

For Immediate Release



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AUB announces the establishment of a “Conflict Medicine Program” as part of Strategic Health Initiatives (SHI)

Amidst a region of turmoil, the complexity of the relationship between conflict and its health consequences necessitates a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach. It is with this impetus that the Strategic Health Initiatives (SHI) launched the Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) on May 5th, 2016 in a conference jointly organized by the American University of Beirut (AUB) and “Médecins Sans Frontières”, “Changing ecologies of War and Humanitarianism: Reflecting on MSF’s 40 years of working in conflict”.

The “CMP” is the first of several programs to be established as part of AUB’s “SHI” announced by AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri in April to strengthen AUB’s position of regional leadership and global prominence in health. The announcement was made by Dr. Shadi Saleh, “SHI” lead, who remarked that “CMP represents AUB’s goal to establish ourselves as a leader in areas of health that build on interdisciplinary contribution and real impact in our region and globally”.

The “CMP” is co-led by Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sitta from the Faculty of Medicine and Dr. Omar Dewachi from the Faculty of Health Sciences. “One of the main aims of the Conflict Medicine Program at AUB is to create a platform to address the clinical, epidemiological and social consequences of war wounds. With our invaluable expertise at AUB shaped by our regional context, we aim to position AUB as a global pioneer and center of excellence in Conflict Medicine,” remarked Dewachi.

“CMP” will also provide training to meet the needs of health professionals who find themselves having to treat these injuries, to the health systems trying to cope with extraordinary numbers of injuries, to finding solutions that ameliorate the consequences if not rehabilitate the health infrastructure.

“AUB launched its Conflict Medicine Program, the first of its kind in a civilian academic institution. This program reflects AUB’s track record in the treatment and research of war-related ill health and aims to streamline and develop clinical services, research and outreach educational programs that meet the increasing needs of the region” stated Abu Sitta.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: 03427024 Office: 01374374 Ext: 2676
Email: sk158@aub.edu.lb

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 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to 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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