

The American University of Beirut Medical Center partners up with the Civil Defense Directorate to facilitate the use of cardiac defibrillators for out of hospital cardiac arrest victims



Beirut, July 29, 2019: A partnership agreement was established between AUBMC and the Civil Defense on their National Public Access Defibrillator Program. This comes as part of an initiative by The Survival Chain Partners represented by Dr. Hussain Isma'eel, Director of the Vascular Medicine Program at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), Dr. Malek Mohammad, President of the Lebanese Society of Cardiology (LSC), Dr. Mazen El-Sayed, President of the Lebanese Society of Emergency Medicine (LSEM), Remy Rebeiz, Young Heart Foundation, and Yohan for Life Foundation.

This partnership will help train 500 Civil Defense personnel on CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use, train 1700 individuals from the community on CPR and AED and distribute 44 AEDs as part of the first wave. These AEDs will be linked to the Civil Defense and will be supervised by Dr. Mazen El-Sayed through the Emergency Department at AUBMC. Along the same lines, the LSC and LSEM will work on providing the scientific umbrella for this program.

Currently, the survival rate for out of hospital cardiac arrest in Lebanon is less than 5% compared to 50% of cases in other developed parts of the world. As such, the Survival Chain Partners are working on improving this situation. They have also joined effort with the health committee in the Lebanese Parliament for the purpose of submitting an amendment to Criminal Law 567 and introducing a section that parallels what is known as the Good Samaritan Law in the USA and Europe. The law will encourage bystander CPR and AED use.

The above agreement is the second step in a plan that is being implemented sequentially where AUB plays a key role to improve the survival rate of out of hospital cardiac arrest victims in Lebanon. More steps will be revealed in the coming period.

- ENDS -

About AUBMC

Since 1902, AUBMC has been providing the highest standards of care to patients across Lebanon and the region. It is also the teaching hospital for the Faculty of Medicine at AUB (established in 1867), which has trained generations of medical students and physicians, and whose graduates can be found at leading institutions around the world. AUBMC is the only medical institution in the Middle East to have earned the five international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, CAP, ACGME-I and JACIE attesting to its superior standards in patient-centered care, nursing, pathology/laboratory services and graduate medical education.

The Faculty of Medicine has graduated over 4,000 medical students and physicians; the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing provides excellent education for the nursing staff, and the Medical Center meets the healthcare needs of over 360,000 patient visits annually.

For more information please visit our website www.aubmc.org or contact:

The AUBMC Office of Communications at 0096 1 350000 ext. 4732 –

Email: praubmc@aub.edu.lb

Memac Ogilvy Public Relations at

Papou Rmeily - 01-486065 ext.135 papou.rmeily@ogilvy.com

Rolande El Ghusayni - 01-486065 ext. 261 rolande.elghusayni@ogilvy.com