

The Vascular Medicine Program at AUB worked with the Lebanese Society of Cardiology (LSC) and the Lebanese Society of Emergency Medicine (LSEM) to organize a conference on 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest: A medical, legal and public challenge', on Saturday March 30, 2019 at the Lebanese Order of Physicians. The conference achieved its targets to: 1. Draft the proposal for Lebanese Good Samaritan Law, 2. Develop a working plan to achieve mandatory training of high school students on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and 3. Propose a working scheme for Public Access Defibrillator Programs. This presents hope for health policy and regulatory changes that will lead to improving the survival rate from out of hospital cardiac arrest, which is currently less than 5% in Lebanon compared to 30-50% at the USA and European countries.

The Chairman of the Health Affairs Committee at the Lebanese Parliament, Dr. Assem Araji, and active member in the committee, member of the parliament Dr. Inaya Ezzedinne, promised their full support to pass the highly needed laws. The President of the Lebanese Order of Lawyers, Me. Andre Chidiac, pledged, "to put the resources of the Order to serve this cause because of conviction in its value to the community at large." Similarly, the President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, Dr. Raymond Sayegh, and representative of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Baheej Arbeed, concurred with the above and will be following with the team leading this effort to ensure the final targets are achieved. Former Minister of Internal Security, Me. Ziyad Baroud, highlighted the need for these changes and described an initiative to train law enforcement member on CPR that he had proposed earlier that will also complement these efforts. American Heart Association (AHA) representative, Madam Zahra Al Hilali, commended the efforts and described what support the AHA will be providing for the group's future plans. Moreover, representatives of the Red Cross and Civil Defense were aligned with the objectives of the meeting and acknowledged the need for these changes if we are to reduce the mortality burden at a national level.

The team leading these efforts composed of Dr. Hussain Isma'eel, Chair of Guidelines Committee at LSC, Dr. Mazen ElSayed, President of LSEM, Dr. Samar Nouredine, AUB, and NGOs including Remy Rebeiz Young Heart Foundation and YOHAN will be following up with Me. Chidiac to finalize the draft of the Lebanese Good Samaritan Law equivalent to submit it to the Lebanese Parliament. In a parallel track and assisting this team, the President of the LSC, Dr. Antione Sarkis, will be working hand in hand with the President-Elect of the LSC, Dr. Malek Mohammad, to follow with the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education on the following subjects: 1. Develop a national campaign to raise awareness on how to improve survival from out of hospital cardiac arrest, and 2. Develop the governmental decrees required for CPR training of high school students and development of public access defibrillator programs.

At the end of the meeting all the participating official bodies signed a symbolic pledge to assist in all efforts leading to reducing the mortality burden from out of hospital cardiac arrest. The plan for the subsequent steps was approved and a

second meeting to show concrete results will follow hoping to be the first Arab country to pass a Good Samaritan Law equivalent.



Saturday 30 March 2019

Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest : A Medical, legal and public challenge

نحن الموقعين ادناه نتعهد على العمل من مواقعنا على إقرار القوانين اللازمة
لتخفيض نسبة الوفيات من توقف القلب المفاجئ

(Handwritten signatures in Arabic script)

Lebanese Order of Physicians - Tahwitat Furn El Cheback - Cardiology Society Office 3rd Floor
P.O.Box: 11-640 Beirut, Lebanon - Telefax: + 961 1 397315
E-mail: office@lscardio.org - www.lscardio.org