

For Immediate Release



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World Psoriasis Day at AUB

Lama Salam: “we hope that the syndromes of awareness and fearlessness will be diagnosed in every person”

Under the patronage of Mrs. Lama Tammam Salam, the American University of Beirut (AUB) celebrated the “World Psoriasis Day” in the presence of Minister of Public Health Wael Faour represented by Dr. Amine Kazzi, AUB Executive Vice-President for Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Mohamed Sayegh represented by Dr. Kamal Bader, and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at AUBMC and conference chair Dr. Abdul Ghani Kibbi, in addition to medical doctors and concerned parties.

After the National Anthem, Salam addressed the audience saying: No wonder that the American University of Beirut (AUB) is the place I visit the most to take part in seminars, conferences and a wide array of activities. Indeed, this prestigious university does not subside, but is relentlessly in search of more knowledge, researches, debate and exchange of ideas and experiences, and takes all kinds of initiatives that would benefit the society and contribute to its progress. On my own behalf and on behalf of all of you, I wish to congratulate AUB for its unwavering leadership and permanent excellence, and thank it for all what it is doing for the development of health and social care and for the good of the Lebanese society at large. On the occasion of this conference, I would like to pay tribute to the Department of Dermatology of the School of Medicine, represented by its Chairman, Professor Abdul Ghani Kibbi, to the Faculty of Medicine and its dean Dr. Mohamed Sayegh, and to the President of the University Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri.

“To this end, the medical community, the civil society and the media should join forces to spread this message and to dispel prejudices and misconceptions. Thanks to your conference and to numerous other necessary activities and initiatives, we hope that the syndromes of awareness and fearlessness will be diagnosed in every person, for this would allow the patients to break free from their isolation and become again active members of the society”, she concluded.

Second to speak was Kibbi who said: This annually-celebrated day is dedicated to people with psoriasis and its associated rheumatoid arthritis and accompanying diseases. It is an opportunity to give a voice to 125 million people afflicted with psoriasis.

He continued: the objectives of World Psoriasis Day are to raise awareness of psoriasis and dispel misconceptions about the causes of this chronic non-contagious disease which affects a large segment of our society; to facilitate early access to effective treatment via all healthcare coverage providers and government institutions, because of the direct effect on the health status of people affected with it; to provide psoriasis patients and their supporters with the correct information, educate them and encourage the patients to open up to their surroundings, and talk with confidence and without embarrassment or shame about their suffering; and to build unity among psoriasis patients and provide a platform to connect with decision-makers in their respective countries.

“Our slogan for this year is “Breaking Barriers”. These barriers (to be broken) stand in the face of psoriasis patients seeking health care. These barriers include all parts of the community, the health system and fields of work, school and various social activities. All of this leads to missed opportunities and these can be avoided with hard work and concerted efforts to provide complementary care for these patients...” he said.

He concluded: “I would like to thank the participants in this noble national campaign, and I especially thank the scientific pharmaceutical institutions for their response and support for the launch of this day, for the first time at the medical center of the American University of Beirut...”

Last to speak was Dr. Bader on behalf of Dr. Sayegh marking the conclusion of the opening session. The conference continued for the whole day and included public lectures on psoriasis and its associated rheumatoid arthritis and accompanying diseases.

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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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