





National Pharmacovigilance System Launching Event

**The Ministry of Public
Health,
The National
Pharmacovigilance
Program,
The Quality Assurance
of Pharmaceutical
Products Department**



 Mövenpick Hotel , Beirut
 September 14, 2022

officially launched the

**National
Pharmacovigilance
System in Lebanon**

Under the patronage and presence of his excellency the Minister of Public Health Dr. Firass Al-Abiad.

The event was attended by key officials from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Lebanese University, World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, École Supérieure des Affaires (ESA), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Public Health Programs representatives, Country Directors of MoPH partners, and various representatives of the Lebanese pharmaceutical companies (LPG) and academic community.



“The launching of this program is a milestone in the Lebanese drug policy, as it lays the foundations that will lift the Lebanese health system to international levels.”

Dr. Firass Al-Abiad, Minister of Public Health - Lebanon



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Speakers

Dr. Abeer Zeitoun
Clinical and Technical
Manager-PV Program



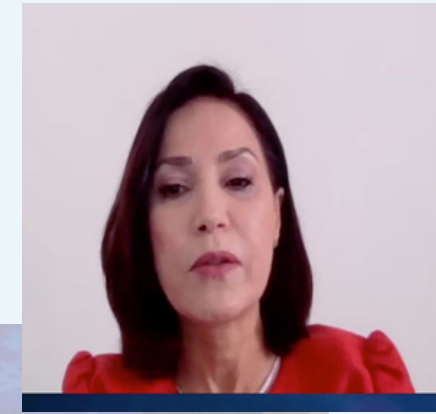
Pr. Bassam Badran
President of the
Lebanese University



Dr. Abdinasir Abubakar
WHO Representative-
Lebanon



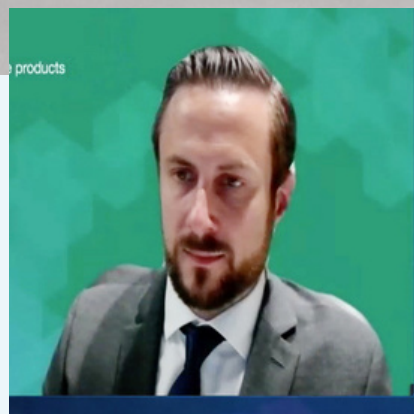
Dr. Houda Langar
WHO-EMRO-Regional
Advisor-Egypt



**Dr. Ronald Eduardo
Gomez-Suarez** Senior
Health Economist World
Bank Representative -
Beirut



Dr. Phil Treguno
MHRA - UK



Dr. Shanthi Pal Narayan
WHO Headquarters
Representative-
Switzerland

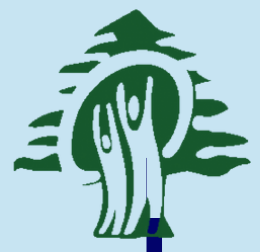


Dr. Firass Al-Abiad
Minister of Public
Health-Lebanon



Many of the program's work, especially those related to the management of the adverse events resulting from the COVID-19 vaccine, have been adopted as a reference in several neighboring countries.

Pr. Rita Karam
National Pharmacovigilance System Coordinator



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The event was initiated and welcome remarks delivered by the Director of the Quality Assurance of Pharmaceutical Products Programs and the National Pharmacovigilance System Coordinator Pr. Rita Karam, who introduced the Lebanese PV System with a promotional video. She further outlined the roadmap to the system's success, and acquainted the audience with the achievements of the program despite the unfortunate work conditions that the country has been facing.

The Program's Clinical and Technical Manager Dr. Abeer Zeitoun then presented the reporting tools available for patients and healthcare professionals to report adverse events through. Among others, she announced the launching of the MedSafety App as an easily-accessible tool to deliver trusted information regarding risks of drugs experienced by the public.



While each and every speaker tackled the event's subject in the context of their own area of specialty, all speeches remarkably converged back to highlight the major achievements of the program in Lebanon. All commended and congratulated the PV team as well as all PV stakeholders for this great milestone.

In admiration of the Program's efforts that brought the system to light, all speakers finally pledged to continue to support the country in the implementation of the newly-launched PV System and other PV activities, and awards were distributed to the PV team officials as a token of gratitude for their efforts.

The event was concluded by Dr. Al-Abiad's recommendation calling out the crucial role that healthcare professionals play in reporting and flagging patient safety issues, including reporting through the Lebanese PV center.

In a final note, Pr. Karam expressed her appreciation for all supporting entities, both global and local, that helped bringing the program to life.