

Ilias Sarkis

Plant Engineering (Medical Center)

Ilias Sarkis has been a member of the AUB community since May 30, 1972. His current position is Foreman Moveables in the Plant Engineering Department at the AUB Medical Center. Working with a team of six employees whom he supervises, Ilias is responsible for bid evaluation, setup, maintenance and repair of all moveable furniture in the Medical Center (including OR, ER, Delivery Suite, the various labs, etc.). During his thirty seven years of service, his main concern has been meeting the needs of his customers, namely the AUBMC patients and employees. He is always available for help whenever he is needed and his pager stays on all day long and during weekends in order to respond to urgent matters whenever they arise. He greets customers with a warm welcoming smile and shows a consistently positive behavior towards everyone. He is known for following up on accomplished work to make sure that everything is working well.

In terms of creativity and innovation, Ilias's contributions continue till this very moment extending over a significant period of time. To cite one example, a patient weighing 350 kg was recently admitted to AUBMC and that patient did not fit in the standard patient bed and could not use the hanging toilet available in the patient room. Moreover, that patient could not be placed on the Operating Room table which was not wide enough. In no time Ilias was able to provide a solution by connecting two beds and developing a mechanism to allow them to move upwards and downwards at the same time. He also came up with the idea of creating a stainless steel toilet seat to support the weight, and it took his team around six hours to complete the job. Last but not least, he managed to widen the operating room table in order to allow the patient to be placed on it comfortably. Put simply, Ilias refuses to use "NO" as an answer and always tries to find the best solution to a request, no matter how complicated it is.

His colleagues had great praise for his efforts and leadership. He sets the example by being with his men on the job and working with them hand in hand in getting the job done. He is extremely creative and applies this creativity repeatedly in the service of his customers and end users. His direct supervisors had nothing but praise in his support.

Several unsolicited letters of thanks and praise were provided to the committee by Mr. Namir Kanaan, Director of Plant Engineering. The letters were all extremely positive and highlighted "prompt and excellent service". In particular was a letter of support by the Chairman of the Department of Pathology praising Ilias and his team members for being pivotal in the success of the Accreditation inspection of the Department.