

For Immediate Release



AUB announces its 16th president

Beirut, Lebanon- 18/03/2015 - The Board of Trustees at the American University of Beirut has voted to elect Fadlo, R. Khuri, MD, as the 16th president of the university. Dr. Khuri is presently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Emory University School of Medicine, and holds the Roberto C. Goizueta Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research. He also serves as Deputy Director for the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Dr. Khuri was recently appointed Executive Associate Dean for Research of the Emory University School of Medicine.

An AUB trustee since 2014 and AUB former student, he has been a member of Naef K. Basile Foundation Board of Trustees since 2005, and a member of the Atlanta International School Board of Trustees since 2009. Dr. Khuri has chaired the AUB Medical School International Advisory Committee since 2010. He currently serves as chair of the education committee of the Atlanta International School board of trustees.

He will be installed as the successor to Dr. Peter Dorman, who has served AUB with distinction since his appointment in March 2008.

The announcement today follows an intensive international search commissioned by the AUB Board of Trustees that included direct input from AUB faculty, students and staff and from worldwide alumni communities.

AUB Board Chairman Dr. Philip S. Khoury, who co-chaired the search committee with Trustee Dr. Huda Zoghbi, said, "The committee was particularly attentive to the needs of the university as defined by its own constituents. We found great consistency in the attributes AUB students, faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders identified as critical for the university's leadership and we are completely confident that Dr. Khuri embodies those attributes."

Dr. Khuri was born in Boston, Massachusetts and brought up in Beirut, where he attended AUB from 1981-82. He moved to the US in 1982, and earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, in New Haven, CT, and his MD from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York, NY. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Boston City Hospital, Boston, MA, and his fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Tufts-New England Medical Center. He was on faculty at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center from 1995-2002 prior to joining Emory University and the Winship Cancer Institute (Winship) in 2003.

An accomplished molecular oncologist and translational thought leader, Dr. Khuri's clinical expertise and research are focused on the development of molecular, prognostic, therapeutic, and chemopreventive approaches to improve the standard of care for patients with lung and aerodigestive cancers.

“President-elect Khuri is a highly accomplished educator and researcher and an articulate voice on the imperative of liberal arts education in the Arab world. Equally important, he is a person of profound personal integrity,” said Khoury.

“The selection committee was deeply impressed by Dr. Khuri’s depth of knowledge of the unique set of challenges facing the Arab world, and even more, by his thoughtful consideration of how AUB can play an even more significant role in resolving them,” said Zoghbi.

“It is a genuine honor and a privilege to have been selected to lead AUB into its 150th year. The legacy of this remarkable, world class institution is evident in the breadth and depth of contributions its faculty, students and alumni have made to every aspect of life in Lebanon, the region and the world,” said Dr. Khuri.

“I am grateful to the Board of Trustees, individually and collectively, for their confidence and support. I accept this role with profound humility, a humility that is enhanced by my knowledge of the enduring value of AUB to liberal thought and intellectual innovation in the region,” Dr. Khuri continued. “I will engage the AUB community - in Lebanon, in the Arab world and around the globe - fully aware of my responsibility to help steward the mission of this great University and its community towards ever more meaningful accomplishment.”

Dr. Khuri’s AUB roots run deep. Both of his maternal great grandfathers graduated from AUB, Jirjis El-Khoury El-Makdisi obtaining his diploma from AUB in 1888, and Fadlo Hourani obtaining his diploma in 1894. His paternal grandfather, Najib N. Khuri, obtained his BA in Mathematics from AUB in 1910. His father, the late Raja N. Khuri graduated from college and medical school at AUB with high distinction, winning the Penrose Award, the University’s highest scholastic honor on both occasions (1955 and 1959). Raja Khuri served as Professor and Chair of Physiology (1968-78), Dean of the Medical School (1978-87) at AUB, and his family and friends endowed the Deanship of Medicine in his honor. Dr. Khuri’s mother, Soumaya Khuri, graduated from AUB with high distinction in Mathematics in 1959, before obtaining an AM from Harvard and a PhD from Yale University. Soumaya Khuri served in the Department of Mathematics from 1974-1986, departing as a full professor.

“These are challenging times, but even more so, these are exciting and transformative times for academic institutions everywhere,” Dr. Khuri said. “I am confident that working together, we in the AUB community are uniquely capable of serving our students, our alumni, our patients and our global community with great distinction, always mindful of our mission that ensures that as many as possible “may have life and have it more abundantly.”

Dr. Khuri’s ability to build teams with the singular vision of improving outcomes for cancer patients has helped develop Winship into a premier translational research engine. Dr. Khuri has led the recruitment of over 90 faculty including 60 clinical investigators to Emory University, helping oversee an increase in adult cancer patients placed on trial annually from 143 in 2002 to over 650 in 2014, and paving the way for NCI designation for the Winship. Along with Haian Fu, PhD, Khuri founded the Winship’s Cancer Drug Discovery, Development, and Delivery Program. Working closely with Drs. Suresh Ramalingam, Walter Curran, and colleagues, Dr. Khuri has led a programmatic approach to pioneer novel therapeutic approaches to this disease.

Dr. Khuri has published over 300 peer reviewed articles, including papers in Nature Medicine, the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Cancer, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, Science Signaling, and the Journal of Clinical Investigation. His work has been cited over 15,000 times and his h-factor is 64. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of Cancer, the oldest and one of the most prestigious journals in the field, having served on more than a dozen prior editorial boards of major journals. Dr. Khuri has also served as a permanent member of multiple peer review committees for the American Cancer Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the NCI, including currently serving as the Chair of the NIH's Clinical Oncology Study Section. He is an active member of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Khuri's work has been recognized with several major awards, including the 2006 Nagi Sahyoun Award of the Middle East Medical Assembly for "research that has changed the way we think about and treat lung and head and neck cancer", the 2010 Waun Ki Hong Distinguished Professorship by the University of Texas MD Anderson, and the 2013 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award from the AACR for "his pioneering work in developing oncolytic viruses, signal transduction inhibitors, and biomarker based chemoprevention approaches to lung and aerodigestive cancers." In 2013, Khuri was also recognized with the Arab American High Achievers (AAHA) Award by the Alif Society, the major Arab Cultural Foundation of Georgia. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (2007), and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (2009) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2015). He has been listed among America's Top Doctors by Castle Connolly for the last eight years.

Fadlo Khuri is married to Lamya Tannous-Khuri, PhD, who also attended AUB from 1981-84, prior to obtaining a BS in Nutrition at the University of Connecticut. After obtaining a Masters in Nutrition at Columbia University, Dr. Tannous-Khuri obtained her PhD at Columbia in Nutrition in 1993. Together, the Khuris have three children, Layla (Yale College Class of 2016), Raja (Emory College Class of 2018), and Rayya, who is an IB student in tenth grade at the Atlanta International School.

More information about Dr. Khuri including a curriculum vitae and biography, quotes, high resolution photos are accessible on the President-elect website.

Incumbent President Peter Dorman, who announced his intention to resign in June of last year, will take a sabbatical with the intention to return to the AUB faculty in 2016.

Installation and inaugural activities will be announced on the president-elect website as details become available.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Maha Al-Azar, Director of News and Information, ma110@aub.edu.lb,
01-75 96 85

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 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.

Stay up to date on AUB news and events. Follow us on:

Website: www.aub.edu.lb

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aub.edu.lb>

Twitter: http://twitter.com/AUB_Lebanon