

**Speech of Rev. Fr. Talal Hachem**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual MMC of USEK & NDSUH**  
**November 29, 2024**

**Good afternoon, distinguished guests, participants, students, ...**

- I am truly happy to be welcoming you all today to the USEK School of Medicine and to our *Notre Dame des Secours University Hospital* for this “**unique**” medical congress, bringing together people from different parts of the world, and spanning various medical fields and disciplines.

**So, why is this conference “unique”?**

- Well, when I first received the detailed program from the organizers, I read it... and smiled. I thought to myself, this is exactly what is needed in all major fields of study today: the variety of topics, the diversity of perspectives, and the range of concepts... they all nurture a multidisciplinary approach that is key in addressing the challenges our society faces.
- And when it comes to healthcare, *though I am not a medical doctor*, I believe that by breaking down complex issues into different sectors or disciplines and approaching them from multiple angles, we can achieve more comprehensive and holistic results.
- What adds to the uniqueness of this congress is that the USEK School of Medicine and Notre Dame University Hospital share not only physical proximity (*as you could see*) but also a deep, synergistic and harmonious connection.
- With **aligned** visions and strategic directions, we form a unified, living entity where **education, research, and patient care** coexist and complement each other in **profound** ways.

- At this point, I cannot but stress the fact that USEK's strategic plan reflects this alignment, ensuring that our 1) educational objectives, 2) research goals, and 3) clinical practices are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.
- Looking ahead, our ambition is clear: We aim to establish the USEK School of Medicine and our University Hospital as a center of excellence in education, research, and patient care to become one of the pioneering medical institutions in the region.
- And here, I must express my sincere gratitude to all those who have been working so hard to achieve this vision:
  - o The Director General of the Hospital, Mr. Elias Abou Fadel
  - o And the Dean of our School of Medicine, Dr. Pierre Edde
    - Thank you for your dedication and your wisdom in dealing with the hospital and the Med school matters.
- And our congress today is also another clear indication of our collective determination and hard work to fulfill our vision. That's why I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success.
- The list of those involved is long, *I cannot name you all*, but I would like to especially mention the members of the organizing committee, chaired by Dr. Elissar Dagher. I know that each one of you has dedicated time, energy, and passion to make this conference a reality. Thank you all, and keep in mind that we are all counting on you to continue your exceptional work and to help make the world a better place.
- Once again, thank you all for being here and for your invaluable contributions to this event. We are looking forward to the results of this congress and to the fruitful collaborations that will emerge from your time together.

Thank you.