AUB Faculty Helps Develop WHO Guidelines for Prevention and Treatment of HIV among Sex Workers

Dr Elie Akl, Associate Professor of Medicine, was among the researchers who assisted in the development of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for the prevention and treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) for sex workers in low- and middle-income countries that were issued in December 2012. 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 and 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 "Global Guidance on Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other STIs for Sex Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries," is available at http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/sex_worker/en/index.html. The evidence-based WHO guidelines aim to better protect sex workers from HIV and other STIs. They are designed for use by national public health officials, managers of HIV and STI programs, civil society and health workers in low- and middle-income countries.

Akl acted as the guideline methodologist and 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.