

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first international dental congress "Recent Advances in Dentistry, New Horizons & Beyond" under the high patronage of his Excellency, president of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michel SLEIMAN.

The University is honored to host such an exceptional event for the first time especially that Beirut has recently become the focal point of some of the most innovative medical procedures in the entire region. This congress aims at achieving the university's goal of advancing the dental field into new realms that can not only catch up with the latest trends of dental progress, but also leads the way for innovative techniques that could become the trend in dental practice.

Realizing the importance of research, research training and the promotion of interdisciplinary approaches to maintaining and improving the quality of higher education and to enhancing the competitiveness of regional higher education more generally, Beirut Arab University has emphasized the increasing role and relevance of research to technological, social and cultural evolution and to the needs of society.

Beirut Arab University has risen to this challenge and has already embarked upon the exciting project of creating pilot courses with research-based curricula. Many will include evidence-based practice, problem-solving learning activities, and critical thinking techniques.

The value of this congress lies in the opportunity it provides for the investigation of the most recent advances in the field of dentistry as far as research, teaching and practice are concerned. It is also a wonderful opportunity for meeting colleagues from all over the world and for exchanging ideas and experiences.

The mission of this congress is to advance the delivery of quality dental health-care. In accordance with this mission, the conference

scientific programme presents some of the best clinicians and researchers from around the globe covering all disciplines, latest techniques and knowledge. Moreover, there is an extensive exhibition featuring the products and services of national and international companies.

There is also a social programme giving the essence of the beautiful city, Beirut and providing the opportunity to meet and build lasting relationships with the dental family worldwide from a variety of cultures and languages.

This congress is, indeed, one of the biggest medical events taking place in the region.

The big message it is hoping to deliver is that oral health is of prime importance and will only be achieved through advancing the growth and development of the dental profession.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to speak to you today at the opening of this first international dental congress in Beirut Arab University and I am sure that the papers and contributions of our outstanding participants will enrich the field of dentistry and will engage the attention of all parties concerned. Your presence with us today and your participation in the congress will certainly support future efforts to help us all move closer to that reality of optimal oral health-care for all.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone inside and outside Beirut Arab University for making this congress come through and to urge everyone to keep up the good work throughout the congress.

Finally, I welcome you all to Beirut Arab University 1<sup>st</sup> international dental congress and to the fabulous city Beirut. For many of you, it is your first trip to Beirut, and we hope that this will be a memorable stay, and a rewarding one in many ways.

For all the conference organizers and participants, I wish you all success.