Inauguration of the
Karekin G. Tabourian
Dentofacial Clinic at AUBMC

Division of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
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Thursday May 31, 2007, at 5:00 pm
“Is it not a shame and degrading for any graduate dentist to be unable to treat [...] in the proper way with clean hands and a clean heart?

I say with a clean heart because it is all a matter of conscience. You may suggest anything to the patient and he will take your word for it.”

Karekin Tabourian
Silver Jubilee,
AUB School of Dentistry
June 1935

The inauguration of the Karekin G. Tabourian Dentofacial Clinic bridges the temporal gap between the closure of the AUB School of Dentistry in 1940, and the establishment of the Division of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics in October 2001.
Family: Born in 1896 to Garabed Tabourian and Shoushan Kalemkarian, at Dyarbekir, Turkey. In 1915, while a student at AUB, he lost his parents in the massacre perpetrated on the Armenian people. In 1929, he married Fimie Tchamourian, and they had two children; HE Mr. Andre Tabourian and Dr. Gerard Tabourian.

Education: (BA, 1919) and dental degree (DDS, 1923) at AUB; postgraduate education at the University of Pennsylvania in the USA.

Academic positions (1925-40) at AUB’s School of Dentistry: Clinical Assistant, Chief of Dental Clinics, Adjunct Professor of Dental Materia Medica. Author of a book on Mouth Hygiene (1932).

Professional and civic organizations: member of the Municipal Council of Beirut (1941-1951); member of the Executive Committee of the AUB Alumni Association (1950-1958); founder and Life Member of the AUB Alumni Club; Life Member of the International College of Dentists; founder and President of the Haig Club (1958–1961); Board Chairman (six years) of the Armenian Sanatorium in Azounih.

In 1967, the Lebanese government recognized his services with the Commander of the National Order of the Cedar medal. His colleague Dr. P.H. Hadidian wrote in October 1980 in the Kulliyyah: "Karekin Tabourian passed away quietly on May 23rd, 1980. He was a conscientious and meticulous worker. He relinquished his right to a substantial indemnity [in] gratitude to his alma mater."
In 1910, AUB introduced dental education to Lebanon by founding the first dental school in the Near East region. When the school started, Dr. Arthu Ryton Dray (MD, DDS) was its only professor and Dr. Amin Haddad his only assistant. It had no building nor proper equipment. At the memorial service for Dr. Dray on October 12, 1926, Dr. Iskandar Nasif stated: “At present, it has a fine building, an up-to-date equipment, and a well chosen faculty.” AUB’s President Dodge announced “for the first time the good news of the recognition of our Dental degree by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, and that the school is a “Class ‘A’ school ranked on the same level with any class ‘A’ schools in the United States of America.” (Source: K. G. Tabourian, Al Kulliyat 13 (1), Nov. 1926).
Soon after the establishment of the Division in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and the start of the orthodontic residency, the Tabourians contributed to the equipment of the Tabourian Dentofacial Core Unit (3 operatories) and later to its expansion into the Tabourian Dentofacial Clinic (7 operatories). Orthodontics is complemented by other dental and maxillofacial disciplines providing a spectrum of services, encompassing orthognathic surgery and treatment of craniofacial anomalies, adjunct periodontal therapies, management of temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and various hospital dentistry consultations and procedures.

The orthodontic residency adheres to the guidelines of the American Dental Association and the European Erasmus guidelines. Residents are selected after stringent competitive examinations. In addition to their residency, they complete a Master’s in Science program in one of AUB’s graduate medical programs, and defend a research thesis. They have published papers, presented at meetings in Lebanon and the USA, and won awards for competitive presentations. Applicants to the program have included dentists from Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, The Emirates, Kuwait, Yemen, and Turkey.

Faculty members have excellent credentials, themselves graduates of American and European programs, and already graduates of AUB’s program. Guest lecturers visit regularly from the USA and Europe. Since its beginning, the postgraduate program has a unique alliance with the Lebanese University School of Dentistry and maintains a fruitful academic collaboration with the New York University College of Dentistry.
Honoring a Loving Father

After our father became an orphan when he lost his parents in 1915 during the massacre of the Armenian people, AUB helped him get through college and dental school. By honoring our father’s legacy, we feel that we also pay homage to the memory of our ancestors. Our gift to establish the Dentofacial Clinic in his name is only a whisper of gratitude and love in comparison to his endless devotion to us.

He would be happy that our recognition is associated with dentistry, to which he channeled so much of his energies and
Program

LEGACY OF KAREKIN G. TABOURIAN
Head, Division of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
Vice President/Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Acting President
Representative, Tabourian Family
INAUGURATION
RECEPTION

Dr. Joseph Ghafari
Dr. Nabil Fuleihan
Dr. Nadim Cortas
Provost Peter Heath
HE Mr. Alain Tabourian

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