

For Immediate Release



WHO selects AUB department as one of its collaborating centers around the world

Beirut, Lebanon- 02/02/2011 - The World Health Organization (WHO) has named AUB's Department of Health Promotion and Community Health (HPCH) as its third collaborating center in Lebanon. The decision to designate HPCH as WHO Collaborating Center on Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences for the next four years was announced on January 5, 2011, following a rigorous application process that lasted three years.

A WHO collaborating center forms part of an inter-institutional collaborative network set up by WHO in support of its programs at the country, inter-country, regional, interregional and global levels. The center participates in the strengthening of country resources, in terms of information, services, research and training, in support of national health development. The other two WHO collaborating centers are also located at AUB- at the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences (Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences), and the Department of Dermatology (Faculty of Medicine).

HPCH's long-standing research on areas related to refugee and migrant health, youth health, tobacco control, reproductive and sexual health, and community based interventions will allow it to serve as a resource center for professionals involved in health promotion in Lebanon and the Arab region. This will be achieved by developing health education materials, training health professionals, networking, and conducting research in response to community needs.

HPCH will serve as an information center for health promotion. It will provide WHO with resources such as health education promotion materials, and services such as networking between NGOs, evaluation of materials and programs, and training health care practitioners. HPCH hosts a strong Health Education Resource Unit (HERU), which has served as a resource for professionals involved in health promotion in Lebanon and the Arab region since its establishment in 1986.

There are 800 WHO Collaborating Centers worldwide. However, HPCH is the first in the region to become a center for Health Promotion. This will not only give HPCH national, regional and international recognition but will also grant it access to an incredible network of health centers recognized by WHO across the world. In January 2000, the WHO Executive Board urged the member states to make full use of its collaborating centers as sources of information, services and expertise.

Based in the Faculty of Health Sciences, HPCH's mission is to develop a better understanding of the effects of individual and social factors on health, with the intention of facilitating change in behavior. The department's multidisciplinary faculty achieves this by conducting

research that responds to the health needs of the region, and informing national health policies.

For more information about WHO Collaborating Centers, please go to:
<http://www.who.int/collaboratingcentres/en/>.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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