

## Highlights of the 42nd Middle East Medical Assembly

The American University of Beirut and the Medical Chapter of the AUB Alumni Association, in joint sponsorship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, held the 42nd Middle East Medical Assembly (MEMA) April 23-26.

The three-day meeting included presentations on the latest advances in neurological and blood diseases, cancer, brain function, women's diseases, hypertension and heart diseases, pediatrics and the impact of modern life on children, pain management, and eye diseases.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a fundraising gala dinner on April 25 to raise money for scholarships for medical students. Another first this year was the fiftieth anniversary reunion of the MD Class of 1959, which was held in the form of a scientific session. On the sidelines

of the MEMA, an exhibition showcasing the latest medical equipment and treatment options was also held.

The MEMA opening ceremony took place on April 23 at 5:30 pm in Assembly Hall, and was well-attended by members of the medical profession as well as officials.

Representing Lebanese President Michel Sleiman and PM Fuad Siniora were ministers Khaled Qabbani and Mohammed Jawad Khalifeh, respectively; while MP Michel Musa represented Speaker Nabih Berri. Speakers at the opening ceremony included AUB President Peter



*Dr. Ibrahim Salti addressing the attendees. Left to right: Drs. Georges Abi-Saad, Fuad Jubran, Georges Aftimos, Peter Dorman, Nadim Cortas and Mr. Ibrahim Khoury*



*President Peter Dorman, HE Dr. Mohammad Khalifeh, VP Nadim Cortas, Mr. Ibrahim Khoury and Dr. Ibrahim Salti cutting the ribbon for the MEMA exhibit*

Dorman, Dr. Georges Aftimos, President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians; Dr. Fuad Jubran from the Cleveland Clinic International Center; Dr. Ibrahim Salti, MEMA Chairperson; Dr. Georges Abi-Saad, President of the Medical Alumni Chapter; and Dr. Nadim Cortas, Vice President for Medical Affairs and the Raja N.

Khuri Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center. Director of Information and Public Relations Ibrahim Khoury emceed the event.

Welcoming participants, Salti lauded MEMA's influence on the advancement of medical knowledge in the Arab world since it was first established in 1951. Since then, "this annual event has become part of AUB's grand tradition... and pioneering role in continuing medical education in the region,"

he said. "Throughout its development, MEMA has promoted the multidisciplinary approach to medical education, while also focusing more and more on specialties and sub-specialties", Salti added.

The scientific program included presentations by 75 speakers of whom 56 were from international medical centers. The presentations were of a very high caliber and provided the latest developments in the various topics that were covered. The number of registered participants was 1375.