

## **One hundred Iraqi medical emergency professionals to participate in AUB training program**

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The Iraqi Ministry of Health estimated 87,215 Iraqi violent deaths between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2009. The number excludes thousands of people who are missing and civilians who were buried in the chaos of war without official notice.

While various reports speak of an improved security situation, sadly, further bloodshed is likely to continue for some time, with the civilians paying a heavy price. Emergency medical personnel will be called on again and again to help bomb and firefight casualties.

In an effort to institutionalize their emergency medical capacity, **the Iraqi Ministry of Health is collaborating with the World Health Organization to build the capacity of Iraqi professionals in this field through a five-day series of trainer training workshops at the AUB Medical Center (AUBMC)**. This project is part of the European Union funded project "Support to Specialized Medical Services in Iraq", which is focusing on improving quality, access and utilization of emergency and blood transfusion services in Iraq. The project, organized by AUB's Office of Regional External Programs (REP), will create a core group of trainers and facilitators in the following areas of emergency medicine:

- Advanced Trauma Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support
- Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses
- Advanced Pediatric Life Support

Approximately 100 Iraqi medical professionals will participate in the workshops, which will incorporate adult learning pedagogy and material specifically tailored to the needed technical medical skills. Participants will acquire the necessary knowledge and expertise to facilitate and lead similar training at the national level and they will receive certification by AUB's Continuing Education Center (CEC) in their area of specialization.

**A press conference will be held on Monday, October 18 at 9:00 am, at the REP Conference Room Building 20 (Former School of Business), 3rd Floor, to serve as the opening of the project.** The press conference will be attended by Iraqi government and WHO officials, along with a European Commission representative, AUB President Peter Dorman and senior university administrators as well as workshop participants.

Dr. Hassan Diab, Vice President for REP, said the program exemplifies AUB's commitment to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond through continuing education and training services. He added: "In only the past two years AUB has provided professional training to hundreds of Iraqis in topics ranging from business management to radiation oncology and we look forward to continue engaging with dedicated and motivated Iraqis seeking to develop their professional ability and that of their country."

Examples of AUB's training effort for Iraq abound. The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) had been actively collaborating with the United Nations Population Fund and the Iraqi Ministry of Health to implement a project on adolescents and youth-friendly health services in Iraq. Phase I of this program was completed in March 2010.

In spring 2008, AUBMC carried out a training workshop on emergency medical services and life support programs for some 60 nurses and paramedics working in emergency services in Iraq. That training program was organized by REP in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Health. It

consisted of four modules: Basic Trauma Life Support, Advanced Care Trauma for Nurses, Training of Trainers, and Major Incident Medical Management Support. In the same year, REP and the US State Department carried out a program aimed to help displaced Iraqi professionals in Lebanon to find jobs.

Earlier, in February 2005, and in partnership with the University of Hawaii, AUB hosted in West Hall some 70 Iraqi academics from the University of Mosul and the University of Dohuk for a four-day workshop aimed at revitalizing Iraq's higher education in agriculture.

Of course AUB-Iraq cooperation goes much further back in time. A random search of the archives reveals that three AUB experts visited Baghdad at the invitation of the Association of Iraqi Economists in 1965 and took part in the pan-Arab conference of November that year, which resulted in the creation of the Arab Economists' Union.