

**Grant received by the AUB Tobacco Control Research Group
Tuesday January 19, 2010**

The AUB Tobacco Control Research Group (AUB -TCRG) has just received a two-year grant of \$198,258 (US) from the International Development Research Center-Research for International Tobacco Control (IDRC-RITC) to support tobacco control research, dissemination, and networking in Lebanon and the region.

Housed in the Faculty of Health Sciences's Center for Research on Population and Health and led by Assistant Professor Rima Nakkash, the project will use the grant to support the dissemination of information on the local level, the translation of its findings into policy, and the development of a tobacco control regional research network.

At the local level, research will build support for policy change. Dissemination, with the support of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs will, for example, target lay persons on the effects of narghile smoking on health, and policy makers on best evidence for tobacco control policies in order to contribute, potentially, towards moving policy debate to the forefront of the national agenda.

At the regional level, the AUB-TCRG will build a research network to contribute to the evidence based on tobacco control in the region to enrich discussions on tobacco control research and promote future joint research projects and funding.

The AUB Tobacco Control Research group, established in 1999 with a grant from the (IDRC-RITC), is a multidisciplinary team of professionals specialized in medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, health behavior, health policy, health management, chemistry, and engineering. The group has received grants from RITC and others to describe narghile use and the epidemiology related to use among youth, investigate the components of smoke, assess the long-term health impact of use, understand the acceptability of use among women, compare parent and child attitudes towards use, identify biomarkers of use, understand attitudes of youth and adults to a variety of potential legislation for tobacco control, and describe the policy environment surrounding tobacco control in Lebanon.

The expertise of the AUB multi-disciplinary team has filled a research gap as demonstrated in the publication of an IDRC monograph on the results of epidemiologic research, the significant contribution of this research to the WHO advisory note against waterpipe smoking, the active participation of members of the group in the second and third WHO FCTC Conference of Parties meeting, the appointment of a member of the group as chairman of the Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) of the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative, and the appointment of several members to Lebanon's National Committee for Tobacco Control.