

For Immediate Release



## **AUB receives \$2.3 million ASHA grant in support of teaching, research, and patient care**

[Beirut, Lebanon- 11/11/2010]- The American University of Beirut has recently received a grant from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) for a total amount of \$2.3 million to help update teaching, research and patient facilities on campus and in the AUB Medical center.

ASHA is a unit within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which, as the name implies, supports American schools, universities, and hospitals outside the United States. It has been supporting AUB's teaching, research, and medical facilities for several years.

"AUB and AUBMC are committed to excellence in teaching and research and in serving patients from Lebanon and the region, and this grant helps us do that," said Dr. Fadia Homaidan, director of the Office of Grants and Contracts, which manages the ASHA grant. "By updating our teaching and research facilities, we can compete with the best universities worldwide, attract top quality teachers and enhance our research output."

This year, the ASHA grant will be used to update laboratories in several faculties, including making chemistry labs safer for students. ASHA funds will also be spent on installing new patient beds in the AUB Medical Center, purchasing new operating tables, and buying new equipment for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) thus providing higher standard of care to patients. The funds will also be used to acquire state-of-the-art equipment which will help scientists enhance their research capabilities, while giving students the opportunity for a hands-on experience.

Moreover, the grant will be used to improve academic affairs through enhancing Student Services and enrollment management and through the establishment of two new offices:

- Ombuds Office, which will act as an independent, impartial, confidential reference that will investigate complaints and disputes not covered by a collective bargaining agreement
- The Graduate Council which will be responsible for implementing academic preparation and recruiting programs for prospective graduate students.

"The ASHA program has been supporting AUB for many years and the University is indebted to this program and to USAID for sustaining our institution over the years," added Homaidan.

ENDS

**For more information please contact:**

[Maha Al-Azar, Media Relations Officer, [ma110@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ma110@aub.edu.lb), 01-353 228]

## 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 606 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,500 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.

**Stay up to date on AUB news and events. Follow us on:**

Website: [www.aub.edu.lb](http://www.aub.edu.lb)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/aub.edu.lb>

Twitter: [http://twitter.com/AUB\\_Lebanon](http://twitter.com/AUB_Lebanon)