SPOTLIGHT

A call to launch an International Society on Health & Armed Conflict

**Beirut, Lebanon:** The Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut hosted an international meeting, 12-13 June 2018, to discuss the changing demands on research, policy development and practice in relation to the changing realities of wars & armed conflicts, review progress and examine the current state of the field, and agree on a way forward to advance research and action on health and armed conflicts. The meeting built on the work of, and was organized by, The Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria. It brought together local, regional and international experts for two days of rich discussions, sharing of insights and experiences, and critical review.

Recognizing important progress but vast unmet needs, participants committed to advance
the ‘field’ of health and armed conflict and agreed to launch an ‘International Society on Health and Armed Conflict.’

Call for Participants from the Global South:
Second Expert Strategic Planning Meeting on Health and Armed Conflict

Plans are underway to convene a follow up meeting focusing on experts and institutions from the Global South. We are seeking to engage leading researchers, practitioners, and advocates in the field of health and armed conflict. The objectives are to advance the dialogue started in June, learn from challenges faced and successes achieved, and flesh out plans towards the Society, all from the perspective of the Global South.

Are you an academic, a humanitarian, an advocate, or a practitioner from the Global South working in the field of health and armed conflicts?
COMMISSION IN DIALOGUE

Doctors in War Zones

Geneva, Switzerland: On June 7-8, Commission Co-Chair Samer Jabbour, Commissioners Francesco Checchi and Annie Sparrow, and Commission Fellow Marian Abouzeid participated in the 'Doctors in War Zones: International Policy and Healthcare during Armed Conflict,' a retreat organised by the International Peace Institute and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Checchi gave a presentation on governance and accountability in humanitarian healthcare. The event explored issues of attacks on health care, challenges of delivering health care in armed conflict and ways in which health governance frameworks and accountability mechanisms can best ensure adequate health and humanitarian services for the most vulnerable.

8th Annual International Conference of the Syrian American Medical Society
Istanbul, Turkey: On 28-30 June, Commission Co-Chair Jennifer Leaning and Commission researcher Ammar Sabbouni joined Commissioner and SAMS president Ahmad Tarakji and many other colleagues at the 8th Annual International Conference of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), 'Challenges of delivering medical relief in a protracted conflict'. Convened in Istanbul, Turkey, for the second year in a row, the conference brought together physicians, humanitarians, thought leaders and health care practitioners from inside Syria who shared their experiences on the front lines of providing medical care in a crisis setting. Tarakji and Leaning co-chaired a session on 'International NGO's response to the crisis.'

**Workshop on 'Political violence in Syria' at Utrecht University**

Utrecht, The Netherlands: Commission Co-Chair Samer Jabbour participated in a workshop on 'Political violence in Syria: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,' organized by the Department of History, Utrecht University 13-14 September 2018. The workshop brought together a multi-disciplinary group of researchers with the aim of bringing "together approaches that include pre-existing structural conditions as well as contemporary empirical studies that examine the causes, courses, and consequences of such large-scale..."
violence in present-day Syria." Jabbour gave a presentation on 'Violence against healthcare in Syria: Patterns, meanings, implications', where he shared the Commission’s research and advocacy work in this area.

8th ACCESS Arab Health Summit

**Washington DC, USA:** The Commission organized a panel on 'Health and armed conflict in the Arab world: Perspectives from the Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria' during the 8th ACCESS Arab Health Summit, held in Washington, DC, 16-19 September 2018. Commission Co-Chair Iman Nuwayhid moderated the panel and spoke about mobilizing academic institutional response to armed conflict. Commission Co-Chair Samer Jabbour gave a broad overview of the work of the Commission while Commissioner Fouad M. Fouad presented the work of the Commission on weaponization of healthcare in Syria.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Marian Abouzeid (pictured center) as the Associate Project Lead of *The Lancet*-AUB Commission on Syria. Marian, of the Center for Humanitarian Leadership (A Deakin University - Save the Children Australia partnership), has been with the Commission since 2017 as a Visiting Research Fellow. In this time she has helped shape the research agenda of the Commission and contributed to a range of research and advocacy initiatives, and is spearheading efforts toward launching the aforementioned International Society on Health and Armed Conflict. She assumes this new role at a critical juncture, as the Commission prepares to issue its report and transition into its next phase. We look forward to working with Marian in this new role.

Iman Nuwayhid and Samer Jabbour
Commission Co-Chairs

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

In November, the Commission is participating in two global health conferences and organising a panel at each. The presentations will emanate from the Commission's various research streams.

If you are going to either conference, please join us. Check in with us on twitter @lcs_aub as we share our latest updates from the two conferences.

**Annual Meeting of the American Public Health**
Association

San Diego, US: On 12th November, the American Public Health Association's Peace Caucus is hosting a panel titled 'Health and armed conflict: Perspectives from the Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria' which will present institutional, Commission and global perspectives on the challenges of health and armed conflict.

Over the course of the meeting, the Commission team will be dropping in at the exhibition booth of the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut (Booth # 945, Exhibit Hall, San Diego Convention Center). Please visit us there!

European Public Health Conference

Ljubljana, Slovenia: On 01 December, the Commission is organizing a Round table on 'Health and the war in Syria: New responsibilities and opportunities for global health.' In addition to presenting some of the work published thus far, the Commission intends to use this opportunity to call for stronger engagement to address the consequences of the armed conflict in Syria and elsewhere.

If you are heading to the Conference, please join us at this event.
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We welcome your feedback. To get in touch:

- Write us on lcs-info@aub.edu.lb
- Visit the Commission team when you are in Beirut

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- International Development Research Center
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