

# AUBMC Celebrates the Dedication of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute

April 24 saw the dedication of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), a state-of-the-art adult cancer facility that provides comprehensive cancer treatment and research.

The Institute was made possible through a generous contribution by the Naef K. Basile Foundation, which was established in 1995, following the death of Dr. Naef Basile, a Lebanese-American obstetrician-gynecologist whose lifelong wish was to give back to his country of birth, through the establishment of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute. He wanted to establish an institute that would compare with the best cancer centers in the world.

The NKBCI is one of several advanced multidisciplinary programs at the Faculty of Medicine and AUBMC. The Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute outpatient unit, whose ground-breaking ceremony was held on May 24, 2004, takes up an entire floor of Building 56. Its inpatient unit is housed on the hospital's eighth floor, which is being remodeled at present and is expected to be completed soon. NKBCI will include a pioneer group with multiple specialties to diagnose and treat cancer and will establish programs on health education for cancer prevention and early diagnosis. Through its partnership with the Naef Basile Foundation, AUBMC will ultimately be able to treat 50 percent of the newly diagnosed cases in Lebanon every year, more than twice its current capacity.

Director of NKBCI Fady Geara, MD, PhD, and radiation oncologist at AUBMC, opened the dedication session with a presentation featuring the history behind the completion of NKBCI. Dr. Geara also praised the late Dr. Naef K. Basile for his vision and perseverance, which led to the establishment of NKBCI. "We pledge the pursuit of his [Naef K. Basile] dreams and professional excellence," Geara said.

Present at the dedication ceremony was AUB President Peter F. Dorman who said that "The motto of the Basile



*A group picture at the entrance of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute*

Cancer Institute - "Where Body, Mind and Spirit Join in the Healing Process" - reflects its mission as a place where doctors will work with patients and their families to fight cancer, one of the most devastating diseases of our time. The men and women associated with the center will also contribute to the worldwide fight against cancer through research, education, and efforts such as the development of a national cancer registry for Lebanon."

Vice President for Medical Affairs and the Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Nadim Cortas thanked the Naef K. Basile Foundation, Dr. Basile's late wife Rebecca, who passed away in 2007, and his daughter Theresa, now president of the foundation, for making this dream a reality.

"Throughout his life, Dr. Basile's generosity supported many worthy causes. While he was on the faculty at Cornell School of Medicine, he teamed up with a circle of friends from Lebanon led by the late Danny Thomas and was one of the founders of the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) which established the famous and prestigious St. Jude's Children Cancer Center. He was the only physician on the founding board. With ALSAC, he gave back to America for what it gave him but he did not stop there," explained Dr. Cortas. "Towards the early 1990s, Dr. Basile wanted to give back to Lebanon for what it had given him in his youth. Driven by his goal and fuelled by his passion, he visited Lebanon and decided that it needed a cancer center," added Dr. Cortas.