

Distinctive Success in JCI Surveillance

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) at the American University of Beirut achieved the desired excellent results in the Joint Commission International (JCI) surveillance that was held between April 3 and April 7, 2017 at the AUB Medical Center.

On April 4, 2017, the JCI surveyors conducted a 3-hour audit on the Human Research Protection (HRP) chapter which is a new chapter introduced to the JCI accreditation standards for academic medical centers. The HRPP, the IRB, the Office and Grants and Contracts, the Research Pharmacy, the Medical Engineering, the Human Resources and the Nursing Services were all represented in the audit that covered all the multidisciplinary standards of the HRP chapter. The HRPP Director, Dr. Ali Abu-Alfa, provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation about the HRPP structure, governance and various components. He also explained the tight HRP and IRB processes and operations and how the welfare and rights of people participating in human subject research are safeguarded and respected. Furthermore, the surveyors audited the policies and procedures, documents, research folders, research subjects' files and other activity reports and material of the research and research review function.

In the debriefing and the final exit sessions, the surveyors expressed how impressed they are with the HRP function and operations and announced the HRP chapter among the JCI chapters recognized with no observations or findings in the JCI audit at AUBMC. Achieving the JCI survey milestone with such desirable results is a significant success of the HRP function and another emphasis of the program's mission to safeguard and protect the welfare and rights of human subjects who are recruited to participate in research activities conducted at AUB/AUBMC and/or by AUB/AUBMC faculty, students and staff, regardless of the funding source or the location of the research.