

American University of Beirut  
Office of the President



May 26, 2014

Dear AUB Community,

It is with great pride that I share with you news of a highly prestigious honor received by two of our most highly regarded physicians, **Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh**, Vice President of Medical Affairs, and the Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and **Dr. Nagi El Saghir**, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Director of the Breast Center of Excellence, Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC.

In a private ceremony at the Presidential Palace on Saturday, Dr. Sayegh was awarded the National Cedar Medal, rank of Officer, by former President of the Republic of Lebanon, His Excellency General Michel Sleiman. The honor was conferred in recognition of Dr. Sayegh's tremendous contributions to the field of medicine and distinguished scientific research. While presenting Dr. Sayegh with the medal, President Sleiman cited Dr. Sayegh's many achievements as well as his instrumental role in providing essential medical services to the larger community of Lebanon. He also referenced Dr. Sayegh's impact on improving the health of the people of Lebanon and the region through numerous outreach initiatives across the Middle East.

Upon returning to AUB and Lebanon in July of 2009, after 22 years at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Dr. Sayegh envisioned and developed the AUBMC 2020 Vision, a strategic vision, with clear goals and implementation steps has generated a significant amount of local, regional and global support and is elevating standards for health care in Lebanon and across the Middle East.

In a separate event at the UNESCO Palace on Friday, Dr. El Saghir, also received a National Cedar Medal, rank of Officer. Dr. El Saghir's medal was awarded by H.E. Atef Majdalani, representing President Sleiman. Dr. El Saghir was recognized for his contributions to breast cancer research and for his community outreach through his role as President of the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr. El Saghir's research and activities are focused on epidemiology, risk factors of young Lebanese and Arabic women, and treatment of breast cancer. Last year, he was the appointed first Arab chair of the American Society for Clinical Oncology, a professional organization dedicated to cancer research.

I know you all join me in extending warm congratulations to Drs. Sayegh and El Saghir for this well-deserved recognition.

These two physicians are highly deserving of our thanks and gratitude for the honor they bring to the medical profession and in particular, to AUB and its medical center.

Peter Dorman  
President