

Dr. Ghazi Kayali

CEO, Human Link, Lebanon

Dr. Ghazi Kayali is the CEO of Human Link, an NGO he established in Lebanon. Over the past 15 years, the over-arching theme for Dr. Kayali's research is emerging zoonotic virus epidemiology at the human-animal interface. He has been conducting surveillance for avian influenza viruses among wild birds and poultry in Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon thus monitoring viral evolution and ecology. Dr. Kayali has performed research on MERS conducting surveillance for coronaviruses in bats, camels, and mammals. He was among the first to describe its zoonotic nature at the camel-human interface and describe the dynamics of infection among camels. Dr. Kayali's team is among the few global groups conducting cohorts at the human-animal interface allowing us to estimate the incidence and prevalence of emerging zoonotic viruses in animal-exposed humans. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kayali conducted research response projects including sero-epidemiological and viral genomic studies in Egypt and Lebanon. Dr. Kayali also works as a consultant for the WHO on zoonotic diseases, pandemic preparedness, and International Health Regulations. His policy-related work is currently focusing on developing zoonotic disease policies and improving intersectoral collaboration and coordination. He focuses on promoting One Health and push to institutionalization of the concept in governmental policies and practice.