



Address of Rev. Fr. Prof. George Hobeika
Launching of the Primispot Project in collaboration with UK
Lebanon Tech Hub and UCB Lyon I University

November 13, 2017

Distinguished Audience,

It is my immense pleasure to be hosting you here today at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik to officially launch this promising and first of its kind Primispot Project that is implemented, as previously mentioned, in collaboration with UCB Lyon I and with the support of UK Lebanon Tech Hub. I am extremely happy to have you all here!

It is not by chance that the launching of this pioneering initiative, which would contribute to the early detection of breast cancer through saliva, is timed today to coincide within the timeframe of the national breast cancer awareness campaign in Lebanon. As a matter of fact, this project is meant to delve into a major concern in our society today; it aims to find answers, to highlight needed actions, and above all

to ease worried minds and tell them “YES, it can be prevented” and as it is said “it is always better to prevent than cure”.

This Primispot project is important for more than a reason:

First, it sheds light on a major health problem, provides insights on how to disentangle the enigmatic webs of a disease that sometimes would develop uncontrollably, and promises to underpin some preventive measures that would lessen the amount of pain in humanity. Obviously, Primispot does not promise to come up with “the solution”, however, it would set the ground for early detection of breast cancer, and who knows, might also pave the way for even more thorough research in order to reach a significant change in approaching breast cancer or other diseases.

Second, Primispot adopts an interdisciplinary approach gathering researchers from various fields of science at USEK and UCB Lyon I; researchers who, through this work, consolidate even more the long-term and fruitful cooperation between our two universities.

Another important added value of this project is the involvement of our students in its implementation. Our students are considered not only knowledge receivers but rather major partners and actors in our learning community.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank UK Lebanon Tech Hub, represented today by H.E. Mr. Marwan Kheireddine who is an active member of our Board of Trustees,

I would like to thank you for believing in this project and supporting it: Through your support to such research, you are helping academia to create a more “aware” society and to make momentous headway in building a healthier future. A word of thanks goes also to our partners from UCB Lyon I: Thank you for embarking with us on this research experience that would lead us to new spaces of optimism, hope, and hopefully better health. Finally, I would like to commend the efforts of our Faculty of Science led by its Dean, Dr. Walid Hleihel; I must say our Faculty of Science continues to highlight USEK tradition of excellence through its various activities such as this Primispot project.

Distinguished audience, this research might be a simple drop of water in an ocean of knowledge, information and technology, but once accomplished, I am positive it would create an enormous wave.

Thank you!