Date: July-August 2006

Report on the department of Pediatrics activities in response to the July-August 2006 war in Lebanon:

During the July 12- August 14 war in Lebanon the department of Pediatrics at the AUB MC was a leading department in facing the challenge of the war. This response included:

1. Forming a crisis management committee which included Dr Mikati, Dr Mroueh, Dr Majdalani and Dr Dib. The committee met on daily basis to address the daily changes needed and the deficiencies resulting from inadvertent absenteeism of staff and housestaff. This committee planned and monitored all departmental activities related to the war.

2. Staffing of volunteer clinic started in collaboration with other organization and departments to take care of citizen displaced by the war.

3. Collaborating, planning and running the above clinics and coordinating their work with other ongoing related work.

4. Reorganizing the ER, OPD and in-patient service to allow them to accommodate the increasing number of patients including those with financial needs.

The details related to these activities are listed below.

The American University of Beirut organized during the July war period several programs to provide medical help for the displaced Lebanese population. Medical staffs from all levels were helping in this process at different steps of the program.

The Emergency room was open to all displaced victims free of charge and medical professionals from students, to residents and attending physicians were offering help to those victims 24 hours a day; 7 days a week.

The number of admissions to AUB MC pediatric ward under the expenses of the ministry of health has increased tremendously and the pediatric team was covering up to 10 more patients a day above the usual admissions.

The pediatric OPD clinics with all subspecialties were open to displaced victims free of charge to the patient. The expenses were covered
by a fund that the Dean Cortas had gathered and provided to a committee that he had formed to organize this volunteer work. The committee, where pediatrics was represented by Dr Dib, would triage the patients on an acuity level and distribute to various subspecialties. The OPD clinics were open from 8 am till 5pm accepting new patients all through the day and in subspecialties as well as in general pediatrics. The pediatrics department also provided in the OPD an infusion clinic in which patients were admitted for few hours to receive IV hydration and to get IV infused medications to avoid admissions which are cumbersome for the displaced victim.

The pediatrics team was also a part of a volunteer outreach mobile clinic which attended to displaced patients in schools and institutions. Averages of 50 patients per session were examined. They provide medical care and dispense essential medications. This mobile clinic was also funded from Dean Cortas from a special donation fund. Pediatric department residents and attending physicians were attending to this mobile clinic on a daily basis. Dr Mroueh, Dr Mikati, Dr Boustani and Dr Dabbous were active in this volunteer work. Residents from all units used to go after working hours to help in these clinics. Dr Jihad Nassar, Dr Nadia Jradi, Dr Dima Hamideh, Dr Majd Makhoul attended to these clinics.

The pediatric team also worked with Ajyaloun Philanthropic Association. Through the efforts of Dr Mona Nabulsi, helped by 2 house officers, Dr Joe Khoury and Dr Marwa El Jamal, a number of schools that was not covered by the AUB mobile clinics were attended to. 508 patients, pediatric and adult, were examined during this period; these patients were in 7 schools in the area around the institution including: Al-Bayader, Al-Ikhaa’, Caracas, Rene Muawad, Al-Iman, CIS, and Sanayeh park.

The team was providing primary medical care, dispensing the essential medications and at times referring to AUB MC OPD clinics for a tertiary care when needed. The pediatrics department as well as the AUB MC as a group was facing the challenge of the war and kept as first priority the mission of AUB which is the teaching as well as dispensing the best patient care to as many needy people as possible.