

“Dr. John Fayyad, Keep Coming Back from Time to Time, The Way You Choose”



Elie G. Karam, M.D.
 Head Institute for Development,
 Research, Advocacy & Applied Care
 (IDRAAC)
 Medical Institute for
 Neuropsychological Disorders (MIND)
 Professor Dept. of Psychiatry &
 Clinical Psychology
 St. George Hospital University
 Medical Center

Balamand University, Faculty of Medicine - Beirut, Lebanon
www.idraac.org - www.mindclinics.org

Dr. John Fayyad came to this world on the 31st of May 1961 and left it on October 14, 2018. What a loss. What a terrible loss. All those who worked with him could not believe that he was sick. It looked as if he did not believe that he was that sick.

John got his MD from AUB in 1985, trained in general psychiatry and then child & adolescent psychiatry in the US. I asked John to come and join us in the spring of 1997 during a meeting in Chicago of the American Psychiatric Association and he did not hesitate. I discovered then one of the many passions of John: he was distributing CDs to the Lebanese psychiatrists who were attending that meeting. I thought to myself what a bold man who



really believed in what he loves. He reminded me that he had been my student in medical school: I liked it! He wholehearted came to Lebanon and jumped on the wagon of clinical and research work with us since then. He did so to the last minute: in fact, until the last twenty-four hours before he left this world. He continued working while in bed in the hospital, yet, gasping for air, planning for the various research projects we were conducting.

We were so happy to see him in our meetings over the years. We are so stunned by his encyclopedic knowledge of the literature in child & adolescent psychiatry.

We were so proud of him during the concerts (which he gave to raise money to our research at IDRAAC).

He not only published a large number of scientific articles over the past 20 years but also became the child guy of the World Mental Health Consortium, a major international research team led by Dr. Ronald Kessler at Harvard University. He authored several publications in child & adolescent psychiatry from the WMH surveys and was the star of the ceremonies we held yearly with this consortium which comprised more than 30 countries. He played the piano accompanying the researchers from all

these countries, in their songs, which they sang in their own language: it bonded all of us together and everyone looked forward every year to come back & back...

John was a fine connoisseur of wine too, and he was our consultant from where we were in the world: I remember once being in Cannes having dinner with fellow researchers from Europe and the WE and we were about to choose the wine. I told the group: let me check with my adviser and I called John to Beirut and he patiently went over the list

that we had in front of us and advised us. You should have seen the face of the sommelier.

John: You always instilled surprise in all of us and all those who knew you. You were always displaying what could not be guessed. And you remained in many ways a puzzle for many of us. Thank you John for having been around. Keep coming back from time to time, the way you chose, just to feel you for a second and see the famous winks that only you could do.

Info

Faute d'Argent, l'Epidémie de Sida Pourrait Repartir à la Hausse

La lutte contre le sida a besoin de milliards de dollars supplémentaires, faute de quoi l'épidémie risque de repartir de plus belle, ont averti des experts en juillet à Amsterdam, à la veille de l'ouverture de la conférence internationale sur cette maladie. «Nous allons avoir des problèmes si nous n'avons pas davantage d'argent», a estimé Mark Dybul, un chercheur et diplomate américain, lors d'un colloque organisé avant la grand-messe de la lutte antisida.

M. Dybul est un ancien dirigeant du Fonds mondial de lutte contre le sida, fondation qui investit dans la lutte contre cette maladie. Le pire scénario selon lui : que le manque de financement se conjugue avec le risque d'une explosion des nouvelles infections à cause de la démographie galopante dans certains pays durement touchés, particulièrement en Afrique. «Mélangez ces deux éléments et vous aboutirez à une crise majeure», a-t-il mis en garde, craignant que «le monde ne perde le contrôle de l'épidémie».

Aujourd'hui, 36,9 millions de personnes vivent avec le virus VIH, en espérant qu'il ne s'aggrave pas en sida. Le nombre d'infections baisse et pour la première fois depuis le début du siècle, le nombre de morts annuel est passé sous un million en 2016 (990 000) puis 2017 (940 000). Mais l'Onusida, l'instance de lutte contre le sida de l'ONU, estime à 7 milliards de dollars par an les financements manquants pour que cette maladie ne soit plus une menace



pour la santé publique mondiale en 2030. La communauté des chercheurs et des associations craint surtout une baisse des dotations américaines. Depuis l'élection de Donald Trump, les Etats-Unis, le premier contributeur historique de la lutte contre le sida, ont prévu des coupes budgétaires, qui n'ont pour l'heure pas été adoptées par le Congrès.

«A moins de prendre des mesures drastiques, nous ne parviendrons même pas à nous approcher» du but fixé pour 2030, a souligné Nduku Kilonzo, du Conseil national kényan de contrôle du sida. «Nous sommes très, très loin de notre but, non seulement en termes d'élimination du sida, mais simplement de prévention», a-t-elle martelé, en soulignant que les fonds dédiés à la distribution de préservatifs avaient fortement baissé.