

AUBMC Receives its 5th Joint Commission International (JCI) Reaccreditation

Beirut, February 5, 2021: The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) announced its 5th reaccreditation by the Joint Commission International (JCI) on February 2, 2021. This distinction has been achieved without a single unmet measurable element for the first time and is an attestation to AUB's robust commitment to resist and persist despite all challenges.

The Joint Commission International (JCI), an independent non-profit organization, is the most established accrediting body in healthcare in the United States. Its accreditations and certifications are recognized as a global leader for healthcare quality of care and patient safety. This year's JCI reaccreditation surveys, although remote, have been the most rigorous in assessing compliance with standards of care and safety. According to several JCI surveyors' testimony, the exit report described AUBMC processes as well designed, implemented, sustained, and even inspiring. The JCI site visit team enthusiastically recognized the extent to which all faculty and staff are involved in reinforcing and supporting quality patient care.

Marking this recognition, Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, President of AUB, said: "We are delighted and proud of receiving the JCI reaccreditation for the 5th time, and I'd like to thank the accreditation team for their incredible effort. This exceptional accomplishment is a rare occurrence, even in far better times than the pandemic and crisis wracked period that we are living through today." He added, "The Medical Center and its teams are the core of the university which was founded 154 years ago. They never quit; they inspire me, the citizens of Lebanon, and the region."

In recognition of the efforts made, Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said: "This has been a stellar achievement by the dynamic staff and teams of the Medical Center. Our members are not strange to such recognitions; their past record speaks for itself. However, what is different this round was the spectacular vibrant sense of demonstrating, and with great pride, the determination to excel against all odds. Kudos to everyone who made this reaccreditation a yet another shining success to the AUB community."

During the survey exit meeting, the Medical Center Director, Mr. Joseph Otayek, mentioned that even amid the succession of catastrophes that have struck Lebanon including the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis, and the horrific August 4 blast, AUBMC family mustered all its efforts and showed great perseverance and resilience by completing the JCI survey successfully. He stressed on how each person in this institution, from the janitors to the physicians showed a sense of dedication that is absolutely remarkable.

Addressing the AUBMC community, Dr. Pierre Sfeir, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, said: “This year, the survey has a special meaning to us. Through the positive spirit of commitment and dedication, our faculty and staff once again demonstrated impeccable teamwork to ensure the safety of our patients and quality of our clinical services. Last but not least, offering best-quality services is a journey and I assure you the commitment of this leadership to continue along this path for many years to come.”

Dr. Samir Alam, Chief of Staff, stated: “In times of crisis, there is the risk of shifting priorities and even losing the sense of purpose, but the JCI team results have truly validated the prevailing high standards of care in the center, commitment to principled care and clinical excellence by our members. Their tenet is to insist and persist no matter what the challenges.”

Mr. Rawad Jamaledine, Director of Quality, Accreditation, and Risk Management said: “To be a leading Medical Center, attaining the fifth JCI accreditation and meeting all the requirements that attest to our leading position locally and regionally prove to the world that AUB is here to stay.”

Mrs. Ann Watkins, JCI Team Leader, ended the results announcement with a thank you note to each of the members of the quality team who escorted them and provided clarification and support throughout the entire week. She highlighted the enormous role they play in ensuring safety at the Medical Center every single day and expressed her impression towards the fully implemented standards by the AUBMC, as well as the ability to sustain across time and disasters.

The American University of Beirut Medical Center has always been a leader in the Middle East and North Africa region for delivering excellent patient care

and with the attainment of this re-accreditation, AUBMC affirms to sustain the tradition of human service while maintaining the highest standards of healthcare services.

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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 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.

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