



AUBMC Special Kids Clinic (ASKC)

www.aubmc.org



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأمريكية في بيروت

Our lives are dedicated to yours

Our Mission

“The child is father of the man,” wrote William Wordsworth.

Excellence in medical care must begin with our children. An establishment that is at the forefront of the delivery of outstanding patient-centered care, the American University of Beirut Medical Center is committed to matching words with deeds. Evidence-based excellence in multidisciplinary care for special needs kids hinges on the vital implementation of early intervention to enhance both physical and brain development during a crucial developmental time window which cannot be missed. Our mission at the AUBMC Special Kids Clinic is to:

- Provide special kids and their families with compassionate, multidisciplinary and comprehensive state-of-the-art care in order to optimize special needs kids’ intellectual and physical development in preparation for their full integration into school and society at large.
- Educate pediatricians, nurses and other allied health professionals and the general public about the needs of special kids and optimal ways to meet their physical, emotional and educational requirements.
- Conduct research into the underlying epidemiology, genetics and cell biology of neurogenetic, neurodevelopmental and pediatric neurodegenerative diseases.

Expert pediatric neurologists, and speech, physical, occupational, psychomotor and feeding specialists will provide early detection and outstanding expert diagnosis and coordinated, developmental, neurological and total care for neurologically impaired kids, especially special needs kids from Lebanon and the region in an integrated and affordable manner. This will be accomplished by establishing a hospital-based multidisciplinary clinic for the care of special needs children with a number of diseases within the context of the Pediatric Neurology Clinic at AUBMC. Some of the diseases are cerebral palsy and neurodevelopmental delay resulting from hypoxic-ischemic injury due to prematurity, trauma, autism and other communication and learning disorders, epilepsy, movement disorders, tic disorders, central nervous system and spine malformations, muscular dystrophies and neurogenetic disorders.



Our Goals

- Staff and equip a multidisciplinary special needs kids and adolescent clinic that caters to their unique requirements in ONE convenient visit to a single location.
- Join health specialists together in a coordinated configuration.
- Make the AUBMC Special kids Clinic accessible to kids and adolescents from all socioeconomic classes.
- Ensure that clinic visits end in a group meeting that lays out a comprehensive early intervention plan (EIP) for the child, until his/her next visit.
- Provide follow-up at regular intervals with reassessment of medical, physical, psychosocial and educational needs and adjustment of patient EIPs accordingly.



Our Objectives

- Ensure early detection and treatment of complex neurological or communication disorders in children in a timely and coordinated manner.
- Integrate novel testing batteries, technologies and applied therapeutics in the field of care for special needs children to improve final outcomes.
- Lead and attract other institutions in Lebanon and the region to participate in state-of-the-art research projects aimed at winning the fight against dual disabilities.

Our Services

Our clinical facility caters to the needs of our little patients. Our waiting area opens onto a specially designed outside play area for children. Our facility is easily accessible to all patients. Our therapy rooms and clinics are specially outfitted with automated examination tables, children's furniture, educational toys, specialized equipment, toys and batteries used in the assessment and treatment of special needs kids.

The AUBMC Special Kids Clinic offers:

- Devoted and highly specialized allied health professionals who will assist pediatric neurologists in the diagnosis, management and care of dually disabled children.
- Dedicated pediatric physical therapists, occupational and psychomotor therapists, and speech and feeding specialists who will provide much needed regular therapy sessions in a multidisciplinary team approach, ensuring the informed, comprehensive and coordinated care of special needs children.
- Initial comprehensive assessments with follow-up for patients living in the vicinity, take-home plans for those living far away, and liaison with specialized individuals through an extensive database of similar services available in remote regions of Lebanon and other countries in the region such as Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and Qatar.
- Regular reevaluations for readjustment of early intervention plans based on individual progress achieved.
- Ultimate integration and mainstreaming into schools with dedicated and specialized services.

Location and Appointment Scheduling

The AUBMC Special Kids Clinic is located on the ground floor of the Abu Khater Building. The main entrance is on Clemenceau Street.

To schedule an appointment, please call +961 1 350000 ext. 7580/7590.

Our Team

Our staff consists of:

- Pediatric neurologists
- Nurses
- A receptionist
- Physical, occupational, speech, psychomotor and feeding specialists



Dual Developmental Disabilities: Disabilities of the Mind and Body

AUBMC has the vision and foresight to recognize the pressing need for specialized developmental, psychological, neurological and total health care for children with disabilities.



Developmental delay is a potential source of stress to the family of an individual with this disorder. From detection to treatment or education, families struggle with questions about cause and prognosis, as well as guilt, a sense of loss, and disillusionment about the potential outlook.

The causes are myriad and include single gene defects due to point mutations, chromosomal anomalies from whole chromosome loss or deletion such as Turner or Down syndrome, copy number variations (microduplications or microdeletions best diagnosed by SNP and CNV microarrays), gene sequence abnormalities, outcomes of premature birth or prolonged chronic illnesses, hypoxia, traumatic brain injury, autism and other developmental disorders such as Rett syndrome.

In 1690, John Locke published his well-known work entitled *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Locke said that an individual was born without inborn ideas. The mind is a *tabula rasa*, an empty slate. This would deeply sway the care and training provided to individuals with developmental delays.

It has become evident that early intervention at a young age, before the developmental window has closed, vastly enhances outcome measures, and facilitates the mainstreaming into regular schools, the acquisition of skills for daily living and full integration into society. The positive change in outcome is greatly attributable to synaptic plasticity, which is still present from age 0-6 years and even later.

Delivery of specialized services of physical, occupational, speech, feeding and psychomotor therapies by a caring and dedicated multidisciplinary team, working alongside diagnostic and drug/surgery treatment-oriented pediatric neurologists and pediatric neurosurgeons is now a necessity.





