
Speech of the Rector of Antonine University Father Michel Jalakh
Scientific Congress and Exhibition 2019
29 March 2019

Honorable Guests,
Dear students and faculty members,
Dear colleagues and friends,

We are glad and proud to welcome you to this edition of SCE. This event has become one of the most notorious in the region, thanks to the efforts of the Faculty of Public Health at Antonine University, and more specifically, to those of our Department of Dental Laboratories Technology.

The World Health Organization's "World Oral Health Report 2003" emphasized that even though great improvements have been achieved in the oral health status of people across the world, problems still persist. The major challenges for the future will be to translate present knowledge and proven experiences of disease prevention and health promotion into concrete programs, benefiting from the improvements in oral health science to the fullest possible extent.

The WHO Oral Health program gives priority to research, thus helping correct the so called 10/90 gap, which relates to the notion that only 10% of funding for global health research is currently allocated to health problems that affect 90% of the world population. Since knowledge is one of the major vehicles for improving the health of the poor particularly, the WHO Oral Health Program focuses on the stimulation of oral health research in the developed and developing world to minimize risk factors and the burden of oral disease, and also to improve oral health systems and to increase the success of community oral health programs. Establishing and supporting research capacity is highly recommended.

In line with this global concern, the main objective of this gathering that takes place every two years is to help developing informative and constructive continuing dental education programs, in order to enhance the performance of dental professionals and oral health care providers in the region.

نفتتح اليوم مؤتمر ومعرض تكنولوجيا مختبرات الأسنان لسنة ٢٠١٩. سيلقي هذا المؤتمر الضوء على أهم الحالات السريرية ويقدم الحلول المتطورة ويتناول أحدث المعلومات في التخصصات المتنوعة المتعلقة بهذه المهنة. لقد تمّ تحضير البرنامج بعناية فائقة من قبل قسم مختبرات الأسنان في كلية الصحة العامة في الجامعة الأنطونية بهدف تلبية احتياجات محترفي الأسنان من أطباء وتقنيين. ويأتي هذا المؤتمر في صلب رسالة الجامعة التي تُعنى بتثقيف طلابها وتطوير مهاراتهم، وتعزيز الاحتراف البحثي الذي يُعنى بشؤون الأوضاع المحلية ولكن القائم على الابتكارات العالمية. ولهذا السبب فإن هذا المؤتمر يجسد رسالة الجامعة الأنطونية وقيمتها، لأنه يستجيب لحاجة محلية وعالمية في الوقت عينه ويوطد الروابط بين البحث والممارسة.

أحييكم جميعاً، وأحيي بنوع خاص الوفود المشاركة من فلسطين والأردن وسوريا والكويت والعراق وإيران والسودان والسعودية والإمارات العربية المتحدة والبحرين واليمن وتونس والمغرب وتركيا وأوروبا وكندا... تعتزُّ الجامعة الأنطونية بحضوركم وتتمنى لكم إقامة ممتعة ومفيدة في لبنان.

Finally, I would like to thank our speakers as well as the organizers, especially Mrs. Maya Nohra, Director of the Dental Laboratory Technology Department, and Mr. Rodny Abdallah, the coordinator of this event, and to wish you all a very successful and fruitful experience.

SCE '19 Congress will outline the most important clinical cases, information and advanced dental solutions in diverse specialties of the Dental Laboratory Technology career. This edition offers a very rich scientific agenda, carefully designed to respond to the needs of Dental Professionals, Dentists, and Dental Technologists.

The Antonine University's mission is to educate responsible and knowledgeable citizens, and to promote a contextualized research-end and innovation-driven professionalism. This is why this congress is a perfect incarnation of our mission and values, since it responds to a local and global need, and it strengthens the bonds between research and practice.