Dear Readers,

EHSRM, in coordination with AUBMC administration, has organized a National Sharps Safety Awareness Day on the 14th of June to shed light on sharps injuries and associated hazards. A noise map has been produced showing the quiet and noisy areas on campus and around AUBMC. EHSRM has assisted the Faculty of Health Sciences in the summer field training for students and exposed them to current practices of solid and medical waste management in Lebanon, monitoring of occupational exposures of workers on campus and water quality monitoring.

During the month of June, Bilal El Iskandarani, our Senior Fire Protection Engineer received the 2013 President’s Service Excellence Award, an award that is given on a yearly basis for staff that excel in their work and go beyond the call of duty. Mabrouk for Bilal and Mabrouk for the EHSRM team for this outstanding award!!

As of the 1st of June 2013, AUB insurance portfolio is no longer managed by EHSRM, rather it moved to the Procurement and Contracts Administration Department. Consequently, EHSRM will no longer be issuing travel insurance to the AUB community.

Welcome Note (By Farouk Merhebi – EHSRM Director)

As a proactive approach to reducing sharps injuries, AUBMC Administration opted to emphasize training and awareness raising to shed light on sharps injuries and associated hazards. Being an advocate for occupational safety, EHSRM organized with AUBMC Administration the first “Sharps Safety Awareness Day” on June 14, 2013. The event took place at Issam Fares Lecture Hall from 8:30am till 1:00pm and was sponsored by Becton Dickinson (BD) and Saramed. An audience of around 400 professionals from AUBMC and other Lebanese hospitals and health care centers attended this event. The event was accompanied by a Safety Journey Symposium that was designed as a walk through to show the different stages of sharps injuries and emphasizing good practices to eliminate them. The first session of the Sharps Safety Awareness Day started with AUBMC Director, Dr. Adnan Tahir, who stressed on AUBMC health care workers safety. Mr. Sleiman Haroun, President of the Syndicate of Hospitals in Lebanon, spoke about the Support & Allocations of Resources that the syndicate is advocating for. The Director General of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Walid Ammar, stressed on the national commitment to reduce sharps injuries and the programs being implemented at the national level to reduce such risks.

In the second session, prominent local and international experts focused on sharps injuries and associated hazards. The speakers presented a common understanding of the risks that Health Care workers face and discussed practical strategies to strengthen resilience and to reduce vulnerabilities. Dr. Aparna Ahuja, Head of Clinical Affairs at BD, discussed sharps injuries and associated hazards and the number of diseases that could be transmitted by being injured with a sharp instrument. Mr. Khalil Rzik, JCI consultant, discussed the role of JCI to improve safety culture and quality of health care in the Middle East and focused on sharps injuries in specific. Our public figure, Dr. Labib Ghuemiyah (AUBMC) presented a session entitled “Lezim Tkhabbi” where he stressed that health care workers should “report, report and report incidents related to sharp injuries” and that no one from the health care profession is immune to the transmission of diseases.

In the third session, major stakeholders in the field namely WHO-UNDP, the Lebanese Army, Becton Dickinson and AUBMC shared their experiences and their roles in reducing risks of sharps injuries. Dr. Moustafa El Nakib, Manager of the National AIDS Control Program, spoke about post exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention. Lebanese Army representatives, Captain Haytham Farhat and Ms. Anny Parlakian spoke about sharps injuries in a military set up and the infection control program followed at the Central Military Hospital. Dr. Ahmad Fawzi (from BD) discussed the strategies and tools available to reduce sharps injuries in clinical settings. Dr. Umayya Musharafiyeh (from AUBMC) closed the seminar by giving an overview of needles and sharps injuries at AUBMC and how to proceed in case of injuries.

Speakers, as well as attendees, showed great interest in the topic and enthusiasm to participate given the impact of this awareness on the commitment to safety and the wellbeing of valued healthcare professionals at all levels.

Article of the Month

Think Safe

1) Needles should be recapped before disposal.
   a) True  b) False

2) Disposable sharps containers should be replaced when they are:
   a) Full  b) ½ Full  c) ¾ Full

3) If an injury occurs with contaminated sharps, the incident should be reported
   a) in 24 Hrs  b) Immediately

4) The neutral or hands-free zones include placing sharps in a basin or tray instead of being handed off to avoid hand-to-hand passing of sharps.
   a) True  b) False

Answers are on page 2

For more details about the Sharps Safety Awareness Day CLICK HERE

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Sharps Safety Awareness Day at AUB

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For more details about the Sharps Safety Awareness Day CLICK HERE
Mohamad Houssam M. Tamim

BE in Communications and Electronics Engineering (2002); Master’s of Engineering Management (2005)

Mr. Tamim joined AUB in 2005 as Health Physicist and was promoted to University Radiation Safety Officer in 2009 to head the Health Physics Services unit of EHSRM. Mohamad is in charge of securing and maintaining the licenses issued by the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission (LAEC) to possess and use sources of radiation at AUB and AUBMC, and acts as a liaison between AUB and LAEC.

Mohamad is entrusted and empowered by the University Radiation and Laser Safety Committee and EHSRM director to implement and enforce the radiation protection program at AUB and AUBMC. In March 2013, Mohamad achieved a certification from the US Board of Laser Safety to become the first Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer in Lebanon and the third in the Middle East.