APSLD NEWSLETTER

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2026

SPECIAL ISSUE
Stanford-Elseiver Ranking



Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent

APSLD @ the TOP

The **Stanford-Elsevier Ranking** officially known as the **World's Top 2% Scientists list**

Included in the Stanford–Elsevier World's Top 2% Scientists Ranking, a globally recognized bibliometric database developed by researchers at Stanford University and published by Elsevier. The ranking identifies the most influential scientists worldwide based on standardized citation indicators derived from Scopus data, including citation counts, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted metrics, and authorship position across 22 scientific fields and 174 subfields. It Includes researchers in the top 100,000 globally by composite score (**c-score**) or those in the top 2% of their specific subfield.

This recognition highlights not only individual capabilities, but also the institution's strong contribution to science.

The 2026 Stanford–Elsevier World's Top 2% Scientists list (Version 9), compiled by John P.A. Ioannidis and his team at Stanford University and published via Elsevier, was released on October 7, 2026

Every year John Ioannidis (Stanford University) and Elsevier publish a database of the world's most cited researchers, built from Scopus. Each person is assigned to one of 174 subfields and ranked by a composite indicator, the c-score. The list includes the top 100,000 worldwide and anyone in the top 2% of their subfield.

The 2026 edition (version 9) came out on 7 October with Scopus data from August 2026. It has two lists: a career-long one, with citations from 1996 to 2025, and a single-year one, with citations received in 2025. Every earlier edition is here too, back to 2019 (citations from 2017), so you can follow each person over time.

LEBANESE HERITAGE, SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Four APSLD Members Recognized Among the World's Most Influential Scientists

The inclusion of four members of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent (APSLD), **Bishara Atiyeh, Fábio Xerfan Nahas, Hani Sbitany, and Samir Mardini** in the 2026 Stanford–Elsevier ranking of the world's most influential scientists is a remarkable achievement and a source of pride for the association and the international plastic surgery community. **Their recognition highlights the significant scientific contributions made by plastic surgeons of Lebanese descent and the international reach of their academic work.**

Being included in the Stanford–Elsevier ranking is no small accomplishment. The selection is based on standardized bibliometric indicators that assess scientific impact, including citations received by researchers' publications. Inclusion reflects not simply the number of articles published, but also the extent to which a researcher's work has influenced other scientists and contributed to the advancement of knowledge.

For plastic surgeons, achieving this level of scientific recognition presents exceptional challenges. Plastic surgery is a specialized field, and its research often focuses on specific surgical techniques, clinical outcomes, complications, and innovations that serve a relatively narrow scientific community. Consequently, even important and clinically meaningful contributions may receive fewer citations than research in broader medical disciplines.

Furthermore, many areas of medicine benefit from larger research infrastructures, substantial institutional funding, and extensive collaborative networks. These resources can facilitate the production of scientific publications and increase their visibility and citation potential. Plastic surgery research, by comparison, may have more limited access to such resources, making sustained international scientific impact particularly challenging to achieve.

Against this background, the recognition of Bishara Atiyeh, Fábio Xerfan Nahas, Hani Sbitany, and Samir Mardini is especially meaningful. Their presence in the ranking underscores the importance of long-term academic dedication, consistent scientific productivity, and contributions that reach beyond individual institutions or countries.

For the Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent, this achievement is an opportunity to celebrate the scientific excellence of its members and to recognize the role of academic research in advancing plastic surgery worldwide. Their accomplishments demonstrate that scientific influence is built over time through rigorous investigation, collaboration, and a sustained commitment to expanding medical knowledge. They also serve as an inspiration to younger generations of plastic surgeons who aspire to combine excellence in surgical practice with meaningful contributions to science.

Where the List Has High Value

- **Objective Research Benchmarking:** Unlike subjective "Top Doctor" lists that rely on peer nominations or marketing budgets, this list is purely data-driven. It uses standardized citation metrics (like h-index, co-authorship adjustments, and total citations) from the Scopus database.
- **Institutional and Academic Prestige:** Universities, hospitals, and research institutes heavily value this list. For a surgeon, being listed can secure research grants, academic promotions, and tenure.

The Structural Barriers to Stanford/Elsevier Ranking for Plastic Surgeons

A Deep Dive into Citation Mechanics, Category Disadvantages, and Systemic Hurdles

Achieving a spot in the prestigious **Stanford University/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List** is an exceptionally high bar for any scientist, but for clinical plastic surgeons, it presents a set of compounded structural, institutional, and mathematical barriers. While some researchers have broken through to rank highly globally, their positioning is anomalous compared to the broader plastic surgery field due to deep systemic challenges built into metric-driven indexing databases.

The Primary Barriers to Academic Ranking

1. The Citation Volume Disadvantage
The Stanford/Elsevier list relies heavily on a composite citation score (c-score) generated from Scopus data. Citations are inherently dependent on the size of the active academic community. Fields such as Oncology, Cardiology, and Molecular Genetics host massive multi-center international trials that produce thousands of papers and millions of citations annually. Plastic surgery, conversely, is a highly specialized and smaller niche, resulting in a significantly lower natural ceiling for total citation numbers.

2. Institutional and Public Funding Deficits
Large-scale randomized controlled trials require substantial institutional funding. While government agencies and pharmaceutical conglomerates inject billions into life-threatening diseases, plastic surgery research—particularly cosmetic or elective reconstructive sub-fields—rarely receives public subsidies. Most research is either self-funded or minimally sponsored by medical device manufacturers, severely limiting the sample sizes and scale of published literature.

3. The Broad 'Surgery' Umbrella Classification
In the Stanford/Elsevier classification system, plastic surgeons are not given an isolated category. Instead, they are grouped into the massive generic category of **Surgery**. This means plastic surgery researchers must mathematically compete directly against general surgeons, transplant surgeons, and surgical oncologists whose patient populations and citation pools are naturally far more vast.

Medical Specialty Group	Funding Ecosystem	Relative Citation Pool	Stanford/Elsevier Categorization Advantage
Surgical Oncology / General Surgery	High (Government, Pharma, Non-Profits)	Massive / Global Multi-Center Trials	Highly Advantageous (Direct field match)
Cardiology & Internal Medicine	Extreme (Global Health Priority Focus)	Exponentially High Volume	Extremely Favorable due to massive co-authorship networks
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	Low-Moderate (Self-funded or Device Driven)	Small / Highly Specialized Sub-niche	Disadvantageous (Submerged under broader 'Surgery' umbrella)

Key Details of the Ranking

Two Assessment Lists:
- **Career-Long Impact**: Evaluates cumulative citations and metrics over a researcher's entire active career.
- **Single-Year Impact**: Focuses strictly on citation impact during the most recent calendar year (2025).

Evaluation Metrics (C-Score) The composite citation indicator combines several standardized factors:
- Total citation count
- **h-index** (an author's number of published papers h that have each been cited at least h times)
- Co-authorship-adjusted **hm-index**
- Citations to papers where the researcher is a single, solo, first, or last author

Field Structure
- **22** major scientific fields
- **174** distinct subfields



CAREER-LONG LIST · CITATIONS 1996-2025

Atiyeh, Bishara Shafic American University of beirut · Lebanon

538 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 0.37%**

On the list both ways: top 2% of the subfield and the world's top 100,000 (rank 67,886).

Rankings

World, in Surgery	538 of 146,713
Lebanon, same subfield	1 of 3
Lebanon, whole list	19 of 93
American University of Beirut	11 of 55
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	67,886

Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	3.663 (without self-citations: 3.638)
Citations received (1996-2025)	5,881 (without self-citations: 5,519)
h-index (citations 1996-2025)	36
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	19.96
Self-citations	6.2 %
Papers in Scopus	273
Papers cited (1996-2025)	195
Citing papers (1996-2025)	5,370
First and last publication	1994-2026
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (99 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (30 %)
Second subfield	Emergency & Critical Care Medicine (11 %)

49 other people from American University of Beirut on this list

SINGLE-YEAR LIST · CITATIONS IN 2025

214 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 0.15%**

On the list both ways: top 2% of the subfield and the world's top 100,000 (rank 59,710).

Rankings

World, in Surgery	214 of 146,713
Lebanon, same subfield	1 of 3
Lebanon, whole list	26 of 97
American University of Beirut, whole list	7 of 41
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	59,710

Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	2.942 (without self-citations: 2.938)
Citations received (2025)	384 (without self-citations: 370)
h-index (citations 2025)	10
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	6.28
Self-citations	3.7 %
Papers in Scopus	273
Papers cited (2025)	92
Citing papers (2025)	358
First and last publication	1994-2026
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (99 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (30 %)
Second subfield	Emergency & Critical Care Medicine (11 %)

40 other people from American University of Beirut on this list

RANKING HISTORY, 2017-2025

Citations	Career	Single-year
2025-2026 edition	538 / 146,713 top 0.37 %	214 / 146,713 top 0.15 %
2024-2025 edition	602 / 141,119 top 0.43 %	301 / 146,713 top 0.21 %
2023-2024 edition	598 / 132,828 top 0.45 %	323 / 132,828 top 0.24 %
2022-2023 edition	631 / 125,272 top 0.50 %	355 / 125,272 top 0.28 %
2021-2022 edition	628 / 117,502 top 0.53 %	332 / 117,502 top 0.28 %
2020-2021 edition	664 / 113,113top 1.82 %	320 / 113,113 top 0.28 %
2019-2020 edition	699 / 80,940 top 0.86 %	336 / 80,940 top 0.42 %
2018-2019 edition	World: 87,036	-
2017-2018 edition	World: 85,553	World: 51,503



CAREER-LONG LIST · CITATIONS 1996-2025

Sbitany, Hani Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai · United States

1,413 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 0.96%**

On the list for being in the top 2% of the subfield.

Rankings

World, in Surgery	1,413 of 146,713
United States, same subfield	809 of 1,581
United States, whole list	64,060 of 90,921
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, whole list	292 of 341
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	170,435

Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	3.332 (without self-citations: 3.303)
Citations received (1996-2025)	3,411 (without self-citations: 3,121)
h-index (citations 1996-2025)	32
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	13.84
Self-citations	8.5 %
Papers in Scopus	108
Papers cited (1996-2025)	94
Citing papers (1996-2025)	2,673
First and last publication	2006-2025
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (97 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (59 %)
Second subfield	Oncology & Carcinogenesis (10 %)

50 other people from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai on this list

SINGLE-YEAR LIST · CITATIONS IN 2025

791 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 0.54%**

On the list for being in the top 2% of the subfield.

Rankings

World, in Surgery	791 of 146,713
United States, same subfield	371 of 1,371
United States, whole list	49,310 of 73,638
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, whole list	249 of 354
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	171,907

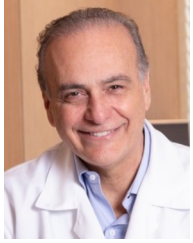
Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	2.597 (without self-citations: 2.585)
Citations received (2025)	317 (without self-citations: 305)
h-index (citations 2025)	9
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	4.71
Self-citations	3.8 %
Papers in Scopus	108
Papers cited (2025)	68
Citing papers (2025)	256
First and last publication	2006-2025
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (97 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (59 %)
Second subfield	Oncology & Carcinogenesis (10 %)

50 other people from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai on this list

Ranking history, 2019-2025

Citations	Career	Single-year
2025-2026 edition	1,413 / 146,713 top 0.96 %	791 / 146,713 top 0.54 %
2024-2025 edition	1,536 / 141,119 top 1.09 %	521 / 141,119 top 0.37 %
2023-2024 edition	1,612 / 132,828 top 1.21 %	280 / 132,828 top 0.21 %
2022-2023 edition	1,964 / 125,272 top 1.57 %	747 / 125,272 top 0.60 %
2021-2022 edition	2,236 / 117,502 top 1.90 %	646 / 117,502 top 0.55 %
2020-2021 edition	-	581 / 113,113 top 0.51 %
2019-2020 edition	-	438 / 80,940 top 0.45 %



CAREER-LONG LIST · CITATIONS 1996-2025

Nahas, Fabio Xerfan Universidade Federal de São Paulo · Brazil

1,629 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 1.11%**

On the list for being in the top 2% of the subfield.

Rankings

World, in Surgery	1,629 of 146,713
Brazil, same subfield	6 of 17
Brazil, whole list	731 of 1,304
Universidade Federal de São Paulo, whole list	21 of 34
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	194,844

Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	3.278 (without self-citations: 3.107)
Citations received (1996-2025)	2,596 (without self-citations: 1,878)
h-index (citations 1996-2025)	31
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	14.99
Self-citations	27.7 %
Papers in Scopus	143
Papers cited (1996-2025)	116
Citing papers (1996-2025)	1,531
First and last publication	1997-2026
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (99 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (64 %)
Second subfield	Medical Informatics (1 %)

33 other people from Universidade Federal de São Paulo on this list

SINGLE-YEAR LIST · CITATIONS IN 2025

2,962 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 2.02%**

On the list for being in the top 2% of the subfield.

Rankings

World, in Surgery	2,962 of 146,713
Brazil, same subfield	21 of 22
Brazil, whole list	1,474 of 1,510
Universidade Federal de São Paulo, whole list	35 of 35
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	516,995

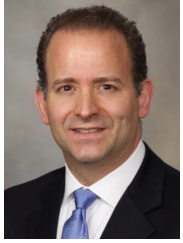
Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	2.199 (without self-citations: 2.205)
Citations received (2025)	168 (without self-citations: 163)
h-index (citations 2025)	6
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	3.98
Self-citations	3.0 %
Papers in Scopus	143
Papers cited (2025)	57
Citing papers (2025)	131
First and last publication	1997-2026
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (99 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (64 %)
Second subfield	Medical Informatics (1 %)

34 other people from Universidade Federal de São Paulo on this list

Ranking history, 2020-2025

Citations	Career	Single-year
2025-2026 edition	1,629 / 146,713 top 1.11 %	2,962 / 146,713 top 2.02 %
2024-2025 edition	1,625 / 141,119 top 1.15 %	712 / 141,119 top 0.50 %
2023-2024 edition	1,819 / 132,828 top 1.37 %	1,368 / 132,828 top 1.03 %
2022-2023 edition	1,974 / 125,272 top 1.58 %	1,905 / 125,272 top 1.52 %
2021-2022 edition	2,012 / 117,502 top 1.71 %	1,732 / 117,502 top 1.47 %
2020-2021 edition	2,062 / 113,113 top 1.82 %	1,289 / 113,113 top 1.14 %



SINGLE-YEAR LIST · CITATIONS IN 2025

Mardini, Samir Mayo Clinic · United Stares

2,735 / 146,713 **Rank in Surgery: top 1.86%**

On the list for being in the top 2% of the subfield.

Rankings

World, in Surgery	2,735 of 146,713
United States, same subfield	1,210 of 1,371
United States, whole list	71,396 of 73,638
Mayo clinic, whole list	631 of 635
World rank across all fields (by c-score)	483,531

Indicators

c-score (composite indicator)	2.225 (without self-citations: 2.208)
Citations received (1996-2025)	462 (without self-citations: 418)
h-index (citations 2025)	10
hm-index (co-authorship adjusted)	4.87
Self-citations	9.5 %
Papers in Scopus	222
Papers cited (2025)	130
Citing papers (2025)	428
First and last publication	2001-2026
Retracted papers	0
Field	Clinical Medicine (99 %)
Main subfield	Surgery (57 %)
Second subfield	Dentistry (57 %)

50 other people from Mayo Clinic on this list

RANKING HISTORY, 2021-2025

On the single-year list (citations in 2025). The career-long list is a different list, and Samir Mardini is not on it.

Citations	Career	Single-year
2025-2026 edition	-	2,735 / 146,713 top 1.86 %
2024-2025 edition	-	2,317 / 141,119 top 1.64 %
2023-2024 edition	-	2,742/ 132,828 top 2.06 %
2021-2022 edition	-	2,394 / 117,502 top 2.04 %

Organized by

APSLD
Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent

9th WORLD CONGRESS OF PLASTIC SURGEONS OF LEBANESE DESCENT

BACK TO THE ROOTS

Save the Date

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