The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) Opens the First Neuroscience Outpatient Center in Lebanon

First of its kind in Lebanon, the AUBMC has opened its Neuroscience Outpatient Center which aims at consolidating all the services of this science under one roof; namely those relating to brain and nerve surgery. The opening was attended by the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut.

Dr. Samia Khoury, Professor in the Department of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine and Director of the Abu Haidar Neuroscience Institute (AHNI) affirmed that the opening of this center was a step forward towards achieving the strategic objectives of AHNI, including the establishment of centers of excellence such as the Multiple Sclerosis Center, the Epilepsy Program, and the Movement Disorder Program.

The new center is located in the Pierre Abou Khater (Fahd) Building, and consists of three floors: two floors dedicated to the clinic, and one housing a neurology diagnostic laboratory. Dr. Hala Darwish, Assistant Professor at the Hariri School of Nursing and Managing Director of AHNI, stated that the centralization of these services will enhance specialized care and make it easier for patients to access medical assistance, and obtain information about related diseases.

This center will also allow more cooperation and communication between specialists and surgeons, and facilitate the exchange of views between disciplines, while providing comprehensive care for patients.

The center consists of specialized sub-clinics, including one for the advanced Epilepsy Program, in addition to the initial foundations for the Movement Disorder Program; one that will treat balance disorders, motor coordination, tremors disorders such as Parkinson’s disease, and repetitive muscle contractions due to neurological movement disorders.
Dr. Samer Tabbal, Associate Professor and Director Movement Disorders program, declared that the number of Parkinson’s patients in Lebanon is nearly 15,000; however, the number of persons affected with tremor disorders was higher.

According to Dr. Tabbal, since the treatment of Parkinson’s patients is a challenge for neurologists, and that the number of trained neurologists in Lebanon is limited, thousands of patients are therefore not receiving adequate treatment, thus making the Movement Disorder Program of great importance within the Neurology Center.

The Neuroscience Outpatient Center is one of many centers of excellence at AUBMC, and is an intrinsic part of the 2020 Vision, which includes a revolutionary plan for the comprehensive expansion and modernization of services, to bring the medical center, and medical care in the region, to higher levels of excellence.

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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