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**Speech of the Rector of Antonine University Father Michel Jalakh  
WCPT Evaluation Team Visit  
12 February 2018**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you on the main campus of the Université Antonine, especially at our Department of Physical Therapy.

As you may or may not know, this Department is one of our newest, and it has shown an unsurpassed commitment to quality and continuous improvement that makes us feel very proud. Its success and excellent reputation in the country are measured by the very large number of applicants that want to join the Department. Due to its highly selective policy, this leads to a very competitive admission and a high rejection rate.

Our Department of Physical Therapy is also an active entity in our quality assurance system that has recently received a very valuable recognition by the Swiss Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ). Despite its young age, our University is an accredited one. This proves our ability to align our practices with our mission, vision, regulations, and other policies. Now, our objective is to consolidate our quality assurance system by engaging each and every program at the University in an accreditation process, and the best place to start all this, is our Department of Physical Therapy.

Dear visitors, for the next couple of days, you will have the opportunity to meet our senior staff, faculty, and students, to evaluate the program and we look forward to receive your assessment and recommendations. We already have our own observations especially when it comes to research and clinical sites. We look at them as challenges that we want to tackle, but unfortunately some of them are beyond our capabilities to fix as they are inherent structural problems faced by the entire healthcare system in Lebanon.

These challenges push us forward, and our partnership with WCPT is a proof. Another one is our project to launch a DPT program in our university.

I wish our valuable guests a nice and enriching stay in Lebanon and in the UA, and I wish our team in the Department of Physical Therapy an enriching journey towards accreditation.