

For Immediate Release



AUB reference book on public health in Arab world recognized at BMA Medical Book Awards

Beirut, Lebanon- 23/09/2012 -A milestone reference book on public health in the Arab world edited by an AUB team of public health experts has received the coveted “highly commended” recognition by the prestigious British Medical Association (BMA).

Public Health in the Arab World (Cambridge University Press, March 2012) which was launched by the American University of Beirut in May 2012, was “highly commended” in the public health category at the 2012 BMA Medical Book Awards, held in London in September. The book was edited by AUB researcher Samer Jabbour from the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), Rita Giacaman from Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University, Marwan Khawaja from UNESCWA (formerly at AUB FHS), and Iman Nuwayhid, Dean of FHS. Rouham Yamout from WHO (formerly at AUB FHS) served as the associate editor.

“An excellent all-encompassing overview of public health in the Arab world,” commented the BMA reviewer of the book, noting that the volume is “completely up to date” and provides excellent background knowledge. “A brave effort to tackle a massive topic; very informative and engaging to read; novel approach and would serve as an introduction to public health as a discipline and not just as a review of public health within a geographical area,” the reviewer added in his comments.

Established in the late 1990s, the BMA awards are among the most well-known in the field. Cambridge University Press submitted the book to the competition among 681 other submissions worldwide, including 54 in the public health category alone. Only 10 books of the 54 in the public health category were highly commended. “We take pride in this important international recognition,” said lead editor Samer Jabbour.

The 520-page 38-chapter book is the largest volume of its kind in the history of public health literature in the region. It is the outcome of an international collaboration which included 81 authors who worked together over a period of three years.

“Such an effort could not have been possible without the institutional support that AUB and its Faculty of Health Sciences have provided,” said FHS Dean Iman Nuwayhid.

The book is currently being translated into Arabic by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Arabic edition is expected to be released by the end of the year.

The book is divided into seven sections which address the context of public health; social determinants of health; diseases and injuries; the health of population groups, including vulnerable ones such as the elderly, migrants and children; health in the context of war and

violence; health systems and health care delivery; and the place of health action in the social agenda.

Jabbour added: “We hope that this recognition will increase readership of the book and expand debate about the issues that the book editors and authors have worked hard to research and highlight.”

Rima Afifi, professor and coordinator of the Graduate Public Health Program at FHS, and a contributing author in the book, noted, “For the first time, public health teachers and students in this region will have in their hands a comprehensive volume that reflects our realities.”

All royalties from the sale of the book will go to purchase copies to be distributed for free to students and institutions of public health in the Arab World.

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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 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 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.

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