

Speech of AUB President Peter Dorman
43rd MEMA Opening Ceremony
Thursday, April 22 at 5:00 pm
Assembly Hall

I am delighted to be here at the opening of this 43rd Middle East Medical Assembly, and extend a warm welcome to all of you on behalf of AUB. As it happens, I had expected to be out of town, but along with millions of others, my travel plans were unexpectedly changed—actually due to the recent coup d’etat in Bishkek, not to the Icelandic volcano. But surely some of you were affected by the massive travel disruptions this past week, and I appreciate any special efforts you may have made in order to be with us today.

As always, the annual MEMA conference remains a major highlight of our academic calendar meeting, an occasion for the major participants to share their research and become better informed about new directions in medical treatment. The multiplicity of topics at this particular assembly offers the chance for doctors and practitioners to broaden their horizons and gain new knowledge both within and outside their field of specialization. Just as importantly, it affords all of us the opportunity to socialize with peers from throughout the region and the world, sharing both triumphs and challenges.

Most of you are recidivists to MEMA—already familiar with the city of Beirut and the landscape beyond. I do hope you will have time to enjoy a scenic walk through the blooming landscape of our campus and avail yourself of the many wonders to be found—be they culinary, cultural, architectural, or archeological—in this vivacious city and bountiful country.