

For Immediate Release



## **Jamal Daniel and The Levant Foundation Commit to the Largest Gift in AUB's History**

Beirut, Lebanon - 05/02/2014 - The American University of Beirut (AUB) is pleased to announce a donation of \$32 million from Jamal Daniel and The Levant Foundation toward the University's Medical Center expansion. This gift represents the largest single donation to AUB in its 147 year history.

The gift is in support of the AUBMC 2020 Vision, a comprehensive project that will transform the delivery of health and medical care in Lebanon and the region. The AUBMC 2020 Vision initiative includes the construction of new clinical and research facilities, acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for research, diagnostics and treatment, and the ongoing recruitment of leading physicians and specialists from around the world. It is the university's most ambitious project since the founding of the medical center in 1902.

The extraordinary gift is from The Levant Foundation, founded by Jamal Daniel in Houston, Texas. Daniel is an accomplished international businessman with over 30 years of experience managing global investments in oil and gas, telecommunications, high technology, media, manufacturing, and real estate. He is an esteemed member of the International Advisory Board of AUB and holds other board positions including Chairmanship of the Board of Al-Monitor, a media website based in Washington, D.C., and an honorary membership of the Board of Trustees of Balamand University in Beirut. He previously held positions as a member of the Board of Directors of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, and the Board of the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management in Houston, Texas. Mr. Daniel has long been considered by AUB for a seat on its Board of Trustees, but he has indicated his inability to accept due to his many business commitments.

The Levant Foundation works with universities, institutions of fine art, and religious and research institutions to support artistic, academic, and educational programs. Personally and through The Levant Foundation, Daniel has provided significant grants and endowments to the American University in Washington, D.C., the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, the University of Texas Press, and the Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue based in Switzerland.

In gratitude for this unprecedented gift to AUBMC, AUB will name a major new medical building in honor of Daniel's parents. Currently under construction, it will be known as the "Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center." With a projected completion date of

2016, the 14-story academic and clinical center will be the most modern medical building in Lebanon, housing a variety of outpatient centers as well as major academic centers for teaching and clinical research in areas including psychiatry, oncology, ophthalmology, heart and vascular diseases, and otolaryngology. There will also be an outpatient day surgery and a simulation center for education, as well as a ground floor exhibition area and conference room bearing the name Al-Monitor.

Chairman of the AUB Board of Trustees, Philip Khoury said, “As a distinguished business leader and prominent Arab-American, Jamal Daniel is setting a powerful example for individuals wanting to help the Arab world during these turbulent times. Mr. Daniel’s very generous support will transform medical care, research and education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, for the benefit of Lebanon and the entire region.”

AUB President Peter Dorman said, “This is a gift of unparalleled generosity. Jamal Daniel’s support for education and medical care is a humanitarian statement of great significance to the people of Lebanon and the Arab world. ”

Daniel explains, “My family’s relationship with AUB dates back to the late 1940s when both my father, Halim Daniel, and uncle, the late Atef Danial, attended this esteemed institution. A generation later, they were followed by my brother Ramzi and my wife, Rania, who were both fortunate to experience AUB and benefit from its first-class education and environment. I am humbled to have the opportunity to reinforce our family’s long history with this academic pillar in the Levant. I wish the AUBMC 2020 Vision continued success under the capable leadership of (Vice President for Medical Affairs) Dr. Mohamed Sayegh.”

Dr. Mohamed Sayegh, vice president for medical affairs and Raja N. Khuri Dean of Medicine, said, “We are delighted to partner with Jamal Daniel and The Levant Foundation in our passionate pursuit of excellence in health care and medical education. This wonderful gift will inspire all of us at AUB and AUBMC as we affirm our mission to provide the best in education, research and health care. It will impact many generations to come.”

#### ENDS

**PHOTO CAPTIONS:** 1- Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center; 2- Jamal Daniel; 3- [L-R] Daniel, Sayegh, and Toufic Chahine of the Levant Foundation.

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**Note to Editors**

## **About The Levant Foundation**

The Levant Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the furthering of knowledge about Middle Eastern culture and history and the complex interrelations of the three monotheistic religions born in the Middle East: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Operating in an increasingly diverse society, the Foundation is committed to cooperation with universities, institutions of fine art, and with religious and research institutions to sponsor and fund artistic, academic and educational programs.

## **About American University of Beirut**

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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 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.

## **About American University of Beirut Medical Center**

Since 1902, the American University of Beirut Medical Center has been the most trusted and respected healthcare provider in Lebanon and the region, handling more than 300,000 patient visits annually. AUB is building on its strong foundations in medical education and health care through the AUBMC 2020 Vision. In addition to improving facilities and capacity, the AUBMC 2020 Vision will establish centers of excellence that will provide new medical options for the treatment of illnesses endemic in the Arab world, and it will expand access to the quality of care that families in Lebanon have depended on for generations.

Launched in 2010, **the AUBMC 2020 Vision** is an ambitious and comprehensive initiative that affirms AUBMC's position as the leading medical center and healthcare institution in the region. The AUBMC 2020 Vision is transforming medical education, research and practice, and most importantly, medical care in the region, bringing them to new levels of excellence. It consists of major new medical (clinical and academic) facilities, the establishment of clinical and research centers of excellence, investment in state-of-the-art equipment, recruitment of talented physicians and nurses, and regional and international partnerships. Read more at [www.aubmc.org/2020](http://www.aubmc.org/2020)

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