

For Immediate Release



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## **New Patent for AUB**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) has added another achievement to its formidable history in medical research, with the invention of Galactosylceramide, the new drug to treat the CLN3 gene disease, one of the most dangerous diseases of children.

The invention of Galactosylceramide was the result of intensive efforts by AUBMC's Chief of the Pediatric Neurology Division and Director of Neurogenetics Program and Special Kids Clinic Rose-Mary Boustany, and her team.

Dr. Boustany commented: "It is hard not to be able to give an anxious family an accurate diagnosis for their child. It is harder to make a diagnosis and tell the family there is no treatment. It is every physician-scientist's hope to develop a cure for the ills that afflict their patients".

She added: "To bring a treatment to the public we must partner with the pharmacological industry to move discoveries into the clinic and market place".

Rose-Mary Boustany, MD, is Professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. She is also a Duke Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics

### **Further explanation:**

The CLN3 gene maintains the integrity of the body's cells. The failure of this gene leads to the death of brain cells and the relentless clinical neurological deterioration leading to Batten disease with blindness, inability to talk, acute seizures, paralysis and early death.

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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 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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