It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. Ramzi Hajjar as Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, subspecialty Geriatrics, in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Hajjar received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in Missouri in 1991 after completing his undergraduate studies at AUB. He went on to pursue a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in geriatric medicine at St. Louis University Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Hospice & Palliative Medicine. Dr. Hajjar additionally is a Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS) and Certified Medical Director (CMD), which acknowledge excellence in comprehensive management of patients in long-term care settings.

After completing his fellowship training in 1997, Dr. Hajjar joined the division of geriatric medicine at the University of South Florida as assistant professor and assumed the role of director of the sub-acute unit at Bay Pines VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg, FL. In 2003, he was promoted to associate professor and recruited back to St. Louis University Medical Center as the medical director of the geriatric clinical program. He established a hospice care unit at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, and under his guidance the unit gained national recognition as a referral center and provided inpatient and outpatient services as well as family support and follow up. Additionally, Dr. Hajjar served as the medical director of two academic long-term care facilities in Missouri, and was a surveyor for the task force enforcing compliance of skilled nursing facilities with state and federal regulations.

Dr. Hajjar has published ten book chapters and over 35 peer-reviewed articles, commentaries, and reviews. Current areas of research and expertise include nutrition in
geriatric rehabilitation, adult failure to thrive, geriatric heart failure and hypertension, vitamin D metabolism and aging, and hypogonadism and testosterone replacement in older males. Dr. Hajjar has served on the editorial board of several professional journals, including Journal of the American Medical Directors Association and Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, and is a highly sought-after national and international speaker. He has also been active in teaching and training of residents and students, and was awarded the St. Louis University School of Medicine award for excellence in clinical instruction in 1999, 2004, and 2006.

When not practicing geriatric medicine, Dr. Hajjar has advocated, staffed and even funded free volunteer clinics, and in 2008 was granted the humanitarian of the year award by the St. Louis University outreach program for ongoing volunteer work done with refugees and displaced persons locally and internationally. To date, over 1200 persons have been treated for preventable or curable conditions.

Dr. Hajjar is a strong advocate for primary and preventive care; the common and recurring theme in his diverse interests is preserving functional integrity in the elderly, rather than addressing the disease process in isolation. Over the past three years, and during his visits to Lebanon, Dr. Hajjar created a virtual organization aimed at disseminating evidence-based standards of care for geriatrics in Lebanon and promoting public and professional awareness to the needs of the elderly in Lebanon. With this perspective, Dr. Hajjar will be charged with creating a new academic service unit for geriatrics at AUBMC whose mission will be to organize the specialized clinical care of the elderly, teach medical students, train of the Department’s residents in the specialty of geriatrics (an ACGME requirement for graduation in Internal Medicine), and to engage in clinical research in gerontology and geriatrics.

Dr. Hajjar will be seeing patients in his private clinic and OPD. He can be reached at his office C-814 (extension 5304), in clinic (extension 5800), at beeper # 0425, and by e-mail: rh110@aub.edu.lb.

Dr. Hajjar will no doubt fill an obvious void that currently exists at AUBMC and perhaps in the country at large. So please join me in welcoming Dr. Ramzi Hajjar to the academic ranks of the Department.

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