

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 30, 2016

Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance

[www.erdheim-chester.org](http://www.erdheim-chester.org)

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**The Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance Welcomes Lebanese ECD Care Center**

*The American University of Beirut Medical Center joins rapidly growing Erdheim-Chester Disease care system*

Beirut, Lebanon, March 30, 2016

The American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon is the latest addition to the Erdheim-Chester Disease Care Center network. In March, Ali Bazarbachi MD, PhD was identified as the lead physician of the newest Emerging ECD Care Center.

As an Emerging Care Center, the institution has treated less than five patients but, is committed to treating sufferers of the ultra-rare neoplastic disease. The medical center will also stay abreast of the rapidly improving treatments for this difficult condition. The existence of the Care Center network facilitates international medical collaborations and sharing of knowledge, resulting in improved patient outcomes.

AUBMC is the first ECD Care Center in Lebanon. It is one of three centers in the Middle East including, Chaim Sheba Medical Center and Shaare-Zedek Medical Center in Israel.

The rapidly expanding care network has increased from 18 to 23, a 23% growth, in only 3 months' time.

The Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance, a patient advocacy group dedicated to raising awareness of ECD, is extremely pleased to welcome AUBMC into the ECD Care Center Network.

Jessica Corkran, ECDGA Communications Director stated,

**“The work of the ECD community, including patients and medical professionals, is paying off in the establishment of ECD Care Centers around the world. This helps all ECD patients and researchers as it paves the way for more clinical trials and allows sharing of information quickly between centers. We are very happy to have AUBMC join the network.”**

Through annual symposia, patient and family gatherings, ECD-patient involved clinical trials, and funding ECD-related research, the organization has meticulously cultivated a close-knit, collaborative, and patient-centered community. This has helped bring about advances in ECD research, placing the field at the forefront of precision medicine.

Discover all twenty-three [ECD Care Centers](http://www.erdheim-chester.org/care-centers) at [www.erdheim-chester.org/care-centers](http://www.erdheim-chester.org/care-centers).

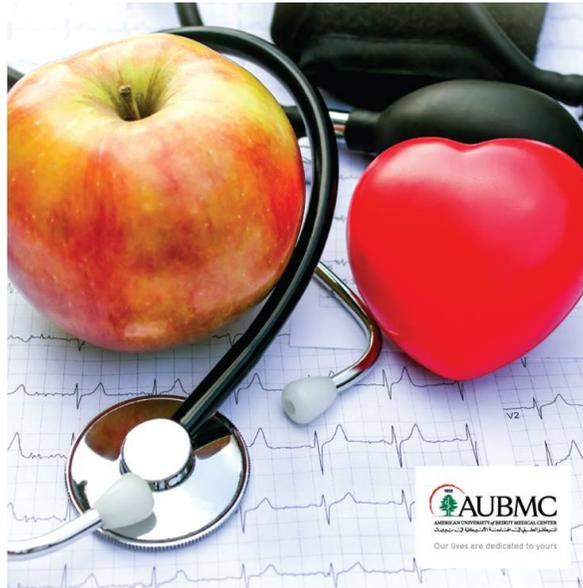


Photo Source: American University of Beirut Medical Center – AUBMC Facebook page

[Erdheim-Chester Disease](#) is an ultra-rare condition with no known cause.

It is a rare [non-Langerhans histiocytic disorder](#) that is challenging to diagnose and treat. It is often described as an inflammatory myeloid neoplastic disease.

The accumulation of histiocytes in tissue and organs characterizes ECD. Histiocytes are cells that normally fight infections. The infiltration of the histiocytes causes tissue and organs to become dense and fibrotic, leading to organ failure unless a successful treatment is found.

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The [ECD Global Alliance](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to awareness, support, education, and research related to Erdheim-Chester Disease.

To donate, please send a check to ECD Global Alliance, P.O. Box 775, DeRidder, LA 70634. Make an online donation at the ECD Global Alliance [Razoo site](#). Thank you for your support!