A New Center to Transform Healthcare Delivery in Lebanon & the Region in AUBMC

Under the high patronage of His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) staff and friends celebrated laying the cornerstone of the New Medical Center Expansion (NMCE), a key component of AUBMC's 2020 Vision on May 30, 2019.

The New Medical Center Expansion, AUBMC's largest project to date, presents itself as a major milestone in its strategic commitment to transforming the healthcare scene in Lebanon and the Middle East and reinforcing its position as a leading academic medical center. NMCE represents a revolutionary step towards the realization of the 2020 Vision, aligning with AUBMC's mission of improving the health of the community in Lebanon and the region.

According to Dr. Fadlo Khuri, President of the American University of Beirut (AUB), such a medical expansion represents the new future, not only for AUB but for Lebanon as well. He stated that despite the economic and political struggles, AUB and its medical school have existed for long to bring hope, in the forms of education, empowerment, emancipation, and healing to the people of Lebanon and the region.

The latest NMCE is designed as a 12-story building above ground and 10 underground levels. It will be constructed in place of the current surface parking, extending from Maamari Street all the way towards Clemenceau Street, and connecting to the existing Medical Center buildings through bridges and tunnels and to AUB campus through the Medical Gate. Upon completion, NMCE will include an additional 135-bed expansion distributed over a pediatric pavilion and a cancer treatment center, with operation rooms and intensive care units, an emergency department, support functions, and parking.

The establishment of the NMCE will redefine the western edge of AUB's Medical Center campus while making a stronger identity and connection to the AUB campus.

The spatial and functional planning of the NMCE has been carefully crafted in response to a clear set of overarching planning design principles that promote improved patient experiences and create soothing healing environments.

The building is designed in a way to allow penetration and transmission of natural daylight as deep as possible into the interior spaces to provide and maximize connection



to the outdoors and views out to nature. In addition the segregation of circulation types such as public, patient, and staff/service was also taken into consideration to enhance the patient experience with a more private and dignified environment while promoting operational efficiency.

Executive Vice President for Medicine and Global Strategy, Raja N. Khuri and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, explained that the new facility is another opportunity to pledge and promise the people of Lebanon to resiliently thrive to maintain the country's position as a pioneer in healthcare on the world map. According to him, AUBMC's dedication to taking healthcare delivery to unprecedented levels of excellence will always be a top priority.

With such an achievement, AUBMC will continue to strengthen its position as a prominent global partner on treating, nurturing and enriching particularly the lives of the people of Lebanon and the region.

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