

## **AUBMC Receives International Recognition for Meritorious Outcomes from the American College of Surgeons**

Only hospital outside of North America to achieve this honorable recognition

**(October, 2013) Beirut, Lebanon** — The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) has recognized the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) as one of 37 ACS NSQIP participating hospitals that have achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care. AUBMC was the only one outside of North America, to achieve the prestigious distinction.

As a participant in ACS NSQIP, AUBMC is required to track the outcomes of specific higher-risk surgical procedures and collect data that direct patient safety and the quality of surgical care improvements.

“We are honored to receive this international recognition,” said Dr. Jamal Hoballah, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at AUBMC. “It affirms the meticulous attention we have devoted to patient safety and quality at our medical center.” added Dr. Hoballah.

The ACS NSQIP recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving meritorious outcome performances related to patient management in nine clinical areas: mortality, unplanned intubation, ventilator > 48 hours, renal failure, DVT (deep vein thrombosis, thrombophlebitis and pulmonary embolism); cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction); respiratory (pneumonia); SSI (surgical site infections-superficial and deep incisional and organ-space SSIs); or urinary tract infection.

“Patient safety is top priority at AUBMC. Being the only medical center recognized outside of North America puts a huge responsibility on us to maintain and always challenge our system to provide the best in patient care, safety and quality. This meritorious distinction is based on clinical results, and clearly demonstrates our commitment to providing safe, superior surgical care to our local and regional patients.” added Dr. Hoballah.

The 37 hospitals commended achieved the distinction based on their outstanding composite quality score in the nine areas listed above. Risk-adjusted data from the July 2013 *ACS NSQIP Semiannual Report*, which presents data from the 2012 calendar year, were used to determine which hospitals demonstrated meritorious outcomes.

ACS NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program in the USA that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. This program measures the actual surgical results 30 days postoperatively as well as risk adjusts patient characteristics to compensate for differences among patient populations and acuity levels. The goal of ACS NSQIP is to reduce surgical morbidity (infection or illness related to a surgical procedure) and surgical mortality

(death related to a surgical procedure) and to provide a firm foundation for surgeons to apply what is known as the “best scientific evidence” to the practice of surgery. Furthermore, when adverse effects from surgical procedures are reduced and/or eliminated, a reduction in health care costs follows. ACS NSQIP is a major program of the American College of Surgeons and is currently used in over 500 hospitals.

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have significantly influenced the course of scientific surgery in America and have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 74,000 members and it is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

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### **Note to Editors**

#### **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 its graduates can be found at leading institutions around the world. AUBMC is the first medical institution in the Middle East to have earned the three international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, and CAP, attesting to its superior standards in patient-centered care, nursing, and pathology/laboratory services.

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 health care needs of over 300,000 patient visits annually.