

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 17-10-2016

AUB K2P Center Organized a Policy Dialogue on how to Improve the Prescribing Quality and Pattern of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Lebanon

In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, the Knowledge to Policy (K2P) Center at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB) organized a national policy dialogue aiming at Improving the Prescribing Quality and Pattern of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Lebanon.

K2P Policy Dialogue convened policymakers and stakeholders representing: the Ministry of Public Health, the Lebanese Order of Physicians (LOP), the Syndicate of Hospitals, the Order of Nurses, Syndicate of Pharmaceutical Plants, National Social Security Fund, academic medical centers, schools of medicine, LOP scientific societies, insurance companies and national and international NGO's, in addition to physicians, pharmacists, academic researchers and students. The policy dialogue was informed by a pre-circulated K2P Policy Brief, a concise document that brings together the best available global and local research evidence.

In addition, during the development of this brief, evidence lead specialists at K2P conducted litmus testing interviews to capture the tacit knowledge of key policymakers and stakeholders, to adequately frame the policy brief within the Lebanese context.

In the presence of the Director General of MOPH, Dr. Walid Ammar, the president of the Order of Physicians, Dr. Raymond Sayegh, the president of the Syndicate of Hospital, Mr. Sleiman Haroun and the president of the Order of Nurses, Dr. Nuhad Dumit, and other key stakeholders, K2P Director and dialogue facilitator, Dr. Fadi El Jardali, elicited participants' inputs on the overall problem and its underlying factors. He then presented four evidence-based elements of a comprehensive approach to promote rational prescribing before giving the floor for stakeholders' deliberations.

Element 1: At the regulatory and policy level, participants elaborated on policies to regulate the interactions between health care professionals' and pharmaceutical industry, and policies to ensure the quality of drugs, including generics, available in the market.

Element 2: At the organizational level, they discussed the importance of implementing interventions such as standardized clinical guidelines, clinical pharmacy services (such as pharmacist-led medication review and follow-up), and antimicrobial stewardship programs. Stakeholders also deliberated over the possibility of implementing systems for prescription audit and feedback.

Element 3: At the health care professional level, participants agreed on the importance of integrating education about conflict of interest and problem-based training in pharmacotherapy into health care professionals' curricula. They also discussed academic detailing which consists of educational visits done by trained health care professionals (such as pharmacist) to physicians in their offices, to provide evidence-based information, instead of the information provided by pharmaceutical company representatives.

Element 4: The role of consumers and patients was also a point of focus during the dialogue, whereby participants supported the interventions aiming at empowering consumers to enhance the appropriate use of drugs.

Participants also tackled implementation barriers and proposed counterstrategies at each level. Dialogue deliberations resulted in action-oriented steps that, if implemented and followed up appropriately, can help alter the current status and improve prescribing practices, and ultimately protect the welfare of patients.

ENDS

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.

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