

Speech for Bahrain Conference

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today at the **Stem Cells: Promises and Controversies Conference**, a newly developed and advanced field in healthcare. This annual scientific meeting is a great opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities for stem cell research in the region.

Today, it is a privilege for us to be part of a brave and exciting era in biology and medicine. Many aspects drew me to this meeting. I believe that the research of stem cells goes far beyond the immediate achievements in the field of medicine to derive new procedures and treatments that might be key elements in treating debilitating and life-threatening disorders if not curing them completely. On its own, stem cell research embodies the innovative thinking that we as a society demand and medical advancement requires.

It is always good to be part of something special. By exploring stem cells and their possible impact on human health, we can help our nation's scientists and researchers develop treatments and cures to help people who suffer from illnesses and injuries for which there are currently none.

Through our AUBMC 2020 Vision, we continuously seek to promote academic innovation by creating clinical and research centers of excellence. As an academic medical center, we believe that standardizing and improving the ethical standards of human subject research is aligned with the improvement of inter-disciplinary and inter-faculty research initiatives. Today, AUBMC continues to attract many world class clinical researchers from top tier international institutions, who join our team to work on strategic topics that are expected to have a positive impact on the population, improve research standards, and increase research collaborations among institutions, including the field of stem cell research.

The Stem Cell field has enormous potential, and at the same time demands rigorous oversight. Today's activity brings together all those concerned to explore various ethical and practical issues related to stem cells. This is exactly where we stand by continuing to improve upon current knowledge and expanding the field of medicine.