

## In memoriam: John Fayyad (1961–2018)

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Dr John Fayyad from Batroumine, Lebanon, left us on October 14, 2018. He disappeared from this world smoothly as he had inhabited it for 57 years, the last 20 of them in the Department of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology at St Georges Hospital University Medical Center/University of Balamand in Beirut which he headed for the last 2 years. He had taken Rindala, his wife, and Laura, his daughter to this last (and he probably knew it) summer trip to Tuscany in Italy, the capital of his beloved passion: wine. He had another passion: music. You barely mentioned a song, or a rhyme, or an opera, or a symphony and John would start singing it for you; he produced several CDs and led concerts over the years raising funds for IDRAAC our research institution, the last in July 2018 in the beautiful green mountains of Deir El Kamar in Lebanon, to the big surprise of the few who realized that John was giving in fact his last to be concert.

John joined our department after he had worked in the USA for several years and very quickly jumped on the wagon of clinical work at MIND and of research at IDRAAC. John knew the child and adolescent mental health literature like he knew the small wineries of Bordeaux, with astounding memory of their essence. Relentlessly and over the years, he accompanied us in our projects and led many of them. He had no prefixed theories and was open to whatever doors were opened by research data.

He was rarely in a hurry and did not feel bad when grants were rejected. At least we did not see it. He must have kept his frustrations inside and we wondered all along: is this for real? Yes it was. Like traveling while the disease within him was running amok; planning for next year's project on the genetics of mental health and war trauma in Syrian refugees as if he thought he will still be around; seeing patients on a wheel chair, giving a follow-up appointment 2 months later, and going up back to the hospital bed, as if he was there just for a checkup.

John was an expert on ADHD: he was sought after from all over the Middle East and was in the Editorial Board of the *ADHD Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders* since the foundation of the journal. We are stunned by how much his young patients and their families loved him and we have been crying with them when they came back for their appointments. He was a major figure in the World Mental Health Consortium, a major international research team led by Ronald Kessler from Harvard, and was the “child” guy of that consortium. He led the publications of this superb international group in the field of ADHD. We would meet yearly, and invariably he would organize the closing dinner with a beautiful bouquet of songs from all over the world sung by the researchers, in their own language. You should have seen his smile

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IDRAAC Fundraising Concert 27  
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Lebanon had not known such an expert in Child Psychiatry before John came back to Lebanon from the USA and his shoes will be difficult to fill. Lebanon had not known a specialist who knew the world, treated families, did research, loved, excelled in wine, in music, kept his smile literally until the last day of his life. He will be missed very, very

badly. Many of us hope whole heartedly he will send us signs from wherever he is, just to tell us he is ok and happy.

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