Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Doctoral College

PhD Thesis Proposal[1]

General Information	
PhD Thesis Title	**Assessment of quality of life metrics within the 2-year window post cancer diagnosis and its association with survivorship and cancer treatment outcomes : A national survey in Lebanon**
USEK Doctoral Program	PhD in Life and Earth Sciences
Research Center	NA
Research Group	NA
Research Axis	

PhD Supervisor	Name & Title : Julien Sophie , Associate Professor Email : sophiejulien@usek.edu.lb	University Address : Holy Spirit University of Kaslik-USEK , Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Co-supervisor (if applicable)	Name & Title : Email :	University Address :
Location (s)	Location 1: USEK- Kaslik Campus	Work shift calendar /per year (%): 70
	Location 2: (if applicable) Universities among Lebanon	Work shift calendar /per year (%) 30
Potential funding and scholarship	AUF, Erasmus, Prima	

Applicant Profile and/or Special Requirements	- Master in Public Health Nutrition - Must hold the Lebanese Dietetic Licensure - Possess advanced statistical analysis and Excel skills - Autonomy in carrying collection and analysis of the data. - Previous peer-reviewed publication will be considered as an advantage - Strong English language skills
Comps Exam Language (to be check-marked by the Ph.D. Supervisor)	☑ Oral Assessment ☐ Written Assessment ☐ Arabic ☐ French ☑ English

Subject's national or worldwide Context, Objectives & Research lines
Due to continuing advancements in prevention, detection and therapy, cancer survivorship rate is growing steadily and increasingly. However, the long-side effects of treatment make the cancer survivors experiencing severe consequences affecting their self-esteem, cognition, fatigue, nutrition, physical functioning and sexuality; therefore impacting their quality of life (QoL). It is well established that quality of life is a good prognostic factor in the 24-month window following cancer diagnosis. Yet, there are conflicting findings on the most appropriate assessment method to use for the measurement of the QoL for patients living with and beyond cancer.

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[1] The PhD Thesis Proposal should not exceed three pages.

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Currently in Lebanon, the impact of QoL on survivorship is undermined and long-term follow up of disease free-cancer patient in term of health-related QoL is inexistent.

There is an urgent need to assess the long-term impact of cancer diagnosis and treatment to ensure that QoL will not jeopardize the survival rate and the life expectancy of cancer patients and cancer-free survivors in Lebanon.

The aim of this research project is to measure the QoL metrics in cancer patients and cancer survivor to develop a tracking system to prevent decline of poor-QoL associated life expectancy. To reach this goal, this research project will focus on two main objectives:

1) To capture the full range of issues relevant to disease-free cancer survivors, encompassing social, psychological, functional and financial activities and;

2) to find the association between QoL metrics with socio-demographics and symptoms-related cancer type.

The most important impact of this research project will be to map QoL metrics specific to the type of cancer and to understand their association with survival rate I order to foster better care in hospital.

Outcomes (OCs) : What do we wish to achieve?	
OC1:	Measurement of the efficacy of a qualitative and quantitative measurements of relevant and personalized support to cancer patients and disease-free cancer patient through implementation of appropriate QoL assessments.
O23 :	Optimization of the awareness of oncologists in Lebanon on the importance to monitor and follow up QoL of the patient into the cancer pathway.
OC3:	Integration of routine practice of QoL assessment in oncology departments.

References (R) (5 most recent peer-reviewed publications in the field)	
R1:	the LIVSFORSK network, Haraldstad, K., Wahl, A., Andenæs, R., Andersen, J. R., Andersen, M. H., Beisland, E., Borge, C. R., Engebretsen, E., Eisemann, M., Halvorsrud, L., Hanssen, T. A., Haugstvedt, A., Haugland, T., Johansen, V. A., Larsen, M. H., Løvereide, L., Løyland, B., Kvarme, L. G., … Helseth, S. (2019). A systematic review of quality of life research in medicine and health sciences. *Quality of Life Research*, *28*(10), 2641–2650. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-019-02214-9
R2:	Sloan, J. A. (2011). Metrics to Assess Quality of Life After Management of Early-Stage Lung Cancer. *The Cancer Journal*, *17*(1), 63–67. https://doi.org/10.1097/PPO.0b013e31820e15dc
R3 :	Sibeoni, J., Picard, C., Orri, M., Labey, M., Bousquet, G., Verneuil, L., & Revah-Levy, A. (2018). Patients' quality of life during active cancer treatment: A qualitative study. *BMC Cancer*, *18*(1), 951. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-018-4868-6
R4:	Moschopoulou, E., Deane, J., Duncan, M., Ismail, S. A., Moriarty, S., Sarker, S.-J., White, P., Korszun, A., on behalf of the SURECAN Development Grant investigators, Bhui, K., Bourke, L., Chalder, T., Eldridge, S., Gribben, J., Jones, L., McCrone, P., Morgan, A., Ridge, D., Roylance, R., … Thaha, M. (2021). Measuring quality of life in people living with and beyond cancer in the UK. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, *29*(10), 6031–6038. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-021-06105-z
R5:	Mokhtari-Hessari, P., & Montazeri, A. (2022). Correction to: Health-related quality of life in breast cancer patients: review of reviews from 2008 to 2018. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*, *20*(1), 35. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12955-022-01942-w