AUB Faculty Helps Develop WHO Guidelines for for ‘Transforming and Scaling up Health Professional Education and Training’.

Dr Elie Akl, Associate Professor of Medicine, was among the researchers who assisted in the development of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for ‘Transforming and Scaling up Health Professional Education and Training’. Dr Akl serves as the Director of the Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) at the Clinical Research Institute (CRI) at the Faculty of Medicine at AUB. He also holds joint appointments in the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB and the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University in Canada.

The guidelines are available at http://whoeducationguidelines.org/ and were launched on November 10, 2013 during the 3rd Global Forum for Human Resources for Health in Recife, Brazil. These guidelines draw on the most recent evidence on what underpins the concept of transforming health professional education to frame the recommendations. They are expected to give rise to regional and country based policy and technical dialogues with key stakeholders in education, health, finance and labor, on how best to finance health professional training and prepare health professionals for the 21st century.

Akl acted as the guideline methodologist assisted in applying the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment Development and Evaluation) approach to the WHO guidelines. The GRADE methodology is increasingly being adopted by national and international organizations, including WHO. Akl is a member of the GRADE working group and has been involved in the development of a number of other WHO guidelines.