles on in vitro propagation and secondary metabolite profiling in the endangered wild *Origanum petraeum* Danin, **Tamara AL QUDAH**, University of Jordan – Jordan.

**Jury members:** H.E. Prof. Tamara Elzein, H.E. Dr. Nizar Hani, Prof. Antoine Al Samarani (UA), Dr. Carla Khater (CNRS-L), Dr. Wadih Skaff (USJ), Prof. Nabil Nemer (USEK)

**4:00–5:00 PM Session 2:** Health and Medical Sciences

**Chair:** Prof. Georges Nemer, Hamad Bin Khalifa University – Qatar

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Elissar Hayek, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** Imiquiline family: A promising class of drugs with enhanced anti-parasitic activity, **Sana EL SAYYED**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 2:** Déterminants de la double charge de la malnutrition chez les enfants de moins de cinq ans à Djibouti, **Hassan Abdourahman AWALEH**, Senghor University of Alexandria – Egypt.

**Presentation 3:** Food hypersensitivity: Distinguishing allergy from intolerance, main characteristics, and symptoms; a systematic review, **Gregory HAGE**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** Les facteurs associés à l'hésitation vaccinale en Afrique au sud du Sahara, **Amadou Tila KEBE**, Senghor University of Alexandria – Egypt.

**5:15–6:30 PM Session 3:** Health and Medical Sciences

**Chair:** Prof. Tarek Ghaddar, AUB – Lebanon

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Jithesh Veettil, Hamad Bin Khalifa University – Qatar.

**Presentation 1:** Investigating the impact of BTK inhibitors on CA1 pyramidal neuron firing patterns in an EAE model of multiple sclerosis, **Elias ANTOUN**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 2:** Mapping the circular RNA landscape in breast cancer: highlighting their prognostic and therapeutic potential, **Dania AWATA**, Hamad Bin Khalifa University – Qatar.

**Presentation 3:** Electrophysiological characterization of the mutations behind sudden cardiac arrest in young Lebanese patients, **Myriam EL HADDAD**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** Changes in the intrinsic properties of corticomotor neurons of mice exhibiting TDP-43 accumulations associated with ALS, **Reem DEBIAN**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 5:** Radiobiology of image-guided radiotherapy: in vitro impact of computed tomography on the radiosensitivity of lung cancer, **Rana EL-HASSAN**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Jury members:** Prof. Jocelyn Dejong (AUB), Prof. Naseem Fares (USJ), Prof. Raghida Abou Merhi (LU), Prof. Ziad Sleiman (HLG-LU), Prof. Walid Hleihel (USEK), Prof. Raghid Khoury (NDS-USEK)

## Thursday, May 22

**9:30–10:45 AM Session 4:** Education

**Chair:** Rev. Prof. Wadiah Skayem, LU – Lebanon

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Linda Maloul, Effat University – KSA

**Presentation 1:** Plurilingualism and translanguaging in FLE: Pedagogical approaches to promote the teaching of French in Greece, **Eftychia KELIANOPOULOU**, Cyprus University – Cyprus.

**Presentation 2:** Artificial intelligence system based on multiple intelligence for Cycle I students: Design, application, and study of its effect on cognitive ability, **Amena ALLOUCH**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Presentation 3:** Exploring the association of perceived interpersonal competence in nurses and competency-based nursing programs: A mixed methods study, **Shams ISSA**, AUB – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** Application of Bandura’s model to evaluate a simulation-based training program for medical interns, **Mahe ABDESSATER**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Presentation 5:** Rethinking Arabic alphabet instruction: A comparative study of learning strategies for non-native speakers, **Younna CHAMI**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Jury members:** Prof. Shereen Kakish (University of Jordan), Dr. Rima Mattar (USEK), Prof. Rima Mawloud (LU), Dr. Mireille Riachi (Balamand), Dr. Rima Soueidi (USEK)

**11:00 AM–12:15 PM Session 5:** Languages, Translation, and Communication

**Chair:** Prof. Nahed Emaish, University of Jordan – Jordan

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Hayssam Kotob, LU – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** Le culturel dans les œuvres de Mohamed Moussa. Traduction et étude analytique, **Salma Mohamed Mahmoud MOUSSA**, University Ain Shams – Egypt.

**Presentation 2:** Cultural Identity and Social Advocacy Rhetoric: The Palestinian Cause through a Socio-Cognitive Lens, **Rima MALKAWI**, University of Sharjah – UAE.

**Presentation 3:** Revitalizing Verbal Interactions: A Multidisciplinary Intervention to Alleviate Negative Language in University Communication, **Manal AHMAD**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** Analyse du discours humoristique dans le one-man-show, **Sara Fouad ABOUBAKR**, University Ain Shams – Egypt.

**Presentation 5:** Hamda ALAWADHI, المقامات أنموذجاً، الفكاهة كلفه خطاب University of Sharjah – UAE

**Jury members:** Dr. Linda Maloul (Effat University - KSA), Prof. Nicole Chalhoub (USEK), Dr. Rima Bahous (LAU), Dr. Gisèle Al Riachi (LU), Dr. Marianne Noujaim (USJ), Dr. Maya El Hajj (NDU)

**12:20–1:30 PM USEK Museum Guided Tour and Lunch**

**1:30–2:30 PM Session 6:** Posters in Humanities

### Category 1: Languages

- Teacher and Student Perspectives on AI in the Foreign Language Classroom: A Thematic Review, **Maria KADI** – USEK
- Does Translanguaging Shape Attention? A Study on the Cognitive Side of Language Mixing, **Ghadir SOUEIDAN** – USEK

### Category 1: Education

- Simulation Training of Surgical Interns Based on Kolb's Learning Cycle: A Multilevel Assessment Study, **Maher ABDESSATER** – USEK
- Amélioration de l'apprentissage des élèves autistes: Élaboration d'un site Web de soutien, **Jessica ZOGBY** – USEK
- L'évolution de l'école vers l'inclusion scolaire: Différentes approches éducatives et innovation institutionnelle, **Nicole ISSA HAJJ** – USEK

### Category 1: Psychology and Sociology

- Exploring, Characterizing, and Conceptualizing Brownout Among Nurses: A Mixed Method Study Using Grounded Theory and Survey Research, **Roula SHEHADEH JOUDI** – AUB
- Brands as Catalysts for Women Empowerment in the Lebanese and Saudi Societies, **Salma KABBARA** – LU

### Category 1: Cinema and Television

- Exploration du cinéma libanais contemporain à travers les narrations fragmentées de l'histoire du Liban, **Michael ISSA EL HELOU** – USJ

### Category 2: Economics and Business Sciences

- Analyse de la contribution des organisations de développement à l'entrepreneuriat social pour la résilience socio-économique en période de crise, **Sylva HARB** – LU
- The Influence of AI on the Quality and Performance of Accounting Information Systems and Precision of Reporting of Financial Data, **Jean ELIA, Mireille KARAM, Joseph SERGHANI** – LU
- Facteurs déterminants de la compétitivité des échanges extérieurs au Liban, **Tania MALLO** – LU
- La viabilité des startups féminines dans un Liban en crise, **Amal TORBEY** – USJ

### Category 3: Law and Political Science

- Multinational Companies Acts under the Regulations of Modern Laws, **Rudaina MUHTAR** – LU
- Smart Contracts on Ethereum Blockchain, **Hadil EL HAJE ISMAIL** – LU
- Environmental Security in the Context of Adaptation and Climate Change, **Mariam KHACHOUF** – LU
- International Humanitarian Law Towards Artificial Intelligence in Armed Conflicts, **Bassem ABBOUD** – LU
- La justice internationale comme facteur de paix ou une arme politisée: La corrélation entre paix et justice, **Rania EL HINDY** – LU
- Civil Society and Human Rights, **Mona FAYSAL TOHME** – LU
- التعاقد بغير العملة الوطنية تحريراً وإيقافاً, **Elie GEBRAYEL** – LU

تحليلية نقدية  
الشركات العالمية

• Ali ALJEFAIRI – University of Sharjah, UAE  
شرط حسن السيرة والسلوك في الوظيفة العامة/ رؤية

• Nada Baraké – USEK  
نظام الشركات السعودي كنموذج للتهجين القانوني: بين مرجعية الشريعة وتحديات

## Jury members

**Category 1:** Prof. Tahany Youssef (Ain Shams University - Egypt), Prof. Philippe Wellnitz (Montpellier University - France), Prof. Hayat El Khatib (AOU), Dr. May Akl (NDU), Dr. Stephanie Jabre (USJ), Prof. Elsa Ghossoub (LU)

**Category 2:** Dr. Ursula Hage (USJ), Dr. Alain Osta (Sagesse), Dr. Nancy Saliba (ACIE – USEK), Dr. Walid Marrouch (LAU)

**Category 3:** Dr. Nadine Najem (USJ), Dr. Yasmina Malek (Sagesse), Dr. Céline Baaklini (USEK), Dr. Haïssam Fadlallah (LU), Dr. Bechara Karam (USEK), Prof. Laurent Sermet (Université Française d’Egypte)

**1:30–2:30 PM Session 7:** Posters in Sciences

## Category 1: Applied Sciences and Technology

- Enhancing neuronal modeling: A modified Hodgkin-Huxley approach for ion channel dynamics, **Batoul SAAB** – AUB
- Rewiring the network: Computational modeling of neural sequence generation in the premotor cortex, **Fatima DIA** – AUB
- Biophysical network modeling of temporal and stereotyped sequence propagation of neural activity in the premotor nucleus HVC, **Fatima FNEICH** – AUB

## Category 2: Basic/Fundamental Sciences

- Evaluation of the antineoplastic effects of imipridone derivatives in prostate cancer: Novel therapeutic opportunities, **Fatima GHAMLOUCHE** – AUB
- The paradox of individual branched-chain amino acids: Identical metabolism, yet distinct effects on energy balance! **Layal JAAFAR** – AUB
- The effects of endosomal Toll-Like Receptor 9 inhibition in an EBV DNA-exacerbated rheumatoid arthritis mouse model, **Nour SHERRI** – AUB
- Deciphering the role of CLIPA14 and CTL4 in the melanization of late stages of P. berghei infection in A. gambiae, **Suheir ZEINEDDINE** – AUB
- Investigating the role of copper in HT-29 CRC cell lines under the effect of thymoquinone, **Diana ISMAIL** – AUB

## Category 3: Health and Medical Sciences

- Bacterial infection and antibiotic susceptibility patterns in surgical site infections in Lebanon, **Inass KAWTHARANI** – LU
- Drosophila models of sensorimotor gating: A gateway to understanding schizophrenia, **Muhammad MARWAN** – Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

- Macrolides usage as anti-inflammatory agents in the treatment of CAP and VAP: A systematic review, **Ramona NASR** – LU
- Advancing neurostimulation therapy for obstructive sleep apnea: Does the hyoid bone hold the answer? **Marie-Michele SERGHANI** – AUB
- Friedreich's ataxia and DNA repair: Frataxin deficiency can impair DNA damage mechanisms, **Rafka CHALLITA** – AUB
- Études des facteurs favorisant l'état nutritionnel des femmes enceintes et ses conséquences sur les nouveaux nés en milieu pauvre de la RDC, **Michel Mirindi KULONDWA** – Université Senghor – Egypt

#### Category 4: Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability

- Biodiversity conservation outside PAs network: Role of connectivity. A case study on the methodological framework of Northern Lebanon, **Mariane FAHED** – USEK
- Characterization of air pollutants in Lebanon and identification of the contamination sources, **Christelle BOULOS** – USEK
- Spectroscopic analysis and chemometrics for multidimensional characterization of Lebanese wine terroir from autochthonous grape varieties, **Grace SAAD** – USEK
- Using banana peel waste for sustainable solutions: Transforming the production of biodegradable plastic, **Jana RAMMAL** – LU
- Analyse du comportement de poutres mixtes avec connecteurs démontables dans une approche de réemploi, **Lina BASSIL** – LU

#### Jury members

**Categories 1, 2, and 4:** Prof. Roger Lteif (USJ), Dr. Elise Njeim (CNRS-L), Prof. Joseph Saab (USEK), Prof. Elie Hajj Moussa (LU)

**Category 3:** Dr. Athar El Khalil (AUB), Dr. Charbel Al Khoury (LAU), Dr. Iman Abbas (CNRS-L), Dr. Elie Jacques Fares (AUB), Dr. Elissar Hayek (USEK)

**2:00–3:15 PM Session 8:** Economics and Business Sciences

**Chair:** Prof. Selim Mekdessi (LU – Lebanon)

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Nehmé Azoury (USEK – Lebanon)

**Presentation 1:** Impact des pratiques de gestion des crises sur la résilience des employés de l'enseignement supérieur public, **Marzouka CHOKOR** (LU – Lebanon).

**Presentation 2:** The impact of financialization on premature deindustrialization: A comparative analysis between East Asia and Latin America, **Elie KAMOUH** (USJ – Lebanon).

**Presentation 3:** The impact of digital forensics tools on audit efficiency and fraud detection accuracy in forensic accounting, **Hasan EL KOMATI** (LU – Lebanon).

**Presentation 4:** Restructuring of commercial banks through macroprudential supervision and fintech: The case of Lebanon, **Insaf KARBAJHA** (USJ – Lebanon)



**Presentation 5:** The impact of circular economy strategies on sustainable economic growth of oil-exporting and oil-importing countries in the MENA region, **Sara ABILMONA** (LU – Lebanon).

**Jury members:** Dr. Etienne Harb (Sagesse), Dr. Roula Al Daia (Balamand), Dr. Zahy Ramadan (LAU), Dr. Mario Sassine (USEK)

**3:30–4:30 PM Session 9:** Fundamental Sciences

**Chair:** Prof. Roger Lteif (USJ - Lebanon)

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Tilda Akiki (USEK - Lebanon)

**Presentation 1:** Advancing diabetic kidney disease research through innovative kidney tubuloid model, **Tala KADDOURA** (AUB – Lebanon).

**Presentation 2:** Functional and molecular characterization of the IMD pathway in the anti-microbial defense of African malaria mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*, **Amani AUDI** (AUB – Lebanon).

**Presentation 3:** S-packing coloring of subcubic graphs, **Hadeel AL BAZZAL** (LU – Lebanon).

**Presentation 4:** NPM1: A potential therapeutic target in metastatic breast cancer, **Maya ABDEL KHALEK** (AUB – Lebanon).

**Jury members:** Prof. Marie Abboud (USJ), Prof. Joseph Saab (USEK), Dr. Zakaria Kambris (AUB), Dr. Natahlie Estephan (USEK), Dr. Roland Bejjani (LAU)

**4:45–5:45 PM Session 10:** Social Sciences

**Chair:** Prof. Tahany Youssef, Ain Shams University – Egypt

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Mirna Mzawak, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي بين قيم ومبادئ المواطنة الرقمية لدى طلاب العلوم الاجتماعية نموذجاً, **Elie AL NAJJAR** (LU – Lebanon)

**Presentation 2:** Le favoritisme politique et son impact sur l'immigration clandestine: La maquette de la ville de Bebnin Al Abdeh dans le gouvernorat du Akkar, **Najat SALIM**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 3:** Hégémonie occidentale au Liban: Lire ses effets sur les pratiques du pouvoir et le système politique, **Nazir YAGHI**, LU – Lebanon.

**Jury members:** Prof. Samah Nasr (Ain Shams University – Egypt), Prof. Azize Nehmé (Sagesse), Prof. Philippe Wellnitz (Montpellier University – France), Dr. Joanna Azar (USEK)



## Friday, May 23

### 2:30–3:45 PM **Session 11:** Applied Sciences and Technology

**Chair:** Prof. Hadi Kanaan, USJ – Lebanon

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Faten El Hajj, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** A novel reinforcement learning algorithm for HVAC energy optimization for smart buildings, **Rouaa JURDI**, Balamand University & University of the Basque Country – Lebanon-Spain.

**Presentation 2:** Modeling soil pollutants surrounding the Badush Cement Factory using geographic information systems, **Hussein MOHSEN**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 3:** A novel approach to estimate the power peaking factors in a complex geometry iPWR inspired by Carem 25 using GEANT toolkit, **Fatima GHANDOUR**, USJ – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** Integration of GBA and hybrid TESLA for securing IoT authentication in 5G and 6G, **David Khoury**, Balamand University & University of Littoral Côte d'Opale – Lebanon-France.

**Presentation 5:** Valorization of apple surplus and wastes by Kombucha production: Optimization of the fermentation parameters, **Myriam EL TEKLÉ**, USEK – Lebanon.

### 11:30 AM–12:30 PM **Session 12:** Applied Sciences and Technology

**Chair:** Prof. Majed Youssef, Beirut Arab University – Lebanon

**Co-Chair:** Prof. Sandy Rihana, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** Structural, vibrational, and magnetic properties of the mixed typical spinel nanoferrites  $\text{Co}_0.3\text{Ni}_0.3\text{Zn}_0.2\text{Cu}_0.2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_4$  doped by lanthanum ( $\text{La}^3$ ), **Mohamad AL MOUSSAWI**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 2:** Enhancing cardiovascular disease prediction with an interpretable machine learning framework, **Saeed AL GHARIB**, Balamand University & University of the Basque Country – Lebanon-Spain.

**Presentation 3:** Advances in neural network approaches for the gain and directivity prediction of the microstrip patch antenna, **Malak SULTAN**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** User to access point distribution: Coded caching approach, **Mirna HAIDAR**, USJ – Lebanon.

**Jury members:** Prof. Hyam Abboud (LU), Dr. Rayya Younes (LAU), Prof. Jihad Attieh (Balamand), Dr. Jason Amatoury (AUB), Dr. Ali Rachini (USEK)

### 12:30–1:30 PM **Lunch**

### 1:30–2:30 PM **Session 13:** Law and Political Science

**Chair: Prof. Rasha Hattab**, University of Sharjah – UAE

**Co-Chair: Dr. Rita Khalil**, USEK – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** Legislative Framework for Space Activities, **Nehal EMAM**, Sharjah University – UAE.

**Presentation 2:** Climate Justice, Indigenous Knowledge and Policy: Bridging the Gap of a Sustainable Future, **Razane ASSI**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 3:** La prescription en droit international privé, **Samantha ABOU HARB**, USEK – Lebanon.

**Presentation 4:** **Moataz ABDALLAH** على التجارة الدولية والقانون البحري , LU – Lebanon  
تأثير النزاعات البحرية

**2:45–3:45 PM Session 14:** Law and Political Science

**Chair: Rev. Father Wissam Khoury**, USEK – Lebanon

**Co-Chair: Dr. Reina Sfeir**, Sagesse – Lebanon

**Presentation 1:** Investor Protection in the Financial Advisory Contract: An Analytical Study in UAE Law, **Farah MAAROUF**, University of Sharjah, UAE.

**Presentation 2:** The Game-Changer Role of Drones in Modern Warfare: Strategic, Ethical, and Legal Implications, **Moses NASHALIAN**, LU – Lebanon.

**Presentation 3:** Investor Protection in Public Joint Stock Company, **Khalid MAHMOUD**, University of Sharjah , UAE.

**Presentation 4:** Arbitration in Investment and Operation Contracts for Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy, **Aman IBRAHIM**, LU – Lebanon.

**Jury members:** Prof. Gaby Chahine (USJ), Prof. Audine Salloum (UL), Prof. Karim Torbey (USJ), Dr. Linda Jaber (BAU), Dr. Antonio Zeenni (Sagesse), Dr. Ghada Karam (USEK)

**4:00–5:00 PM Session 15 (in French):**

Doctorants et Engagement Entrepreneurial: Recherche, Accompagnement et Impact  
Doctoral Studies and Entrepreneurship: Research, Mentorship and Impact

**Modératrice : Dr. Nancy Saliba**, ACIE, USEK – Lebanon

**Panélistes :**

- **Dr. Lynda Achkouty Mouawad** (LU)
- **Dr. Gilbert Mouawad** (USEK alumnus & entrepreneur)
- **Mr. Hani Mawlawi** (East International University & Doctorant au CNAM-Paris)
- **Ms. Nour Sardouk** (EC2 USJ & Doctorante au CNAM-Paris)

**5:00–5:30 PM Live Music Performance – USEK School of Music**

**5:45–6:30 PM Closing Ceremony**

- **Prof. Nabil Nemer**, Director of the HCR and Associate Dean for Science and Technology, College of Doctoral Studies, USEK
- **Ms. Sabine Sciortino**, Director of the French Institute - Cultural and Cooperation Counsellor, Embassy of France-
- **Mr. Jean-Noël Baléo**, Regional Director, AUF Middle East
- **Dr. Chady Abdallah**, Secretary General, CNRS-L

**Awards Distribution**

**6:30–7:30 PM Reception in USEK Gardens**



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