METHODS
This was a pilot study involving 10 junior Ob/Gyn and Radiology residents representing 3 different academic departments in Lebanon. A pre-course survey was administered to determine residents’ self-assessment of their sonographic skills using a Likert Scale of 1-5. The curriculum was modeled after the “International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology Basic Training (ISUOG BT) 4-Step Curriculum” and included didactic and simulation-based sessions and hands-on scanning with logbook upkeep. The training was carried out over the course of one year. Trainees completed a post-course survey to reassess their sonographic skills post-completion of the ISUOG BT curriculum. Data was analyzed using nonparametric related samples Wilcoxon signed rank test and P < 0.05 was considered significant. In addition, all trainees sat for the ISUOG BT theoretical test and had their practical skills assessed by ISUOG faculty.

RESULTS
There was a statistically significant improvement in trainees’ sonographic skills in all aspects: image optimization, knobology, basic obstetric scanning with fetal biometry, basic anatomy and basic gynecologic examination. The final grades on the theoretical post-test ranged between 80.8-100%. All trainees’ practical skills were deemed adequate by the assessors, who also noted that all trainees worked in a systematic standardized manner.

Even though our pilot included a small number of trainees, it nonetheless attests to the impact of the ISUOG BT curriculum on residents’ sonographic skills. This was evident by their self-assessments as well as their theoretical and practical assessment by ISUOG faculty. This calls for a wider global implementation of the ISUOG BT program.