

## Annual Meeting of the National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network (NCPNN)

**U**nder the auspices of His Excellency Minister of Public Health Dr. Mohammad Jawad Khalife represented by Dr. Walid Ammar, the National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network



(NCPNN) celebrated its tenth anniversary through the Bi-annual Meeting that took place on November 21 and 22, 2008 at Movenpick Hotel-Beirut.

The first day of the conference discussed several topics including the global burden of preterm birth, its causes, and its complications. The effects of genes and environment on health, congenital heart disease, allergy prevention, preconception care, maternal mortality, and neonatal resuscitation were also discussed. The second day focused on initiating a regional network in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and in the presence of physicians from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Palestine, and Yemen. Hoping for a continued support from the Lebanese ministry of public health and a greater coverage of hospitals in Lebanon, the director of the network and the organizer of the meeting, Dr. Khalid Yunis discussed some results for the research started since the inception of the network in collaboration with other investigators in different centers.

The speakers were representatives from the World Health Organization (Geneva, EMRO, and Lebanon), the director of blood disorders at the Center for Disease and Control (CDC), Dr. Hani Atrash, and the vice president for global programs at the March of Dimes, Dr. Christopher Howson from the United States. Health professionals representing different Lebanese, regional, and international institutions also presented.

The NCPNN meeting was attended by representatives for the president of the Lebanese order of physicians, the

president of the Lebanese Pediatrics Society, the president of the Lebanese Society of Gynecology & Obstetrics, NCPNN member hospitals, and other hospitals. The audience included doctors, researchers, epidemiologists, nurses,

midwives, and hospital directors representing different Lebanese institutions. International, regional, and national experts also attended.

### About NCPNN:

The NCPNN was founded in 1998 by Dr. Khalid Yunis along with some colleagues from five major hospitals in greater Beirut area. The NCPNN founding members are Dr. Imad Melki from Hotel Dieu de France, Dr. Yolla Nassif from St Georges Hospital, Dr. Mona Alameh from Sahel General Hospital, Dr. Mohamad Itani from Najjar Hospital, and Dr. Alia Aaraj from Rassoul Aazam Hospital. More hospitals and investigators joined the network across the years to currently include 25 hospitals covering the North, South, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and Beirut with its collaborating center located in the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). It is a multidisciplinary network that aims at improving the health of pregnant mothers and their newborn infants.

Dr. Khalid Yunis is a professor in Pediatrics and the director of newborn services at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). He received his MD from AUB as well as his internship and residency in pediatrics. He also received a pediatric residency from McGill University in Canada and his fellowship in neonatal and perinatal medicine from Brown University in the United States.

For more information on this network, please visit its website: [www.ncpnn.org](http://www.ncpnn.org)