

For Immediate Release



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AUB launches the Nutrition, Obesity and Related Diseases (NORD) Program as Part of its Global Health Initiative

As part of its Global Health Initiative (GHI), The Office of Strategic Health Initiatives at American University of Beirut (AUB) announced the launch of a new program, Nutrition, Obesity and Related Diseases (NORD).

The launch took place during the 150th anniversary celebration at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences. The NORD program will be the third program of GHI after the Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) and the Refugee Health Program (RHP).

In line with GHI's vision to address global health challenges with a focus on those affecting low and middle-income countries, the NORD aims to address the double burden of malnutrition, a major cause of morbidity and mortality in many countries of the Global South, especially in the MENA region. Through its interdisciplinary and engaging structure, the NORD aims to create a platform for the development of evidence-based and culturally-sensitive nutrition interventions targeting obesity and related diseases. The program will serve as a liaison to foster public private partnerships aiming to promote the role of diet in prevention and management of obesity and related diseases.

The announcement of the launch of NORD was made by Associate VP for Health Affairs, Dr. Shadi Saleh, and FAFS Dean Dr. Nahla Houalla.

In his speech, Dr. Saleh emphasized the strategic goal of positioning AUB as a global partner on health through GHI and other key initiatives. In addition, he highlighted the importance of celebrating NORD as a foundational program within GHI, given the great knowledge and service gap that it will fill in the region and beyond.

The NORD Program Director, Dr. Houalla expressed her enthusiasm for the potential impact that such a program may have on health and wellbeing. She also emphasized the role of nutrition as a main modifiable lifestyle factor in the combat against obesity and related diseases. Dr. Houalla commended the AUB leadership at all levels for their concerted efforts to promote the global and multi-disciplinary discourse about nutrition as well as other health related matters relevant to the region, within the Health 2025 vision.

It is worth noting that GHI is a key component of AUB's new health vision, Health 2025, which aims to strengthen AUB's impact on the health of population at a national, regional and global level.

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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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