THE HEALTHCARE OF TOMORROW

ISSUE #2 - SPRING 2020

AAHCI Association of Academic Health Centers International
Leading institutions that serve society

1902 AUBMC
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

EDITORIAL NOTE

After the positive feedback, we received following the release of the first issue of AAHCI-MENA newsletter, we are proud to release the second issue, which highlights our newest member, the launch of the new AAHCI-MENA website, and our members' achievements, events and publications.

As an academic health center, we continuously seek, and through being an integral member of AAHC, to educate the future generations of health professional on key issues that would benefit our communities at large. I believe that through such communications, we will be able to give a glimpse of the work being done and the products that are in the making.

AUBMC will be "in the spotlight" for this issue. Enjoy the read.

Mohamed H. Sayegh, MD
Regional Ambassador
Chair-Designate of the
AAHCI Steering Committee

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MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Bezmialem Vakif University

Bezmialem Vakıf University, originating from the roots of Gureba-i Müslimin, the first modern hospital of the Ottoman Empire that was founded in 1845, was transformed into a university in 2010 as a thematic university in health. It is a non-profit foundation university which aims to make progress in education, health care and research. BVU aims to keep being a reference institution worldwide especially with its School of Medicine and attaches great importance to the international cooperations among the leading top-notch universities in the field of health. BVU is a member of AAMC also listed in ECFMG.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clinical Master in Family Medicine Program at the Arabian Gulf University, Kingdom of Bahrain

November 2019

The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) launched a new post-graduate program in November 2019. The new program is a Clinical Master in Family Medicine. Its vision is to fulfill the international standards for health and safety in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and to meet conditions for universal health coverage. This program aims to develop the capabilities of its trainees to become competent and safe practitioners.

This two-year program comprises mainly clinical training in primary health care settings; blended with online content and horizontal courses. The trainees are exposed to a wide range of activities including regular meetings of journal clubs and morning reports. Trainees are expected to conduct a quality improvement project focused on health policies and clinical practice.

A multidisciplinary committee including faculty from medical education and family Medicine departments at AGU designed the curriculum, which will be reviewed and accredited by WONCA. The governance of the program is insured by a steering and an academic committee through a monitoring and evaluation plan.

Click for more information

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1) How old is your academic health center (AHC)?

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) has been providing the highest standards of care to patients across Lebanon and the region since 1902, 150 years ago. It also serves as the teaching hospital for AUB's Faculty of Medicine (FM) that was established in 1867 to train generations of medical students and physicians. Today, our graduates can be found at leading institutions around the world.

2) What are your flagship specialized centers and programs?

In light of the regional demand for outstanding medical services and education, AUBMC continues to progress towards becoming a regional hub for clinical practice and research through the establishment of stronger regulatory guidelines, centers of excellence, educational services, and specialized clinical services aligned with the needs of the community and the region. In addition, AUBMC constantly assists others in capacity building through increased partnerships and research collaborations. Our specialized clinical services and programs include our Special Kids Clinic, Children's Heart Center, Cleft and Craniofacial, Epilepsy, Developmental Care and Early Intervention, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Hepatopancreatobiliary and Liver Transplantation, Pain Management, Pulmonary Rehab, Robotic Surgery, Outpatient Surgery Center, Agnes Varis Healing Program for Substance Use Disorders and others. AUBMC also houses clinical Centers of Excellence that carry out three primary missions namely: the provision of clinical services, teaching, and research. AUBMC has fully established five unique centers of excellence that include Abu-Haidar Neuroscience Institute, Nehme and Therese Tohme Multiple, Sclerosis Center, Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, The Mufid Farra Heart and Vascular Outpatient Center.Being an academic institution with a strong focus on research, AUB's Faculty of Medicine continuously fosters a culture of interdisciplinary research, to promote innovative high impact fundamental and applied biomedical research, and training of biomedical scientists. Currently there are seven research Centers of Excellence: Cancer and Stem Cells, Cardiovascular, Renal, and Metabolic Diseases, Immunity and Infections, Neuroscience, Genetics, Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program and Center for Infectious Diseases Research.

3) How did hosting the regional office of AAHCI-MENA support your institution's mission and vision?

AUBMC is dedicated to the passionate pursuit of improving the health of the community in Lebanon and the region through the delivery of exceptional and comprehensive quality care to our patients, excellence in education and training, and leadership in innovative research. 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.

AAHCI-MENA actively works to bring together regional academic health centers to collaborate, share experiences and provide valuable insight and actionable steps on key issues and challenges faced in this region. By having valuable insight on the challenges faced in the region, AUBMC can tackle these challenges and support its mission and vision. It reinforces AUB's commitment to medical advancement, while acting as a platform to collaborate and assure high quality patient care to the whole MENA region. This will ultimately lay the ground for further development in the future, and overall elevation of the standards of healthcare provision, medical education and research.

4) What are your AHC's focal areas of research?

Focal areas of research at AUBC include both basic and clinical research. Basic research, also known as fundamental research, aims to expand the existing base of scientific knowledge leading to innovation. The Clinical Research Institute aims to foster a culture of collaborative approach to conducting innovative and high impact clinical research. It also invests in the capacity building of its community members including physicians, nurses, trainees, students, and research staff. Currently there are seven research Centers of Excellence: Cancer and Stem Cells, Cardiovascular, Renal, and Metabolic Diseases, Immunity and Infections, Neuroscience, Genetics, Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program and Center for Infectious Diseases Research.

5) Can you give us details about one innovative program or an area of thought leadership within your institution?

Because we know that learning difficulties can stem from a variety of causes such as medical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral we have recently launched the first-of-its-kind Learning Center in Lebanon. The outpatient multi-disciplinary Center is an extension to the Department of Psychiatry. It provides a spectrum of services ranging from evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, advocacy and support for a wider population of persons with learning difficulties, their parents, and other professionals involved.

LAUNCHING NEW AAHCI-MENA WEBSITE

AAHCI-MENA launched its new website in December 2019. The new website provides comprehensive information about the association, the regional office, its members and other relevant details with the aim to provide a user-friendly browsing experience. There are also useful information about membership benefits, membership criteria, and future meetings and events.

The new website also contains a live Twitter feed (@AAHCImena) that is continuously updated with helpful information, publications, quarterly newsletters, webinars, presentations and regional events' announcements.

WHO WE ARE

The **Association of Academic Health Centers** International (AAHCI) is a member-based association founded in 2008 as a subsidiary to the US-based AAHC. AAHCI curently has **four regional offices**. The AAHCI Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office is hosted by American University of Beirut Medical Center located in Beirut, Lebanon. The AAHCI-MENA Regional Office plays a pivotal role as a growing platform to customize region-specific interests and tailored programs; facilitate important regional networking opportunities, educational programs, exchange of best practices, data collection and analysis, and community/regional relationships; and promote understanding of the academic health center concept to government, industry, and the public.

For more information about AAHC, AAHCI, and other AAHCI Regional Offices, please visit **AAHC main website**.

AAHCI Regional Office MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

AAHCI-MENA Regional Office would like to congratulate AUBMC and its regional member institutes for their recent awards and recognitions.

AAHCI-MENA would like to recognize its member accomplishments regularly. If we missed something, please let us know.

Khalifa University of Science and Technology: College of Medicine and Health Sciences (KU CMHS)

- KU received initial accreditation, effective 19 December 2019, from the Commission for Academic Accreditation for its newly developed Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program
- KU CMHS is now an institution member of the Association of Medical Education in Europe (AMEE), an international organization that supports institutions in keeping up-to-date with advances in medicine, changes in healthcare delivery and patient demands, and new educational approaches in the study of medicine

Sidra Medicine

- Received ACGME-I Accreditation in August 2019 effective for 2 years
- Received Joint Commission International (JCI), Gold Seal of Approval® accredited hospital and academic medical center

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

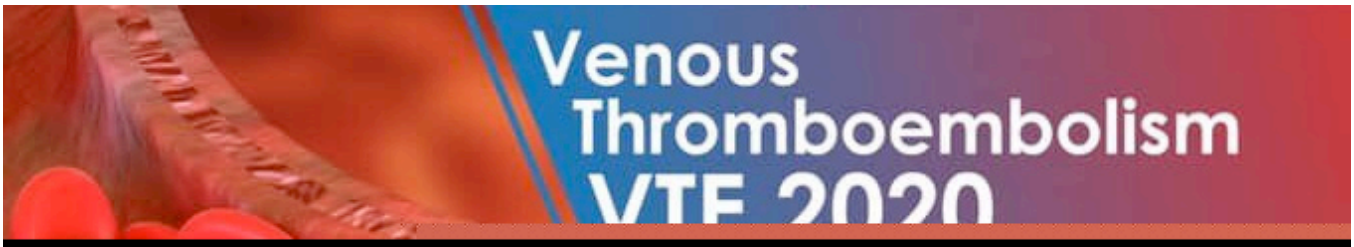
- A three-year, high-impact study led by Dr. Habib Dakik, Chief of the Division of Cardiology at AUBMC, has been published in the highly prestigious Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC).
- AUBMC is the FIRST in the region and the SECOND outside USA to earn Magnet® Status, the Gold Standard of
- Nursing Excellence, for THREE times
- AUBMC has marked another first in Lebanon by receiving stage 6 HIMSS Certification
- The Bone Densitometry Unit, Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program (CaMOP), at AUBMC is the first BMD unit to receive facility accreditation, outside the USA, by the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD).
- The Department of Family Medicine has just been designated as "WHO Collaborating Center for Family Practice".

Bezmialem Vakif University

- The School of Medicine accredited by the National Accreditation Board of Medical Education (UTEAK/TEPDAD) in October 2019 for seven years
- Ranked 1st in Turkey for universities established after 2000, and 8th among foundation universities with
- medical faculties according to University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) 2019
- Prof. İsmet Kırpınar, Ass. Prof. Rabia Kevser Boyraz, Prof. Nafiye Selcan Önür, Psychologist Merve Suma and Psychologist Müge Çombaş received the "Prof. Dr. Günsel Koptagel İlal" award at the 4th Psychiatry Summit & 11th Anxiety Congress, in March 2019
- Prof. Abdurrahim Koçyiğit received the "Sabuncuoğlu Şerefeddin Traditional Complementary Science
- Science Award" at the 2nd International Congress on Traditional and Complementary Medicine (GETAT), in April 2019
- Prof. Ramazan Özdemir, Assoc. Dr. Ahmet Bacaksız, Assoc. Dr. Dr. Mahmut Uluganyan, Dr. Lecturer Asım Enhoş, Dr. Lecturer Nuray Kahraman, Lecturer Aylin Hatice Yamaç, Dr. Nijad Bakhshaliyev, Dr. Ziya İsmayıloğlu and Dr. İlke Çelikkale won the "Best Structural Case Award" at the 26th National Applied Interventional Cardiology Meeting, in July 2019

Specialized Medical Center (SMC)

- Institutional Accreditation by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) for National Excellence in Health Training
- Re-accreditation of Saudi Board for General Surgery, Internal Medicine and OB-GYN for 4 years



Venous thromboembolism is considered one of the highest risk for hospitalized and community patients. In the hospital, case fatality rate of VTE ranged between 10–12 %. SMC held its
on January 2 targeting all health professionals and including a session for residents and interns. The event aimed at increasing the awareness and knowledge of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE), and facilitating advances in the treatment of affected people, as well as the routine implementation on thromboembolism prophylaxis measures among Health Care Providers (HCP). The event focused on improving prevention and treatment of VTE and promoting research. It also disseminated information on VTE to educate physicians on the updated guidelines on diagnosis and treatment of VTE.