

For Immediate Release



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Conference discusses healthcare technologies at AUB and in the region

The Department of Medical Engineering at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) in collaboration with the Health Technology and Management Advancement committee of the Lebanese Hospitals Management Association, organized a conference under the title “Towards a Healthcare Technology Innovation Hub in Lebanon and the Region” in partnership with other institutions and with Banque du Liban, the main sponsor of the event.

The objective of the conference was to highlight the facilities that exist for promoting innovation in healthcare technologies and to enhance the spirit of innovation in medical technologies. The expected outcomes included developing collaborations amongst bodies in Lebanon and abroad, as well as establishing a working group to follow up on setting action plans towards reaching the goal of having a proper ecosystem for innovation in healthcare technologies.

During the opening ceremony, Bassam Tabshouri, Director of the Department of Medical Engineering at AUBMC, welcomed the guests and insisted activities should be carried out after the conference to apply what was discussed during the day.

“Today we will plant together some seeds in the rich Lebanese land of skilled human resources especially in the healthcare and technical fields,” said Tabshouri, “for these seeds to grow, proper conditions, work and patience are needed to have a good yield. We promise you and our speakers who are mentoring us today, that we are fully committed to pursuing the goal of establishing an ecosystem for healthcare technology innovation.”

Dr. Mohamad Harajli, AUB Interim Provost, mentioned the importance of investing in the research produced at AUB, turning the findings into susceptible technology that can enhance life, create start-ups and job opportunities, and bring back financial reward to further flourish the research field.

“Working across disciplines is the most effective approach for generating impactful and practical solutions that can benefit the society and the community,” said Harajli, “We are constantly

encouraging the debugging of silos in professional fields and calling for thinking out of the box beyond the mere requirements of the day-to-day job,” he added.

The conference included a keynote lecture by Dr. Brian Anthony from the Medical Device Innovation Center at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT). Dr. Anthony’s speech titled “Can this be applied in Lebanon?” discussed the healthcare innovation hub options available in this country and emphasized on the link that should happen between industries and researchers. He explained that although MIT doesn’t have a school of medicine, it collaborates on a daily basis with medical doctors while working on the latest medical technologies.

Another keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Jaques Belghiti, President of the French National Authority for Health, in which Belghiti talked about the regular usage of the newest technologies amongst his team. He highlighted the delicate balance between new technologies and the economic and public health impact, and the need for proper studies pre- and post-disseminating the products in the market.

The conference also included a video projection showing the future of medical technology and goals of the HTMA. Speaking on the panels were Dr. Fadia Homeidan (AUB), Dr. Dolla Sarkis (USJ), Mr. Khaled Bohsali (Banque Du Liban), Dr. Adham Ismail (World Health Organization), Mr. Elias Boustani (WAMDA), Mr. Walid Mansour (Middle East Venture Partners), and Dr. Faraj Abdel Nour (Acidim).

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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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