
ELIE D. AL-CHAER, MS, PHD, JD

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PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

American University of Beirut – Beirut, Lebanon **2013 - Present**

Professor & Chairperson (2015 - Present), Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiological Sciences

Chairman (2015 - Present), MED-II Class Teaching Committee, Faculty of Medicine

Professor & Vice Chair (2013 - 2015), Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiological Sciences

- Restructure, modernize and streamline department operations
- Expand personnel base through recruitment of new faculty and hiring
- Establish a faculty development program, provide mentoring and career counseling to junior faculty
- Redesign teaching curriculum for medical, graduate and nursing students
- Design and lead a regional course on the Ethics and Laws of Health Care in the Middle East
- Revise and redact institutional policies on ethical conduct in education, research and health care

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) – Little Rock, Arkansas **2004 - 2013**

Professor (2009 - 13), Departments of Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences

Founder and Director, Center for Pain Research

Director of Planning and co-Director of Governance, Translational Research Institute

A record of successful multitasking combining an active research program with ongoing strategic planning and visionary leadership. In addition to the traditional chores of a university professor and a research center director (institutional boards, cabinets and committees, faculty meetings, etc.):

- Manage and supervise a research program on pain and neurosciences in all its aspects and collaborations
- Teach medical and graduate students and mentor postgraduate fellows and junior faculty
- Recruit mid-level and junior faculty needed for a number of programs
- Design, implement and direct a leadership core for academic centers
- Generate extramural funding to support research from NIH and industry
- Publish a number of abstracts, peer-reviewed articles, journal reviews, and book chapters.

Selected from a pool of outstanding and competitive institutional leaders to lead the strategic planning process for a new *Translational Research Institute* at UAMS with a budget that exceeds 30 Million USD between institutional commitment and extramural funding. Important milestones:

- Successfully submitted a planning grant application to NIH: funded with high accolades (2006)
- Designed the strategic planning process and lead the planning teams through its steps: SWOT analysis, visioning conferences, strategic goals (short and long term), and evaluation (2006)
- Successfully submitted a full grant application to NIH (\$20 Million budget): funded with high accolades (2009)
- Served as director of planning and co-director of governance, with oversight of the education and research training programs of the institute.

University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) – Galveston, Texas **1998 - 2004**

Assistant Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine, Anatomy and Neurosciences

Founder and Director, ACELAB™: Laboratory of Elie Al-Chaer for the Study of Pain

- Built a state of the art laboratory for the study of pain, housed in the Division of Gastroenterology with collaborations across the biomedical research spectrum on campus
- Developed a new animal model for functional abdominal pain
- Acquired extramural funding in the form of NIH R01, PPG and pharmaceutical grants
- Led the initiative to institute a postgraduate pain program with basic, pre-clinical and clinical phases
- Evaluated and selected applicants to the medical school while serving on the admission committee
- Taught medical students (year I and II) in the Medical Neurosciences and Gastroenterology and Nutrition Courses

EXTRA-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Allergan, Inc. – Irvine, CA: **2000 - 2013**

- Professional consultant
- Member of the pain advisory board
- Provide scientific counsel on projects design, pain research, biobehavioral and physiological studies in addition to patent applications

Sigma Health Care Inc. - Galveston, TX:

2002 - 2004

Member of the governing board of directors and the advisory board

- Provided legal counsel on health care, employment, contracts, intellectual property, business organization and strategy

LEADERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

In addition to a number of professional awards and recognitions, service as a reviewer for a number of scientific journals, granting organizations, and NIH study sections, including: *Neurological Sciences and Disorders, Clinical Neuroplasticity, Pain, Women's Health, Digestive and bladder diseases* and others (see CV for details),

- Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Women's Health **2009 -**
- Lead panelist on a strategic planning forum: *Shaping the Future of Enteric Neurosciences* **2009**
- Co-Chair, NIH Special Emphasis Panel on Multi-disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain Research Network **2008**
- Chair, NIH Special Council on Mind-Body Interactions and Health **2004**
- Chair, NIH Special Emphasis Panel on Behavioral and Social Sciences Research **2003**
- Chair, American Gastroenterological Association committee on Colonic Motility and Disorders **2002-08**

INVITED SPEAKER:

Regularly invited to give seminars and plenary lectures about the state-of-the-science in pain research at academic institutions in the USA, Europe, and Asia and at professional conferences (a comprehensive list of more than 100 invited lectures is available in my CV). Most recent topics include:

- *"The Nuts and Bolts of an Academic Strategic Plan"*
- *"Stalemate of Academic Leadership and Prospects of a Dynamic Renewal "*
- *"Managing People's Creativity on an Institutional Budget: The Paradox of Academic Leadership"*
- *"Pain: the Paradox of Scientific Advances and Clinical Retreats"*
- *"Age, Pain and Neuroplasticity: Scientific Constructs and Outcome Realities"*
- *"When East Meets West - Irritable Bowel Syndrome: A Tale of Sex, Drugs and Pain"*
- *"Gastrointestinal Pain: Reflections on Phylogeny, Physiology and Pathways"*
- *"Functional Pain: the Rhapsody of a Nervous System"*

STRATEGIC CONSULTANT:

Strategic consultant (ad-hoc) to a number of organizations and companies in the USA and Europe, advising on scientific trends, study designs, research strategies, legal options and conflict resolution; in addition to standing membership on the following advisory boards:

- International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (non-profit) **2005 - Present**
- ROME Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders **2005 - Present**
- Allergan, Inc., biomedical research advisory board **2000 - 2013**

EDUCATION

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW – *Houston, Texas*

Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD), 2002

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH – *Galveston, Texas*

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD: Neuroscience), 1996

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT – *Beirut, Lebanon*

Master of Science (MS: Physiology), 1991

Bachelor of Science (BS: Mathematics), 1988

LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

State Bar of Texas, 2002 - Present

District of Columbia, Court of Appeals, 2006 - Present

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS:

American Gastroenterological Association (1998 - Present)

American Pain Society (1996 - Present)

International Association for the Study of Pain (1995 - Present)

Society for Neuroscience (1993 - Present)

DC Bar Association (2006 - Present)

American Bar Association (2002 - Present)

State Bar of Texas (2002 - Present)

Galveston County Bar Association (2003 - 04)