Collaborative for Leadership and Innovation in Health Systems (CLI)

First CLI Steering Committee Meeting
Executive Summary

April 25th 2014

A Beacon for Health Care Leaders
Opening Remarks

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Department of Health Management and Policy (HMPD) launched the Collaborative for Leadership and Innovation in Health Systems (CLI) on Friday, April 25th, 2014. CLI is an initiative that engages leading experts to develop, implement and evaluate innovative approaches to challenges of health care systems through cutting-edge implementation research.

The launch was commenced with the first meeting of the CLI Steering Committee. The meeting was attended by members of the Steering Committee, CLI core experts, and several FHS faculty members and staff. It was inaugurated by welcoming remarks from AUB Provost, Dr. Ahmad Dallal, who underlined the importance of ‘thinking out of the box’ in terms of solutions to the many challenges facing health systems in the region, using a comprehensive systems approach, and creating partnerships among key stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable results. He expressed confidence in that CLI will play a unique role in the MENA region in bringing together leading experts in health care and health systems, and in providing a platform for exchange and conception of innovative solutions to the many challenges facing health systems in the region.

This was followed by a presentation by the Dean of FHS, Dr. Iman Nuwayhid, who gave an overview of FHS, its academic programs and regional networks, and the recently created centers that aim at institutionalizing mechanisms to facilitate synergy between research,
practice and policy, while adopting a system-network approach to shape research for health in the region.

**CLI Overview**

The welcoming remarks were followed by a presentation by CLI Director and HMPD Chairman, Dr. Shadi Saleh, who introduced CLI vision, mission, and main domains. Discussions around Steering Committee members’ engagement with CLI were held.
Cases of Leadership and Innovation in Health Systems

CLI core experts then presented various ongoing and potential research activities/projects that engage leadership and/or innovation concepts.

Dr. Mohamed Alameddine: Up-scaling the HRH Capacity in the Middle East Region: Opportune Time for Leadership and Innovation

The presentation of Dr. Alameddine comprised a mix between ongoing projects and emerging HRH needs in the region that can be addressed by CLI:

- HHR forecasting model that could be used to support strategic HRH planning
- Policy dialogue on regulating the supply of HRH into the local labor
- HRH career trends analysis to better inform strategic HRH planning and design targeted policy and practice intervention
- Regional occupational violence policies and procedures aiming at protecting HRH from exposure to violence
- Local and regional innovative retention initiatives that could enhance the stability and productivity of HRH

Dr. Kassem Kassak: Innovations in Executive Education

Dr. Kassak presented on innovative strategies that would enhance capacity building of health care professionals. He discussed rethinking learning with the use of:

- Mobile Learning Adoption: Benefits & Concerns
- M-Evaluation
- Added Value of M-learning in Executive Education
Dr. Fadi El Jardali: Health Policy and Systems Research in Context

Dr. El Jardali’s presentation revolved around enhancing leadership capacity of decision makers through the use of evidence and critical synthesis of the decision-making process. He gave examples of approaches such as:

- Policy Analysis Case Studies
- Complexity of Policymaking Process
- Integrating Health in Public Policy

Dr. Soha Yazbek: Paving the Way for Community Genetic Health Service

The presentation of Dr. Yazbek was unique in introducing a multi-disciplinary approach to innovation in health systems. She coupled her training and interest in genetics research with innovative enhancement in health system delivery models:

- Develop and Test Public and Health Care Providers Education Tools
- Establish Preventive Genetic Programs and Interventions with Population Health Benefits

Dr. Nasser Yassin: Towards Inclusive, Responsive and Innovative Policymaking in the Arab World

Dr. Yassin’s presentation explored the use of innovative strategies to stakeholder engagement in the policymaking process. In addition, he highlighted the emerging/increasing role of civil society in the health systems landscape:

- Examining the Prospects for Arab Civil Society Actors in an Evolving Policymaking Landscape
- Innovation in Multi-stakeholder Consultation: New Framework for Organizing Multi-stakeholder Consultations

Dr. Shadi Saleh: Employing eHealth to Enhance Equity in Access to and Quality of Chronic Care Services in Primary Health Care in Lebanon (eSahha)

Dr. Saleh presented on an innovative concept that introduces low-cost ehealth technologies to combat non-communicable disease:

- e-Sahha: a collaborative effort to enhance the equity in access to quality preventive and curative primary health care services in Lebanon through the employment of low-cost eHealth approaches/tools targeting the supply and
demand of primary health care services, namely for individuals suffering from chronic diseases, specifically diabetes and hypertension, with particular attention to pregnant women.

Way Forward

The last session of the meeting was an open discussion between CLI Steering Committee members and the Core Experts. The Steering Committee members expressed their belief in the important potential role that CLI can play in the region. They specifically highlighted its contribution to enhancing leadership and introducing innovation in how health systems function.

The CLI was officially launched during a celebratory dinner in the evening.