ICD Section X
Report on the 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award
October 27, 2026| American University of Beirut, Lebanon

The International College of Dentists (ICD), Middle East Section (Section X), was honored as the recipient of the 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award at a ceremony organized by the Pioneers in Dentistry (PID) Committee of the Department of Dentofacial Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut (AUB). Held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, in the Daniel ACC Multipurpose Room at AUB Medical Center, the event recognized the ICD Middle East Section for pioneering the appreciation of leaders in clinical and academic dentistry in Lebanon and the Middle East.

The award ceremony was followed by a scientific symposium entitled "Recognizing Service, and the Opportunity to Serve," highlighting the longstanding contribution of the ICD to dental education, professional standards, leadership, and service, as well as the role of universities in organized dentistry.

Distinguished Guests and Attendees

The opening session was moderated by ICD Section X Registrar Dr. Anthony Macari. Following the Lebanese National Anthem and the AUB Alma Mater, Dr. Anthony Macari, in his capacity as a member of the PID committee, welcomed the distinguished attendees including AUB President, Dr. Fadlo Khuri; AUB Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Raymond Sawaya; President of the Lebanese Dental Association, Dr. Ziad Zeidan; President of the Lebanese Dental Association-Tripoli, Dr. Miled Dib; Dean of Beirut Arab University, Dr. Magued Fahmy; Dr. Ziad Salameh, representing Dr. Antoine Berberi, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Lebanese University; Dr. Nada Chedid, representing Dr. Nada Farhat Mchayleh, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at Saint Joseph University; and ICD Middle East Section President, Dr. Philippe Souhaid. Also welcomed were other distinguished deans and representatives, colleagues from the dental associations and the ICD, guests, faculty, and students.

Pioneers in Dentistry Award Ceremony

Dr. Macari introduced the International College of Dentists to the audience. In his introductory remarks, he recalled the Middle East Region's 1966 petition for autonomous status and highlighted the Section's contributions to dental education, ethical standards, professional collaboration, humanitarian service, and community engagement. Dr. Joseph Ghafari, head of the PID committee and Chairman of the Department of Dentofacial Medicine, then delivered a presentation entitled "International College of Dentists: Introducing Dental Education in Lebanon and the Near East," tracing the College's role in the development of dental education in the region.

The 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award was presented to ICD Middle East Section President, Dr. Philippe Souhaid, on behalf of Section X by the PID Committee, together with AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri and Vice President and Dean Dr. Raymond Sawaya. The award recognized the Section's pioneering contribution to appreciating leaders in clinical and academic dentistry in Lebanon and the Middle East.

A separate award for sustained “recognized service” was presented to ICD Councilor Dr. Cedric Haddad by the PID Committee, together with AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri and Vice President and Dean Dr. Raymond Sawaya, in recognition of his longstanding dedication and service.



Dr. Anthony Macari, Registrar of ICD Section X (Middle East), addressing the audience and providing an overview of the International College of Dentists, its history, mission, and contributions to the advancement of dentistry in Lebanon and the Middle East.



Dr. Joseph Ghafari, Chair of the Department of Dentofacial Medicine at AUB and Chair of the PID Committee, addressing the audience and highlighting the ICD Middle East Section’s contributions to dental education and the advancement of dentistry in the region.



Presentation of the Pioneers in Dentistry Award to Dr. Philippe Souhaid, President of ICD Section X (Middle East), by AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri, AUB Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Raymond Sawaya, and Chair of the PID Committee Dr. Joseph Ghafari.



Presentation of the Recognition and Service Award to Dr. Cedric Haddad in appreciation of his longstanding and distinguished service to the International College of Dentists as a Fellow, Past President, and Councilor, by AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri, AUB Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Raymond Sawaya, and Chair of the PID) Committee Dr. Joseph Ghafari.



Group photograph of the current Board members and Past Presidents of the International College of Dentists (ICD) Middle East Section, alongside ICD Section President Dr. Philippe Souhaid, AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri, and AUB Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Raymond Sawaya during the 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award ceremony.

Addresses by ICD Leadership

Following the award presentations, President Philippe Souhaid addressed the gathering on behalf of the Fellows of the International College of Dentists (ICD) Middle East Section, expressing his sincere gratitude to the American University of Beirut and the PID Committee for selecting the Section as the recipient of the 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award. He emphasized that this prestigious recognition was a tribute to the collective achievements of generations of ICD Fellows and their longstanding dedication to dental education, public health, professional ethics, and humanitarian service throughout Lebanon and the Middle East.

President Souhaid recalled his early involvement in dental public health at AUB and expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved by the Department of Dentofacial Medicine despite past challenges.



Dr. Philippe Souhaid, President of ICD Section X, addressing the audience and expressing his appreciation to the PID Committee for selecting the ICD Middle East Section as the recipient of the 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award.

President Souhaid then highlighted the ICD Middle East Section's decades of contributions to advancing dental education, promoting ethical standards, supporting professional development, and engaging in humanitarian and community service initiatives. While acknowledging these accomplishments, he stressed that significant challenges remain, particularly regarding the quality and coordination of dental education, the evolving needs of the profession, and the limited access of underserved populations to preventive and essential oral healthcare services.

Looking toward the future, he announced his intention, before the conclusion of his presidential term, to convene ICD Fellows, Past Presidents, elected leaders, and officers to initiate a constructive dialogue on the future of dental education and oral healthcare in Lebanon and the wider Middle East. This initiative would aim to develop practical recommendations for strengthening the dental profession, improving collaboration, and promoting a more accessible, prevention-oriented oral healthcare system.

President Souhaid also paid special tribute to Drs. Joseph Ghafari, Anthony Macari, and Ramzi Haddad for their dedication, leadership, and sustained contributions to the ICD and the advancement of dentistry in the region. He particularly acknowledged Dr. Ghafari's commitment to shaping the

professional dental community, emphasizing that these colleagues also deserved recognition as pioneers in dentistry.

In closing, President Souhaid reaffirmed that true leadership in dentistry extends beyond academic and professional achievements to encompass meaningful contributions to education, colleagues, and the well-being of the communities served. He encouraged ICD Fellows to regard the award not merely as recognition of past accomplishments, but as a renewed responsibility to continue serving, innovating, and shaping a stronger future for dentistry in Lebanon and the Middle East.



Dr. Cedric Haddad, Councilor of ICD Section X, expressing his gratitude to the PID Committee for the recognition and sharing key milestones in the history and development of the ICD and its contributions to dentistry in the region.

Councilor Dr. Cedric Haddad then delivered a presentation highlighting the history and key milestones of the ICD and its significant contributions to raising standards of dentistry in Lebanon and the Middle East. He emphasized the College's longstanding commitment to professional excellence, ethical practice, dental education, and humanitarian service. He also reviewed the ICD's community outreach initiatives and its awards recognizing academic, research, and clinical excellence among undergraduate and postgraduate dental students. His address underscored the ICD's enduring commitment to advancing the profession and serving the community throughout the region.

Scientific Symposium: Universities and Organized Dentistry

The second session, also moderated by Registrar Dr. Anthony Macari, explored the role and impact of universities in organized dentistry. Presentations were delivered by Dr. Nada Chedid (Saint Joseph University), Dr. Ahmad Tarabay (Beirut Arab University), Dr. Ziad Salameh (Lebanese University), and Dr. Ramzi Haddad (American University of Beirut). The program concluded with a panel discussion involving the speakers and closing remarks by Dr. Joseph Ghafari.

The symposium brought together perspectives from four leading Lebanese universities, emphasizing the relationship between academic institutions, professional organizations, and the development of dentistry. The educational program offered three ADA CERP continuing education credits through AUB Medical Center, an ADA CERP-recognized provider.



Panel discussion featuring ICD Fellows Dr. Nada Chedid, Dr. Ziad Salameh, and Dr. Ahmad Tarabay, alongside ICD Section X Vice President Dr. Ramzi Haddad, highlighting the role and impact of universities in organized dentistry and the advancement of the dental profession.

Participation and Significance

The event gathered ICD Fellows, dental educators, academic leaders, leaders of professional associations, faculty, students, and invited guests. Their participation underscored the strong ties among the ICD, AUB, the Lebanese dental associations, and dental faculties across Lebanon.

The 2026 Pioneers in Dentistry Award represents a significant distinction for ICD Section X and recognition of its contribution to the profession in Lebanon and the Middle East. The occasion also reaffirmed the shared values of the ICD and academic dentistry: leadership, excellence, collegiality, and a sustained commitment to serving others.

Anthony T. Macari
Registrar
ICD- Section X