The Vision for Lebanon

Lebanon already has seven licensed medical schools, including LAUMS. From a national perspective, it may at first glance seem unjustified to add yet another one. A closer look at the status of medical graduates in Lebanon, however, reveals otherwise.

1. More than 40% of Lebanese physicians are graduates from medical schools in Eastern Europe or Arab countries (Figure 1). Of those graduating from Lebanese medical schools, only a minority are trained in an American-style medical school recognized in the United States.
2. Only 10% of Lebanese physicians have obtained post-graduate medical training (subspecialty training) in North American institutions.

Number of Physicians by Country of Specialization
- Lebanon: 26.36%
- Western Europe: 31.90%
- Other Countries: 1.44%
- Eastern Countries: 26.66%
- North America: 10.00%
- Arab Countries: 3.64%

3. More than 75% of Lebanese physicians are restricted to Beirut/Mt. Lebanon
- Bekaa: 8.60%
- North Lebanon Inscribed at Beirut: 2.00%
- South Lebanon: 14.22%
- Beirut City: 30.25%
- Mount-Lebanon: 44.93%
The total number of registered MDs in Lebanon is over 10,000, which represents a ‘glut’ when calculated per capita. Nearly 30% of these physicians, however, are minimally productive due to poor training. Furthermore, the overall level of quality of care remains below acceptable standards, particularly in vulnerable populations including children, adolescents, women, the elderly, those living in remote regions, and the poor and uninsured/underinsured.

LAUMS will strive to impact medical education and health care in Lebanon by:

1. Providing an opportunity for talented Lebanese men and women who aim to pursue an American-style medical education to do so in the context of a well-recognized American-based institution, in which medical education is provided in accordance with the latest and highest standards of American medicine.

2. Provide an opportunity for its Lebanese graduates to pursue post-graduate medical education (residency and/or fellowship training) in accordance with North American standards and curricula.

3. Through its affiliations and partnerships with medical facilities throughout Lebanon, LAUMS will improve health care delivery in the country, especially its northern, southern, and eastern regions, currently underserved both in number and quality of practicing physicians and medical facilities.

4. By inculcating community-based service into its training program, LAUMS will seek to extend its medical mission to the underprivileged in Lebanon. Volunteer and community service will be a cornerstone of the mission of LAU medicine to Lebanon.

To the extent that LAU is committed to adopting the American model of medical education, and to the extent that American medicine leads the world in research and clinical care, founding of LAUMS will represent a major qualitative boost to healthcare in Lebanon. It will infuse society with increasing numbers of graduates trained in the best tradition of American medicine, and contribute its share to fairer and wider delivery of quality medicine education and care in Lebanon.