

AUB to host the Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI) regional office in the MENA region

(July 12, 2017) Beirut, Lebanon – To strengthen its leadership position in the healthcare sector in the Middle East region, the American University of Beirut (AUB) collaborated with the Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI), the international arm of the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), paving the way in bringing together academic health centers to promote regional activities, as well as programs that are of particular interest to the area.

The American University of Beirut (AUB) will host AAHCI's MENA Regional Office with Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, Executive Vice President for Medicine and Global Strategy, as the Regional Ambassador. Accordingly, AUB will play a pivotal role as a growing platform to customize region-specific interests and tailor programs, facilitate important regional networking opportunities, educational programs, exchange of best practices, data collection and analysis, and community/regional relationships, and promote the understanding of the academic health center concept to government, industry, and the public. The office will also serve to provide valuable insight for AAHCI on key issues and challenges faced in the region.

Dr. Sayegh said, “We are very eager to host AAHCI’s MENA regional office at AUB, and we look forward to further engaging and networking with our peer institutions in the region, as well as sharing our knowledge and expertise about the challenges and growth strategies for academic medical centers in areas of conflict. For the past 150 years, the American University of Beirut has played a pivotal role in the evolution of healthcare as its medical center has been central in the treatment of the victims of war over the last two decades, thus developing expertise we can share.”

Ms. Noha Hachach, regional administrator for the office, said “Our experience with AAHC has been very promising so far and hosting the regional MENA office is an attestation to our commitment through the success of AUBMC’s 2020 Vision and in line with AUB’s recent HEALTH 2025 Vision to enhance the social and human wellbeing of populations in Lebanon, the region and beyond. This can be further achieved by collaborating with reputable academic healthcare centers in the region to advance standards in the areas of clinical and population health education, research and practice.”

Founded in 1969, the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) is a non-profit organization that advances health and well-being through the vigorous leadership of academic health centers. AAHC strives to achieve this by enhancing the ability of its members to educate the next generation of health professionals, conduct biomedical research, and provide patient care. AAHC believes that improving the health and well-being of the communities that members serve depends on the continuous advancement, alignment, and optimization of each element of this three-part mission. The Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI) is a member-based association founded in 2008 as a subsidiary to the US-based AAHC. It similarly focuses on bringing together institutions that serve the academic health center mission along with a global vision of enhancing health and well-being worldwide.

Hosting the AAHCI regional office will empower healthcare centers to transform, adapt, and thrive in a landscape, which is continuously evolving. It reinforces AUB's pioneering role in supporting medical advancement, while acting as a gateway to assure high quality patient care to the whole MENA region. This will ultimately lay the ground for further development in the future, keeping AUB at the forefront of progress to ensure a highly transformative healthcare environment.

About AUBMC

Since 1902, AUBMC has been providing the highest standards of care to patients across Lebanon and the region. It is also the teaching hospital for the Faculty of Medicine at AUB (established in 1867), which has trained generations of medical students and physicians, and whose graduates can be found at leading institutions around the world. AUBMC is the only medical institution in the Middle East to have earned the four international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, CAP, and ACGME-I attesting to its superior standards in patient-centered care, nursing, pathology/laboratory services and graduate medical education.

The Faculty of Medicine has graduated over 4,000 medical students and physicians; the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing provides excellent education for the nursing staff, and the Medical Center meets the healthcare needs of over 360,000 patient visits annually.

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