

## Less Pain, Faster Recovery for Bladder Cancer Patients with Robotic Radical Cystectomy and Neo-bladder Surgery

AUBMC medical team performs the first in Lebanon and the region

**(March 2016) Beirut, Lebanon** – The Robotic Surgery Program, Urological Surgery at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), performed the first robotic radical cystectomy and intracorporeal neo-bladder surgery to treat bladder cancer in Lebanon and the region.

Established in 2013, the Robotic Surgery Program has provided patients with the most advanced care to cure diseases with minimally invasive procedures, less complications, and faster recovery. The procedure which is now performed at AUBMC by a team of Lebanese urologists and surgeons composed of Dr. Albert El Hajj, Urologist, Dr. Faek Jamali and Dr. Ramzi Alami, general surgeons, is an advanced step in the treatment of bladder cancer.

The novel procedure addresses bladder cancer patients by robotically generating a new bladder using the patient's own bowel tissue inside his/her body, only to function like a normal bladder.

Dr. El Hajj said, "In Lebanon, bladder cancer ranks as the third in the general population with 800 new cases per year, and it is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in Lebanese men". He added, "Traditionally, the surgical removal of the bladder has been the mainstay of treatment, usually performed by an open approach. Robotic radical cystectomy enhances visualization and affords the surgeon a level of precision comparable, or even superior, to that of open surgery."

The benefits of this procedure include optimal cancer control, less blood loss, reduced pain, minimal scars, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery, less complications, and early recovery of urinary and sexual functions. "With excellent outcomes and no complications, patients can return faster to normal quality of life," Dr. Jamali stated.

Aiming to introduce the procedure and its unprecedented levels of precision among research centers, universities, hospitals, and the general population, the expert medical team at AUBMC carried out the urological procedures robotically and presented this technique in international urology meetings.

The minimally invasive surgical technology, which is being performed by a select few specialized centers and hospitals in the USA and Europe, is further proof of AUBMC being the leading medical center in Lebanon and the region.

“Such an achievement is a solid proof of our continuous efforts to bringing the latest in medical technology for the benefit of our patients,” commented Dr. Hassan El Solh, Chief of Staff and Director of Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) and Children’s Cancer Center (CHC) at AUBMC. “2016 marks an important milestone at NKBCI as we have launched a dedicated Cancer Campaign focusing on raising awareness among the Lebanese community, stressing on the importance of preventive measures by taking the right tests and breaking the barrier with this disease,” he added.

**End**

### **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 four international accreditations of JCI, Magnet, CAP, and ACGME-I 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 health care needs of over 360,000 patient visits annually.

**For more information please visit our website [www.aubmc.org](http://www.aubmc.org) or contact:**

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