

August 5, 2020

Dear members of the AUB community,

I hope you and your loved-ones are safe and starting to recover from the catastrophic explosion which occurred earlier this evening in the Port of Beirut. We already know of thousands of injured and more than 67 dead. Property has been destroyed over an area of many square kilometers, including at AUB and AUBMC. Our hearts and our prayers are with all those injured or lost in this awful tragedy. We must do all we can, and some measure beyond that, to care for those injured and heal the terrible unseen wounds this has created.

The AUBMC Emergency Department, our medical faculty, nurses and staff are all responding to hundreds of trauma cases, including a number of serious and critical cases, with great skill and professionalism. Many of our community members experienced this event in a frightening and highly traumatic manner.

AUB campus will be closed to all but essential personnel for three days, August 5-7, so that teams from housekeeping, campus safety, and other units can inspect the damage to AUB and remove the debris. At AUBMC, we will not be able to accommodate visitors to patients until Sunday, August 9. The Emergency Department, key ambulatory clinics, operating rooms, treatment centers, and major clinical services will remain open, and our healthcare providers will continue to care for all our patients, including the more than 400 trauma cases we have received as a result of the explosion so far.

We shall assess and repair the damage created by this massive blast, so as to continue to provide world-class patient care and, on the resumption of classes, the unique and transformative AUB education that this university is renowned for. And we must begin to heal from yet another great trauma in a year full of trauma, tragedy, and challenges.

We will keep you apprised whenever we can of the situation at AUB and AUBMC. We ask for your support, your thoughts and prayers in these tragic times. Keep your faith in AUB and in Lebanon, which will surely endure.

Best wishes, and stay safe,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
President