

For Immediate Release



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AUB's Nursing School celebrates its 110th anniversary with emphasis on interdisciplinary education and practice

The American University of Beirut (AUB) Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) commemorated milestones in the history of research and nursing education in Lebanon and the region with a three-day international research conference that celebrated its 110th and AUB's 150th anniversary.

The conference titled “Development of Evidence Based-Nursing in an Interdisciplinary Era: Achievements and Prospects” tackled the importance and opportunities for interdisciplinary research, education, practice, and policy significant to the discipline and profession of nursing.

With the goal to serve as a rich platform to discuss advances in knowledge and global trends as well as to establish collaborative partnerships for better health care services in Lebanon and the region, the conference brought together local, regional, and international authorities in health professions from various academic institutions, research centers, and world organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO). President of the International Council of Nurses, Dr. Judith Shamian, and President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, Dr. Nuhad Doumit, also participated as speakers.

“As AUB evolves into a world class research university, HSON is setting a stellar example as it continues to bring research to the forefront of this work,” said Interim Provost Muhamad Harajli at the conference opening. “HSON not only accounts for 85% of Lebanon's and nearly 14% of the Arab world's nursing research output, but its faculty members are amongst the most productive and impactful nursing researchers in the Arab world.”

Dr. Ali Bazarbachi, Associate Dean for Basic Research at the Faculty of Medicine representing the Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Mohamed Sayegh pointed out that HSON, which was established in 1905, is the first and one of the most renowned professional school of nursing in Lebanon and the region and is the first outside the US to receive unconditional accreditation (2007) and reaccreditation (2012) by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and to become a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). HSON is also the first school of nursing to have a sigma theta Tau International Honor Society Chapter in the region.

In Lebanon, HSON continues to be the reference point for other university nursing programs, the Ministry of Health, and the Order of Nurses in Lebanon. Regionally, HSON continues to receive requests from countries to help establish Colleges of Nursing and to provide consultations on issues pertaining to developing the nursing workforce. Internationally, HSON has established partnerships with the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (SON), the University of Michigan SON, Villanova University SON, University of Maryland SON, and the University of Science and Technology in Sydney to facilitate student and faculty exchange and research collaboration.

In her remarks, Director of HSON, Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer, emphasized that an important strategic goal of HSON is to foster excellence in research. Programs of research have been established at HSON that focus on Clinical Research, Health Systems and Outcomes Research, and Nursing Education Research. In addition to offering Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) accredited degrees, HSON will be launching a PhD program in Nursing Science in 2017-2018 in close collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, the University of Michigan SON, and the Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences at AUB.

The conference opened with a keynote speech by the President of the International Council of Nurses, Dr. Judith Shamian who spoke about the impact of interprofessional education and practice on the nursing profession and discipline. Conference sessions followed on Health Systems and Outcomes Research, Interdisciplinary Programs of Research, Mental Health Research, Innovations in Teaching, Reducing the Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, and

Health Care of Older Adults. A roundtable on Global Health issues and trends will conclude the conference on Saturday.

Around 50 delegates from 11 different Arab and African countries joined in discussions about the development of the nursing profession, representing Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Kenya, and Lebanon. Distinguished nurse leaders and scholars from different disciplines from the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, Jordan, and Lebanon were speakers at the conference.

“This conference was a true celebration of interdisciplinary research in an interprofessional era,” Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer told us. “It provided the participants with an update on new developments in research, education, and practice and an opportunity to discuss issues of particular significance to the discipline and to global health.”

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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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