

## **AUBMC celebrates the “UN International Volunteer Day” to honor its volunteers and recognize their work**

**Beirut, Lebanon, December 5, 2017:** To mark the United Nations International Volunteer Day (IVD) and under the auspices of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) Officer in Charge, Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) held a celebration ceremony to honor the contributions of its volunteer-involving funds and community members.

The event, which was held at Issam Fares Lecture Hall, highlighted the impact of volunteering on the development and progress of any community. Dr. Mona Osman, Family Medicine Doctor at the Department of Family Medicine, AUBMC applauded the key achievements and the outreach of community-oriented volunteering work that AUBMC and the Faculty of Medicine are offering.

In presence were H.E. Lebanese Minister of State for Administrative Reforms, Dr. Inaya Ezzedine, WHO Representative, Dr. Gabriele Riedner, AUB President, Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, Executive Vice President for Medicine and Global Strategy, Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at AUB, Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, Medical Center Director and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ziyad Ghazzal, and members of the AUB funds, community, faculty, and staff.

Commenting on the event, Dr. Fadlo Khuri, said: “Our volunteering groups are saving thousands and thousands of lives and healing wounds of our patients, our kids, and our communities. They are driven by their passion to get the accomplishments done so eloquently. When individuals from different walks of life come together for a charitable cause, whether by giving time, effort, or resources, social bonds deepen and communities become more compassionate.”

“It is not the first time I witness the active and volunteer-based humanitarian work of the civil society in Lebanon conducted during the most difficult circumstances. 28 years ago, I started as a delegate in Lebanon for the International Committee for Red Cross, and I was impressed by the dedication, the courage, and the energy of the Red Cross volunteers. They have saved lives and alleviated the suffering of people caught in the civil war, they were the real heroes. This volunteering spirit has remained, and the United Nations mission in Lebanon is today proud to support initiatives promoting the volunteers’ spirit,” said Mr. Lazzarini.

Mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Volunteer Day (IVD) - held annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December of each year- is viewed as a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, share their values, and promote their work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector.

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### **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 five international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, CAP, ACGME-I and JACIE 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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