

For Immediate Release



## **AUB unveils its scientific research vision and its commitment to topics relevant to region**

Beirut, Lebanon- 16/05/2011 - The American University of Beirut pledged its ongoing commitment to scientific research during a one-day conference in which some of the best research being conducted at the University was showcased.

"To be a significant research institute has been a visionary goal for AUB, but there is still much to do," said AUB President Peter Dorman, during the "Second Kamal A. Shair CRSL Research Conference" held at AUB on May 14, 2011. "As we move forward, we will be focusing our attention on topics of particular relevance to this region in order to support its economic and scientific development."

The University will be targeting five research clusters, namely: energy studies, the environment, Arabic and Islamic studies, public policy, and arts and humanities, added Dorman, noting that there are plans to expand and develop the research centers at AUB.

Organized by the Kamal A. Shair Central Research Science Laboratory (KAS CRSL) at AUB, the conference gave researchers and graduate students a platform for highlighting the latest research projects being conducted on campus. Among the studies highlighted were ones on the significant health hazards of nargileh smoking, advances in HIV research, findings on the anti-cancer properties of many naturally occurring plants, nanotechnology, detecting and cleaning up accidental pollution, as well as studies on animal and agricultural health and other topics.

Faculty deans and professors showcased their research studies via PowerPoint presentations, following opening remarks by Arts and Sciences Dean Patrick McGreevy and Health Sciences Dean Iman Nuwayhid as well as Acting Dean of Engineering Fadi Moukalled and Associate Dean for Basic Medical Research Ali Bazarbachi.

The KAS CRSL celebrated its tenth anniversary last year and has been dedicated to raising the quality and quantity of research at AUB. Its establishment has provided faculty members and researchers with a top-notch pioneer research facility thus allowing them to conduct their studies in-house instead of abroad. It has also helped the University to establish a number of PhD programs in basic and applied sciences.

“A university without research is no more than a high school,” said Dr. Youssef Mouneimne, KAS CRSL director, who inaugurated Saturday’s meeting. “Universities are rated according to the standard of the research they conduct, and that’s why we, at AUB, are committed to producing the best research in the region.”

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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