

The American University of Beirut Medical Center Holds the First Collaborative Cancer Research Conference

(April 03, 2017) Beirut, Lebanon – The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), and in joint collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, USA (MDACC) and King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan (KHCC), organized the first of its kind international Cancer Research Medical Conference in Lebanon titled “Connecting through Research”. The conference, which has been alternating since 2011 between Amman and Beirut, was held on March 24-25, 2017 at the Monroe Hotel, Beirut.

Designed for healthcare professionals in the region, the meeting aimed at increasing research knowledge and collaborative clinical research on cancer with a positive impact on patient care. The conference featured as well the renewal of the signing agreement between MDACC and AUBMC.

During the event, a wide panel of speakers and experts reviewed the latest updates in international cancer research, provided a rich multidisciplinary program on the novel advances, and presented new data from the Middle East region. The meeting focused on the following topics: supportive care for cancer patients, genitourinary oncology, thoracic and head and neck oncology, gastrointestinal oncology, gynecologic oncology and perspectives on clinical trials in the region.

Held under the patronage and in the presence of the Chairperson of King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center in Jordan, HRH Princess Ghida Talal, and President of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Dr. Fadlo Khuri, the conference presented an opportunity to exchange scientific knowledge among the attendees.

Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal made opening remarks and called for the establishment of an Arab fund for cancer research to develop treatment protocols that are tailored to the Arab patients in particular and said, “I am so proud of our partnership with the AUBMC and MDACC, another example of the important role that strategic partnerships play in the fight against cancer.”

In their opening speeches, the organizer of the meeting Drs. Fady Geara, Chairman of the Radiation Oncology Department, and Dr. Ali Taher, NKBCI Deputy Director, welcomed the attendees and thanked the scientific committee for their efforts in combining successful research to initiate collaboration between different groups. Dr. Taher said, “It is through education, compassion, and enlightenment that we can overcome ignorance and build the foundations for a stronger Arab world. Through the annual exchange of scientific knowledge

between King Hussein Cancer Center and AUB under the umbrella of MD Anderson Cancer Center, we attest to our belief in the importance of scientific exchange in conducting research and analyzing scientific abstracts.”

Dr. Geara indicated that “Joining our efforts will improve our impact and visibility on the international scene.”

Dr. Hassan El Solh, Medical Center Director and Chief Medical Officer Director, Children’s Cancer Center Institute Director, the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute in his turn welcomed the attendees on and thanked the scientific committee on behalf of the NKBCI faculty and staff and said, “One of the main pillars of the AUBMC 20/20 Vision is the development of Centers of Excellence and innovative academic programs. It is our aim to ensure the best quality of healthcare for our patients through the development of administrative systems and health information technologies such as AUBHealth.”

Dr. Hilario Mata, Director of Global Academic Programs at MD Anderson Cancer Center, commented “The sister institution relationships with AUB was first signed in 2007 and it was the first official relationship established in the Middle East. We are convinced that this relation will continue to add value not only to the sister institution but to the cure of cancer worldwide.”

AUB president, Dr. Fadlo Khuri said, “The battle to impact dread human conditions like cancer requires nothing less than all of our best efforts. It is in this spirit that we join with sister institutions including MD Anderson and the King Hussein Cancer Center in a determined approach through which our respective strengths can be multiplied working side by side.”

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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 four international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, CAP, and ACGME-I attesting to its superior standards in patient-centered care, nursing, pathology/laboratory services and graduate medical education.

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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.

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