



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – April 2021

**RCBC MEETS TUESDAYS AT THE HILTON DOWNTOWN HOTEL, DOWNTOWN, BEIRUT
BUSINESS MEETINGS AT 19:00**

Club Charter Date

June 21, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary International

RI President

Holger Knaack

RC Herzogtum Lauenberg-
Mölln, Germany

District Governor

Mazen A. Alumran

Kingdom of Bahrain

Assistant Governor

Rami Sarkis

RC Beirut Cedars

RCBC Officers

2020 - 2021

President

Habib Saba

President Elect

Sona Kourtian Donigian

Vice President

Joe Boulos

Secretary

Farida Najjar

Treasurer

Diana Cotran

IPP

Adib Mounla

Directors

Habib Bassoul

Mona Jarudi

Michel Mansour

RCBC Online

www.rcbclebanon.org

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

[beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

MARHABA EDITOR

PP Mona Jarudi

monajarudi@gmail.com

“Letter from the Editor”

Rotarians across the world pride themselves on being People of Action who are tireless in their pursuit of Serving their communities. This past year proved how important our work is as Rotarians and how effective we are in addressing immediate challenges and crises. United under the banner of Service Above Self and steeped in the spirit of fellowship, we Rotarians should be proud to be in the greater Rotary family. The world now is more and more in need of people of service such as Rotarians and the current circumstances have clearly demonstrated the solidarity and collaborative spirit of the international Rotary family and reinforced its role in the community and the need for its further expansion.

The Beirut Port explosion tangibly demonstrated how Rotarians from across the globe rose to action in collaboration with our Rotary club to give their support to the rehabilitation of the pediatric wing of the Karantina Public Hospital.

Allow me to share with you below some excerpts of articles written by our International partners, as a testimony to the tireless efforts of Rotary worldwide to help communities and to highlight once again our gratitude to the Rotary Foundation, the clubs and districts who made this noble Global Grant become a reality.

PP Mona Jarudi

Article 1

Rotary clubs in South Wales have responded to a global appeal to support those affected by last summer's horrendous explosion in Lebanon.

By **Dave King**

Published Date: March 8, 2021

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A massive international relief effort was launched and among those rising to the challenge were a number of Rotary clubs throughout South Wales alerted to the immediate needs of the population by Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan who decided to focus their efforts on a section of the devastated public hospital in the needy Karantina area of the city.

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Read full article at following link:

<https://www.rotarygbi.org/south-wales-rotary-clubs-respond-to-beirut-crisis/>

Article 2

**International – 4th Aug 2020 – Beirut Port Explosion
Co-ordinating UK/Beirut Fundraising across the UK**

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**Thank you to every club and individual who helped RC Beirut
Cosmopolitan reach the overall target...**

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Read full article at following link:

<https://www.putneyrotary.org.uk/project/international-project-beirut-campaign/>

Online Business Meeting With Dr.Monique Yoakim-Turk
(PhD) Director of Program and Alliance Management ,
Moderna, Medford, Massachusetts
"HOW ACHIEVING GREAT THINGS IS AN EXERCISE OF RELENTLESSNESS & COURAGE"

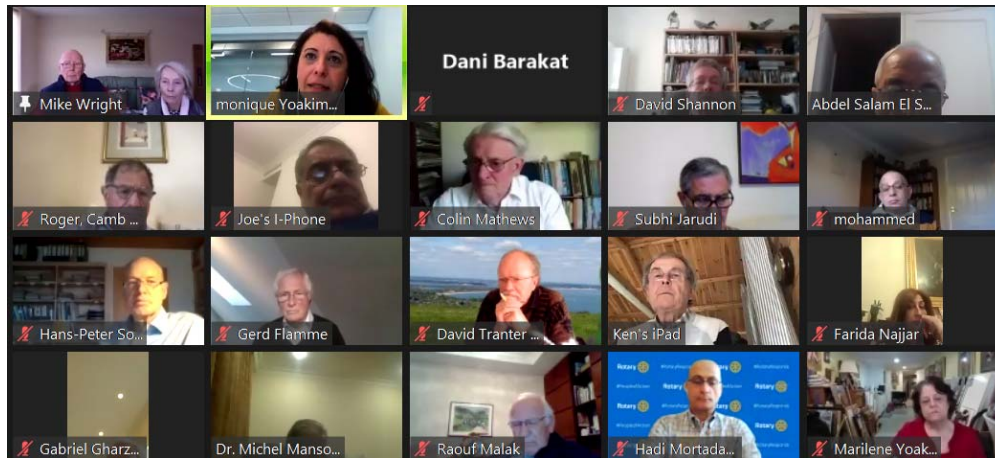
April 6, 2021



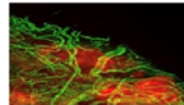
Dr.Monique hails from Lebanon where she did her high school studies in Beirut Zahret el Ihsan and left for USA for her higher studies. She obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from Tufts University in Boston, and as a post doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School she was awarded the Individual National Research Service Award from the National institute of Health. Prior to joining Moderna in 2018, Monique was the Director of Technology Development at Boston Children's Hospital. She worked with researchers and scientists for two decades evaluating hospital research and innovations to create a pipeline of investable opportunities. She also crafted a vision and a plan for technologies to be shared with Industry partners, contract negotiations with corporate partners and service providers and navigated an alliance management of the diverse and complex relationships of such collaborations.

During her tenure at Boston Children's Hospital, she interacted with pioneers in pediatric medicine and worked with them to commercialize their inventions into products for pediatric care. She had the honor of meeting the renowned Dr. Judah Folkman who first proposed the role of angiogenesis in tumor progression. Angiogenesis is the process by which new blood vessels form , allowing the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the body's tissues. But it also plays a role in formation of cancer because ,like any other body part, to iris need a blood supply to thrive and grow. In the early 1970's , the late investigator Judah Folkman first reported research showing that the formation of cancer depends on angiogenesis. Since then , many antiangiogenic compounds have been developed to stop cancers from growing or progressing by choking off the blood supply which will starve the tumor. His hard work and relentlessness in leading this research resulted in the FDA approving antiangiogenic drugs such as Avastin which is used in in treatment of glioblastoma brain tumors and kidney, lung and colorectal cancers. In 2008, over 1000 labs are studying angiogenesis, and more than 1.2 million patients are taking antiangiogenic drugs for cancer and other diseases.

It is courage and resilience that leads and paves the path to inventions and it is the legacies that the pioneers leave behind that keeps the vision and mission alive. Dr. Monique made it her mission to connect the scientists with ideas to the industry for drug development to cure impossible diseases. We are very proud of Monique as an accomplished Lebanese abroad who joined the company Moderna that boasts of lots of Lebanese talent in its high echelons. We just need to remember the Moderna Covid19 vaccine that took the world by a storm and saved almost millions from severe adversity of the virus.



The Pursuit of a Cure for Cancer



- 1961 military service- artificial blood
 - Seminal observation: the presence of blood vessels is essential for cancer cells to grow into large tumors
- 1971 first report that solid tumors are angiogenesis dependent
- 1983 a protein which could trigger blood vessel growth is isolated from mouse urine
- Early 1990s discovery of first anti angiogenic molecule
- 2004 Genentech receives approval for Avastin for colorectal cancer
- 2008 Over 1000 laboratories studying angiogenesis, and more than 1.2m patients are taking antiangiogenic drugs for cancer and other diseases.



M. Judah Folkman
1933-2008



"There is a fine line between persistence and obstinacy"

The Folkman Legacy



M. Judah Folkman (1933-2008)
Surgeon Scientist Mentor Visionary



Marsha Moses PhD
Harvard Professor
Cancer biomarkers



Patricia Donahoe
Reproductive
Biology and
Oncology



Robert D'Amato MD PhD
Thalomid for Multiple
Myeloma



Robert Langer
1400 patents
40 Biotech companies including
Moderna
220 Major awards



Don Ingber MD, PhD
165 patents
Founded 5 companies

Online Business Meeting With Ms Kawthar Dara
Economist and Public Financial Management Advisor
"HOW THE ONGOING MULTILAYERED CRISIS IS DEEPENING
INEQUALITIES AMONG THE LEBANESE"

April 13, 2021



Every once in a while we host a guest speaker who reminds us of the dire situation in Lebanon lest we slide into self-imposed memory loss or pretense that things will get better and that too shall pass.

In a concise and clear presentation, Ms Dara started by stating that the crisis started with deep rooted inefficiencies in the economy with clear signs pointing to the inevitable collapse. A very high level of public sector debt, growing fiscal deficits, stagnant economy for around a decade, inflated banking sector and the everlasting political uncertainties.

What led to the acceleration of this economic collapse is multifaceted. The mass protests in October 2019 was like a spark that ignited the bonfire eating away slowly at the infrastructure. COVID-19 entered the picture, with lockdowns that affected economic activities and a forced shift to prioritize. As if this was not enough, the Beirut Blast on August 4, destroyed the city and added another layer of misery and further halts in economic activity. All this compounded with an ongoing political deadlock on forming a government that will hopefully start the rescue process.

This crisis had major trickle down effects: loss of jobs and income, loss in the purchasing power due to inflation, brain drain and migration of Human Resources, weakened private sector and the inability to create jobs...all this coupled with the government failure to deliver the minimum basic needs required for a decent living. Thus," a poverty trap is created pushing people into a poverty spiral that may be hard to escape in the short run".

In situations like this, some suffer more than others, areas hit harder than others. In Lebanon this translates into the following facts:

- The most vulnerable areas in the North and East are hit the most.
- Wage earners in Lebanese pounds suffer huge losses in purchasing power.
- The elderly with no pensions or little remittances.
- Lack of job opportunities for the young entering the job market.
- Children who may drop out of school and be forced into the labor market.

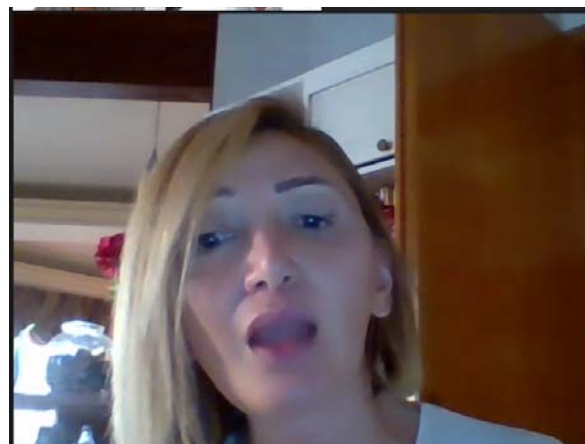
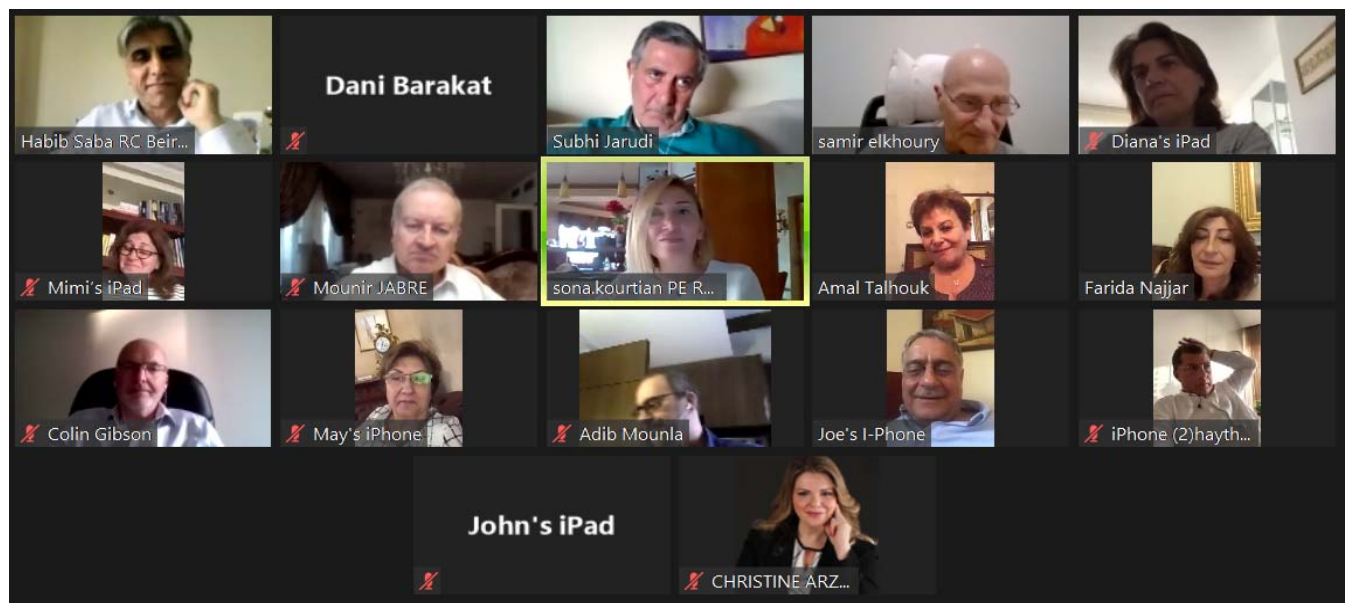
Our guest speaker was apologetic while presenting these facts and she wished she could paint a more optimistic picture for the near future. However, Ms Dara, like all of us keep on hoping that there is a light at the end of this dark tunnel, and this requires a collective, serious effort to put the good of the country above all else.



Online Business Meeting
Periodic Internal Business Meeting

April 20, 2021

The periodic internal business meeting was dedicated to the business of the club and included an update of programs and events to come, the status of the projects and global grants and rounded off with zoom fellowship and socializing.



RC BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN JOINTLY WITH RC DE BEYROUTH

Online Business Meeting With Mr Bassam Tabshouri

Chairman and General Manager Search Path Arabia

"A PATH CALLED SERENITY"

April 26, 2021

In the zoom era, the collaboration among clubs and being part of the meetings has become the norm. With this spirit, RCBC and it's parent club held a joint presentation by Mr. Tabshouri that was well attended and enjoyed.



Rotary Club de Beyrouth

Jointly with

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Cordially invite you to

Zoom meeting with Guest Speaker



Mr Bassam Tabshouri

President

Healthcare Technology Management
& Advancement Society (HTMA)

"A Path Called Senerity"

Monday 26 April 2021 at 6pm
Zoom Link Opens at 5:50pm
Meeting ID: 919 4736 8711
Passcode: 328087





Online Business Meeting With Mr. Toufic Majdalani
Chairman and General Manager Search Path Arabia

“THE WORKPLACE OF THE FUTURE AND THE NEEDED SKILLS TO SUCCEED”

April 27, 2021

Mr. Majdalani is a seasoned marketing communications professional with more than 30 years' experience in multinational agency networks in operational and leadership roles in Middle East and North Africa region.



He was a senior partner with JWT, a strong advocate of the importance of the human capital in the growth and development of organizations that led him to establish SearchPath Arabia to help companies recruit top talent for their operations. Mr. Majdalani is also a mentor and coach to budding entrepreneurs as well as executives in the midst of career transition, or what he aptly defines this as ReSkilling.

In a very well attended session, locally and internationally, our speaker took us through a very interesting evolutionary journey of the work place. He started by stating that this evolution is a natural process that started well before the pandemic but COVID-19 accelerated the pace and introduced variables into the mix. The drivers of change were the economy, technology and people themselves. The population now is categorized by age and every category has its own impact: from generation Z aged 7 to 22 passing through Millennials, Generation X, Boomers and the oldest Silent generation ages 74-91. The Millennials (23-38) overtook Baby Boomers (55-73) as America's largest generation.

These millennials are called the Entitled generation and described as restless, witty, empowered, cool, impulsive, more technology savvy, social and well connected and certainly more adventurous. All these qualities translate themselves into the work place as follows:

- The average job tenure among them is 2.8 years
- They work for purpose, not paycheck. This certainly does not apply in Lebanon because of the economic situation.
- Millennials want jobs to be development opportunities and they have a special affinity to work with NGOs.
- They want to live outside the 9 to 5 routine but they are actually workaholics according to research.
- Technology for them is an enabler to more productive work, more flexibility and better work / life balance
- Recognition and rewards are very important to them.

With more millennials choosing to freelance, the employers have to evolve equally to satisfy the changing needs of the employees. The following slide will clearly summarize the shape of the future workplace, the skills needed to succeed mentally, emotionally and physically.

The shape of things to come

The skills to succeed:

Self Initiative & Entrepreneurial Mindset

- Ability to jump start initiatives and projects on your own
- Ability to understand & set priorities
- Ability to identify & mobilize resources

Critical Thinking & Creativity

- Ability to think outside the box
- Ability to rationalize & innovate
- Ability to understand & solve complex problems & conflicts

Digital Literacy

- Ability to understand, learn & use various productivity platforms
- Ability to use social media
- Ability to understand basic programming tools

Empathy

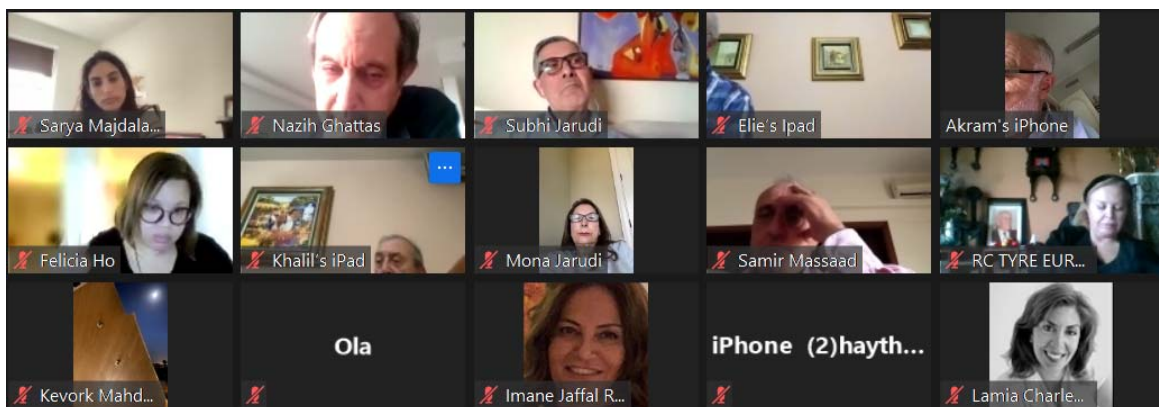
- Ability to listen, sympathize & support the other
- Ability to accept, welcome & embrace diversity
- Ability to put oneself in the others' shoes

Emotional Intelligence

- Ability to demonstrate maturity & resilience
- Ability to control & detach from strong emotions
- Ability to show compassion & empathy and use them to the benefit of the group



This was a very timely and enlightening presentation that generated lots of questions and left a lot to be discussed in a later session.



HANDOVER OF EQUIPMENT TO RMEIL COMMUNITY CENTER

14 APRIL 2021.

The Rmeil Community Center was set up in the aftermath of the 4 August 2020 Beirut Port explosion to assist the community members affected by the disaster in addition to those suffering from the dire circumstances that the country is passing through. It assists those in need from many perspectives including with provision of food, medical support, psychological trauma support and clothe items.

The handing over for the good functioning of the Center included three laptops, two fridges and two AC units. Present at the ceremonial handover representing RC Beirut Cosmopolitan were P Habib Saba and PN Farida Najjar. RC Beirut Cosmopolitan wishes the Rmeil Community Center every success with its initiative in support of the needy.



Many Happy Birthday Returns

April

Joe Boulos
Abbas Sibai
May Khoury

THE END