

For Immediate Release



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US Embassy Delegation Visited AUB and AUBMC **to Inaugurate New Core Laboratory Facility**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) and its Medical Center (AUBMC) celebrated the inauguration of a new AUBMC laboratory facility together with U.S. Embassy Beirut officials and Anne Dix, director of U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (USAID/ASHA). The laboratory is being renovated with USAID/ASHA funding to serve a larger number of patients, centralize testing services, minimize the processing turnaround time of sample, and upgrade laboratory technology to be state-of-art.

The visit, which included a tour of the university campus and medical center, was conducted by U.S. Embassy Beirut Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Edward White, USAID/ASHA director Anne Dix, and, Executive Vice President for Medicine and Global Strategy and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at AUB Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, and, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Chairperson of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at AUBMC Dr. Ghazi Zaatari. The delegation visited the various facilities and laboratories supported by USAID/ASHA.

In his remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, DCM White stated, "As we celebrate the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program's 60th anniversary this year, we also celebrate decades of strong partnership with AUB and close friendship with the Lebanese people. Our long-term partnership helps promote the values we share with the Lebanese people."

Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, stated that, "For long, USAID/ ASHA has played a remarkable role in supporting overseas institutions which advance education and health in their countries and around the world. Your assistance today comes in handy to foster good will and promote broad-scale human progress in Lebanon and the region." He continued, "By furthering our mission and funding the current projects, you are sending a message of hope to so many people who are in dire need of support and who come to us awaiting to receive the best specialized practices and

services”. Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, noted, “The vision of a core lab has been lingering in our minds for more than a decade. It is not a vision of one lab and one room; instead, it is a comprehensive restructuring project of the entire Department and its laboratory services to match vision 2020 of AUBMC and beyond. This is the first of seven phases that will take us in a challenging, yet exciting, journey over the coming few years. The completion of this project should place the lab services at AUBMC at the most modern frontiers with cutting edge technology backed by a solid and skilled team of superb medical professionals, technologists and managers.”

AUBMC’s renovation consists of six phases, including the core lab facility as well as the Pathology and Biochemical Genetics; Molecular Diagnostics and Cytogenetics; Microbiology and Neuromuscular; Flow Cytometry and Bone Marrow; and Stem Cell and Administration Area. USAID/ASHA has so far contributed to funding the renovation and upgrading of equipment for the first and second phases. The first phase is complete and the second begins by end-2017.

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to 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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