



### **AUBMC's First Clinical Research Open House Showcases 150 Research Studies in Various Medical Fields**

The Office of Clinical and Translational Research at the Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) organized on Thursday May 22nd, 2014 its first research open house showcasing more than 150 research studies in oncology, vascular medicine, neonatology, infectious diseases, multiple sclerosis and others.

The Research Open House was open to visitors from the clinical and academic field including clinical researchers, research centers, universities, medical students and trainees, governmental representatives and general public. "The open house is an opportunity for researchers to showcase their latest projects and have access to numerous resources that might help them enhance and develop their research" commented Dr. Samia Khoury, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, Director of Abu Haidar Neuroscience Institute and Director, Multiple Sclerosis Center at AUBMC.

The Open House highlighted and celebrated clinical research achievements, providing attendees with an overview of potential clinical research opportunities, foster collaborations among investigators while highlighting several of the resources available to support them. The exhibition featured an award ceremony for the first group of graduating residents who participated in the Fellowship and Residency Research Program (FRRP). The FRRP is a new initiative at AUBMC that requires all residents and fellows to participate in a research project. This was followed by a cocktail reception.

Projects from nursing research, Conseil National des Recherches Scientifiques (CNRS), Clinical Epidemiology Unit, Office of Grants and Contracts, Human Research Protection Program, Saab Medical Library and others were also displayed.

“AUBMC gave research a prominent position in its 2020 Vision with a strategy aimed at positioning AUBMC as a leading institution in medical research addressing topics relevant not only to Lebanon but the region.” Added Dr. Khoury. “Over the past 5 years AUBMC has become a center of attraction for many clinical researchers from various international institutions and for many who are interested in financing major research initiatives that have a positive impact on the larger population.” added Dr. Khoury.

In their mission to elevate research to higher standards, AUB’s Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center aim to serve as the regional hub for research initiatives by addressing the research needs of the region, improving research standards especially for human subject research, and increasing partnerships and research collaborations between institutions as well as within AUB.

Research Centers of Excellence are also being established to take basic and clinical research at AUB to international standards. The goal is to establish five Basic and Translational Research Centers of Excellence in cancer biology, cardiovascular sciences, genetics, neuroscience and stem cells.

On the Clinical Research side, AUB and the Faculty of Medicine have created the Human Research Protection Program, and the Clinical Research Institute (CRI), which houses the Investigator Support Unit, Research Unit, Outcomes Research Unit, and Biostatistics Unit. This solidifies AUBMC at the forefront of ensuring ethical treatment of human research participants aligned with the highest standards.

AUB’s Faculty of Medicine and medical center have established additional initiatives such as the Salim El Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program, and the Arab Regional Center for Research, Training and Policy Making in Mental Health (with the WHO) which bring the Medical Center closer to realizing the AUBMC 2020 Vision of regional leadership and competitiveness with the best academic medical centers in the West.