EDITORIAL

Whenever I travel to an Arab country, I find myself looking for Mashrabiyas and taking photos of them: This one to the left is from Tunisia. Ancient as they are, these Mashrabiyas continue to epitomize the fabled mystery of the Orient. Is it their aesthetic magnificence mixed with cultural heritage and technical use? Or is it the secrets that they hide from one side or the filters they offer from the other? We at the SHBPP are advocates of the fact that, as finite and fragile human beings, we all have a private world, which sometimes needs to be probed for better patient centered care, and an external world which at times, needs to be refurbished, remolded or even scrutinized more objectively to understand what the other is going through. Just like the fine work of the Mashrabiya, constrained by the difficulties of the art itself, necessitates enormous effort and patience, patient-centered care is a fine art, done with determination, patience and stanchness. At the end of the day, every one of us, even the most influential or the most popular person in the world, will want to recline into his/her secret abode, behind the shade and open lattice of the Mashrabiya. Mashrabiyas are the guardians of secrets, hopes and dreams. They filter in what is needed and leave outside what needs to be ignored. They have their eyes on the world yet close their eyelids when they need to. Bioethics in all its branches is a Mashrabiya, continuously evolving into new patterns.

Thalia Arawi, PhD
Founding Director, SHBPP

SHBPP is an interdisciplinary resource for faculty, students, healthcare providers and policy makers who are involved in bioethics education, research, and consultation in Lebanon and the region. Launched in April 2010, it is the first targeted initiative in the Arab World that seeks to educate, research, and champion issues related to professionalism, medical humanism and bioethics.
SHBPP AND PATIENT CARE

Ethics Consultations
In its constant commitment to provide the highest standards of patient care, the SHBPP has continued to offer **bedside clinical ethics consultations** at AUBMC, as requested by patients, family members, and/or members of the healthcare team. The continued increase in such requests, and in the number of requesting departments in 2017, reflects the increased awareness of the relevance and the need for such consultations as well as the importance of shared decision making in healthcare.

In addition, SHBPP has been involved in more **organ transplant consultations**, by conducting ethics assessments for recipients and donors involved in organ transplants on an individual basis with the AUBMC Clinical Bioethicist. This process discusses ethical concerns related to selection, voluntariness, informed consent, disclosure of benefits and risks to the potential donor, the potential recipient, etc. The heroes of the transplant equation, both donor and recipient, are always grateful that AUBMC continuously takes care of the little details to ensure all is well. For many who have been at other hospitals before, the experience was the distinguishing feature of AUBMC. Between 2013 and 2017, 47 kidney transplant and 3 liver transplant ethics consultations were conducted.

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SHBPP ACTIVITIES

Workshops and Conferences
Ever since its launch, SHBPP has been actively involved in the dissemination of a culture of bioethics and humanism in medicine, both in Lebanon and the region. To date, 36 conferences and workshops have been held. In 2017, the SHBPP organized two training workshops for residents at AUBMC and 1 training session for school teachers and directors at the International College (IC).

- 7th workshop “Disclosing Adverse Outcomes and Errors: Training for Residents” (January 2, 2017)
- 8th workshop “Disclosing Adverse Outcomes and Errors: Training for Residents” (January 5, 2017)
- “It is not that Hidden After All” by Dr. Thalia Arawi and Ms. Wadad El Hoss at the International College (IC), Ras Beirut Middle School (December 6, 2017)

It is worth noting that only a few days after the training workshops for residents were held, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) announced that disclosure of errors training is mandatory for all residents.
Ethics Matters Lecture Series and Grand Rounds

The Ethics Matters (EM) Lecture Series is an initiative that aims to:
• Raise general awareness to the importance and relevance of ethical issues in health care within AUB community, the Faculty of Medicine, the Medical Center, as well as professionals and institutions in the region.
• Provide opportunities to stay abreast of new developments in bioethics.
• Develop the educational program in bioethics at the Faculty of Medicine.

To date, SHBPP has held 59 EM lectures, 6 of which were held in 2017.

• “Moral Distress: Should I Speak Up?”
  by Dr. Haavi Morreim in the Ismail Khalil Auditorium, AUBMC (January 3, 2017)
• “End of Life Concerns”
  by Dr. Thalia Arawi, at the International College, Ras Beirut (March 2, 2017)
• “When I thought that Manale Healed me, she tells me that I healed her...”
  by Mr. Anas Al-Braehe in the Ismail Khalil Auditorium (March 23, 2017)
• “Impact of Curricular Changes on Competition in Medical School: A Cross – Sectional Comparative Study”
  given by Dr. Khalil Chahine in the Medical Dean’s Conference Room as part of his PPS-3 project presented to the PRIME and MEC (May 11, 2017)
• “Lebanese Code of Ethics on Drug Promotion”
  by Dr. Rasha Hamra at the Ismail Khalil Auditorium, AUBMC (October 5, 2017)
• “The Role of Physicians When Suspecting Domestic Violence”
  by Dr. Brigitte Khoury and Dr. Jinan Usta at the Ismail Khalil Auditorium, AUBMC (December 4, 2017)
HUMANISM AND PROFESSIONALISM

Humanism Award
The AUBFM-SHBPP Humanism and Professionalism Award was launched in 2011 with the first recipients in 2012 being Dr. Nabil Sharara from Family Medicine and Dr. Hussein Darwish from the Neurosurgery Division. This prestigious award honors qualities of compassionate care and selfless dedication to excellence and is granted to a physician and a resident who exemplify the humane and professional aspects of medicine. In 2017 Dr. Arafat Teyyli, Professor of Clinical Specialty in the Department of Internal Medicine at AUBMC, received the physician award and Dr. Firas Kreidieh, second year resident in the Department of Internal Medicine, received the resident award. Congratulations!

EDUCATION

BROWnies activities:
BROWnies, AUBMC’s Bioethics Rounds On the Wards, were first launched on March 3, 2016 in a collaboration between SHBPP and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The aim of this activity is to present as a platform for inter-professional team discussion, with attending physicians, residents, interns, nurses, 4th year medical students, and AUBMC clinical bioethicist convening to discuss real patient cases. These discussions serve as a basis for reflection, dialogue and deliberation about moral problems, values, concerns, etc., and also provide participants with a safe forum to clarify and expose critical issues faced in patient care and come up with recommendations.

In 2017, three BROWnies activities were held, among which was the first BROWnies activity with the Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) dedicated especially for the nurses on November 24, 2017. The activity was met with positive feedback and enthusiastic recommendations for additional activities as they help shed light on critical issues that nurses are facing on the wards most of which remain unaddressed up till now.
Sixth SHBPP - PICU BROWnies Activity

Seventh SHBPP - PICU BROWnies Activity

The First SHBPP-HSON BROWnies Activity
Mock Medical Center Ethics Committee (MCEC)
As part of the “Bioethics and Patient Care” module in the Physicians, Patients, and Society II course, each group of second year medical students engaged in a mock MCEC session whereby they discussed patient cases from different perspectives assuming the roles of various members of the committee and came up with recommendations accordingly.
The SHBPP-SANAD Volunteer Program

The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program - AUBFM & AUBMC and SANAD, the Home Hospice Organization of Lebanon, continue to join forces for the second year and a new cycle. First introduced in 2015 in an effort to bridge the gap between theory and practice even further by providing second-year medical students at the AUBFM an opportunity to volunteer with SANAD in meeting the social, emotional, spiritual, and practical needs of individuals and families living with a life-threatening illness through working with terminally ill patients and their families at their homes, under the full supervision of SANAD’s medical team.

On December 7, 2017 SHBPP and SANAD held an orientation session for new volunteers at the Issam Fares Auditorium. This included the vision and plan for the upcoming year as well as the objectives of this collaborative effort which allows medical students to appreciate the importance of understanding the psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual particularities of the patient for providing better care.

Medical students understood first hand that medicine is as much an art as it is a science and appreciated being compassionate healers.

Three amazing volunteers from previous years shared their inspiring experience with the attendees. Inspired by these testimonies more medical students applied to join this volunteering activity.

Thank you very much Mrs. Lubna Izzidine and the SANAD team for this wonderful collaboration.

Thank you to all of our pioneer volunteers and of course, chapeau-bas to Hiba Ghandour, Alaa Ousta, Rozana Eid and Sera Chamseddine for shared their inspiring testimonies.

Looking forward to another wonderful year!

Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research in the Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) summer certificate program (June - July 2017)

The Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) launched its summer certificate program for the fifth time on June 12, 2017. One of the required courses in the program is the “Introduction to Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research” which is coordinated by Dr. Thalia Arawi. The course includes lectures given by Dr. Mona Naboulsi, Dr. Rami Mahfouz, Dr. Ghada Haj Fuleihan and Ms. May Al-Kassar covering a wide array of aspects of research ethics such as the history of ethical principles, the development of research codes of conduct and ethical practices and includes various ethical issues. This is in addition to the talks given by invited speakers Dr. Fadia Homeidan, Director of the Office of Grants & Contracts at AUB, Dr. Abdo Jurjus, Professor at the Department of Physiology, and Mrs. Laura Dosh, IACUC Officer. Students also had a field visit to the animal care facility at the faculty of Medicine after which they discussed matters related to ethics and research on animals.

Congratulations to the graduates of 2017!
Integrated Lectures and Grand Rounds

Ambiguous Genitalia session for Med II students

As part of the med II medical curriculum, an integrated lecture was held on the topic of Ambiguous Genitalia from medical, psychological, legal, ethics, etc. perspectives with Drs. Mona Nasrallah (Coordinator), Hala Tfaily, Leila Dirani and Thalia Arawi. The lecture was followed by interesting and thorough deliberations.

“Diagnostic Radiology’s Unspoken Qualms”

Dr. Thalia Arawi gave an interactive talk on ethics in radiology under the title “Diagnostic Radiology’s Unspoken Qualms” as part of the AUBMC’s Radiology Department daily morning lectures. The talk took place on Monday, the 3rd of July, 2017 at the Garden Offices. The talk was attended by residents and physicians and was followed with interesting questions and deliberations.

The “The Healing Symphony”

Dr. Thalia Arawi gave an interactive talk on ethics in Family Medicine under the title “The Healing Symphony” as part of the AUBMC’s Family Medicine Departmental town meetings. The talk took place on Wednesday, the 27th of September, 2017. The talk was attended by residents and physicians.
SHBPP residents’ orientation session
Dr. Thalia Arawi addressed new residents at AUBMC during the Residents Orientation session which took place on June 5, 2017 in a lecture entitled “The days are long, but the years are short: Respice Finem”. The lecture highlighted the significance of mortality, compassion, and trying to make a difference in the lives of others both in one’s personal life and practice. At the end of the session, residents were asked to write their future selves a letter that they will receive during their residents’ graduation ceremony. All residents were given pins of the Asclepius rod embossed with the Latin expression “Respice Finem” – meaning “Consider the end”.

FROST
“From the Other Side of the Stethoscope” “Epocsohtets!” (FROSt) is an open forum created by the SHBPP for individuals to convene and discuss issues related to patient care in an informal setting. This initiative aims to teach students the importance of care through sharing stories of patients highlighting their experiences “from the other side of the stethoscope”.

First FROSt Event
On Thursday, February 16, 2017, the first “Epocsohtets!” (aka FROSt) was held at the Issam Fares Hall in AUB with Mr. Charif Kaiss as the invited speaker. Mr. Kaiss was born on the 20th of August 1994 and was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia B-cell type on the 29th of August 2015. Charif spent five months at AUBMC, where he received chemotherapy followed by a Bone Marrow Transplant. In his informal and inspiring talk, Charif shared his experience not only as a cancer survivor, but as a patient who had to overcome all sorts of challenges while battling against the disease. Charif addressed his audience of students, residents, physicians, as well as family and friends about the importance of empathy and support in the physician-patient encounter, and how a simple smile can make a huge difference for the patient. He spoke about an invisible magic wand that made a big difference in his care and cure that kept him hopeful and enthusiastic in his journey towards healing, and he thanked the team of physicians, residents, and nurses who helped him along the way. Charif stressed that his experience taught him that medicine is more than just a science, it is also an art, and that his new aspiration is to reach out to patients in the hope of inspiring and supporting them in their own battles.
2nd FROSt event: Dr. Farid Fuleihan: Unforgettable Physician, Unforgettable Hero!

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, the second “Epocsohtets!” (aka FROSt) was held with Mrs. Wadad El Hoss as the invited speaker. Mrs. Wadad El Hoss shared her family’s personal experience with Dr. Farid Fuleihan, whom she characterized as an “Unforgettable physician and Unforgettable hero”. Mrs. El Hoss addressed her audience of residents, physicians, as well as family and friends about the importance of empathy and support, and explained how being there for the patient not only physically but also emotionally makes a difference. We were happy and honored to have with us the family members of Dr. Fuleihan.
3rd FROSt event: A Medical Team’s Unforgettable Care
On Wednesday September 22, 2017, the third “Epocsohtets!” (aka FROSI) was held with Mr. and Mrs. Hammoud as the invited speakers. Mr. and Mrs. Hammoud, parents of late Ibrahim Hammoud and their daughter Fatima Hammoud, shared their positive and negative personal experiences with the medical team at AUBMC. They also addressed their audience of physicians, medical students, as well as family and friends about the importance of empathy and support in medical practice, and explained how being there for the patient and his/her family members as humane healthcare practitioners makes a difference.

ولدي في المستشفى على أربع مكنات. لسنا بحاجة إلى مكتبة خامسة، نحن بحاجة إلى أنسان. أرجوكم يا أطباء المستشفى لا تكونوا مع المريض أو أهله ك almakanab.

Ahmad & Nivine Hammoud
SHBPP NEWS

First BEAM Event launched at AUBMC

Bioethics Education And the Media (BEAM) is a student lead initiative in collaboration with the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program. BEAM’s main goal is to integrate bioethics into the medical mindset in a fun and innovative manner by screening movies containing diverse bioethics dilemmas and issues, which are followed by a short panel discussion. These discussions involve specialists, patients, and caregivers. The first BEAM event launched at AUBMC on January 23, 2017 with the movie screening of The Doctor, followed by a discussion with Dr. Faek Jamali and Dr. Thalia Arawi. This event was attended by medical students (1-4), residents, attending physicians and MCEC members and friends.

International Women’s Day 2017 – Be Bold for Change

In support of the International Women’s Day 2017 (March 8) #BeBoldForChange campaign, the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program (SHBPP) at AUBMC took the opportunity to boldly challenge prevalent stereotypes and misconceptions regarding menopause in the region by creating a special online campaign consisting of a number of posters, quotes which were released on March 8, 2018. A video animation was also prepared for the occasion in collaboration with the Department of Communication and Public Relations at AUBMC. The main focus of the campaign was to shift perspectives away from the social constructs that constrain women to more positive empowering attitudes that recognize menopause as a natural process rather than a debilitating condition; perceiving menopause differently and recognizing it as another beginning to a different stage in a woman’s life.
SHBPP Meeting with HE Dr. Salim El-Hoss

SHBPP Founding Director met with HE Dr. Salim El-Hoss to update him on the work and accomplishments of SHBPP. Dr. Hoss remarked that he is “pleased with the work of the SHBPP and happy to see its impact in Lebanon and the region.” Dr. Hoss added that there is still much to be done but he is optimistic. Thank you Dr. Hoss for your constant support and guidance.
PopTalk 3.0: “Milestones Through Medicine”

The PopTalk team at the AUBFM, under the patronage of SHBPP organized the third PopTalk event under the title “Milestones Through Medicine” on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The event hosted a list of speakers which included medical students, residents and attending physicians at the American University of Beirut, who shared highlights of their personal experiences of the pre-clinical and clinical years in medicine. The speakers also highlighted the importance of role models and mentors in the journey of medicine as well as the valuable lessons learned from all the struggles it might bring. Congratulations to the PopTalk team for yet another successful event!

First Forum Theater Activity:

SHBPP initiated the first Interactive Theater activity at AUBFM on April 25, 2017 under the title of "منحك ولّ ما منحك؟" in collaboration with the AUB Theatre Initiative team led by Dr. Sahar Assaf and Mrs. Nazha Harb. The activity consisted of a play tackling a medical dilemma in an engaging and interactive manner, such that the “spectators turned into Spec-Actors”, whereby audience members (students, residents, physicians…) became involved in the dramatic scenario and contributed to resolving the issue addressed.
Dr. Thalia Arawi discussed “Medical Ethics in the Arab Region” in her interview with the online journal “Academic Foresights”. Dr. Arawi highlighted the current situation of medical ethics in the Arab region, medical ethic’s evolution over the next five years, and the structural long term perspectives of medical ethics in the Arab countries.

The AUBFM held its annual White Coat Ceremony on June 5, 2017 at the AUB Assembly Hall. In the introduction of the SHBPP, Dr. Thalia Arawi invited second year medical student Mr. Ramez Kouzy to give a few words to share his personal story with illness as a child which inspired him to pursue a career in medicine. In his address, Mr. Kouzy shed light on the importance of the support and empathetic approach of his healthcare providers in making his enduring journey more bearable. He also pledged that he will make sure to honor the Hippocratic Oath and to uphold the values of empathy and humanism throughout his medical career and urged his colleagues to do the same.

In an effort to promote the new code of ethics, the SHBPP invited Dr. Rasha Hamra, Director of the Health Education Department at the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, to give a lecture entitled “Lebanese Code of Ethics for Drug Promotion” to members of the Medical Center Ethics Committee.
The SHBPP launches #Fawanees

#Fawanees is an online initiative that aims at taking people on a journey back in time allowing them to see the accomplishments of Arab and regional scientists and scholars whom have left an impact on our modern lives but are often forgotten. Launched in October 2017, the series consists of weekly posts shared on SHBPP's social media platforms.

The SHBPP launches #HumanismMatters

Humanism and professionalism are essential principles that are included in both the mission of AUB and core values of AUBMC. It is widely accepted that the hidden curriculum plays a significant role in nurturing these values in both the academic and professional setting. It is in this spirit that SHBPP launched the “Humanism Matters” online campaign highlighting humanism, care, humility, role modeling, etc. relevant to the AUB community. We hope that sharing these weekly posts in the form of memorable quotes reflecting exemplary values and actions will leave an enlightening and lasting impact on all of us.
Global Medical Ethics Day
On the occasion of Global Medical Ethics Day on September 18, 2017, the SHBPP released a series of quotes from AUBMC staff, residents, and faculty members highlighting the importance of ethics in the medical profession, in addition to the words of SHBPP mentor and patron Dr. Salim El Hoss himself. The quotes were displayed in the Saab Medical Library on the day and shared across the SHBPP social media platforms.

- Life on earth would be happier and more flourishing if standards of bioethics and professionalism are propagated and implemented. Medical Ethics draws the line between one acting as a credit to his profession, and being a drag on it and on society.
  – H.E. Dr. Salim El-Hoss, PhD

- We live in times where moral courage is morally obligatory.
  – Dr. Thalia Arawi, PhD

- The need for re-emphasizing our role as compassionate healers dedicated to the well-being of our patients regardless of their economic status and their insurance coverage is more urgent than ever.
  – Dr. Kamal Radr, MD

- Medicine is about the honor to serve and the habit to help with respect and compassion.
  – Dr. Samir Alam, MD

- The place of ethics in medical practice continues to gain ground. In that context, it is essential that the gap between law and ethics continue to narrow, and that the law becomes as demanding as ethics so that we are no longer left with laws governing medicine that are not in line with ethical standards, and that the law correct to the largest extent that medicine is practiced in accordance with the highest ethical values.
  – Dr. Fakhre Emam, MD

- We should never lose sight of the fact we are all indebted to the community that has provided us with life, opportunity, education, a sense of belonging and pride.

-Humane medical practice offers us an opportunity to reciprocate by serving others, with humility and altruism.
  – Dr. Salim Rahal, PGY4

- We treat disease with medicine, but we treat our patients with compassion.
  – Dr. Edith Hanna, PGYIII

- Humanism, compassion and kindness are the raison d’être of the practice of medicine.
  – Dr. Fatemah Jamali, MD
An Evening of Genuine Musical Enchantment with Inveterate Artist Mustafa Hilal
On November 30, 2017, SHBPP organized its first concert inviting members of the community to a night of genuine musical enchantment with inveterate artist Mr. Mustafa Hilal, who captivated the audiences with his performance of timeless tarab, folklore, and oriental songs. Proceeds from the concert went to support the SHBPP.

The AUBMC - SHBPP Medical Humanism Fund new Face Book Page
The student champions of the AUBMC-SHBPP Medical Humanism Fund, in an effort to raise awareness about the fund and promote its accomplishments, created a Facebook page for the Medical Humanism Fund, to serve as a platform reaching a wider audience to share the activities and announcements that they will be undertaking starting 2017.

AUBMC-SHBPP Medical Humanism Fund is dedicated to help needy patients who present at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and who cannot afford to pay for their treatment. This fund is a voluntary fund from students, residents, attending physicians and others to their fellow human beings who need medical care.

We ask all our supporters to kindly like this page!

SHBPP recognized at the International Volunteer’s Day
SHBPP and the volunteers of the Medical Humanism Fund were invited to celebrate AUBMC’s “UN International Volunteer Day”. The efforts and contributions of the team were recognized along with the many devoted volunteers at the institution, and they were presented with a special trophy in that honor.
AUBFM students, global ambassadors of SHBPP
Between December 1 and 9, 2017, Weill-Cornell Medicine Qatar (WCM-Q) hosted an exchange program and invited five universities from Pakistan, India, Oman, Palestine, and Lebanon. The aim of the event was to provide an interactive forum/platform to students from WCM-Q and other medical schools to learn about medical school education and curricula; population health; and clinical aspects of commonly occurring health problems in a variety of diverse situations.

As part of this event, AUB medical student Mr. Mohamad Ali Cheaito presented what is happening at AUBFM and shed light on the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program as the first bioethics program in the region. From AUB, the event was attended by Miss Farah Al-Sayed (Med 4 student), Mr. Mohammad Ali Cheaito (Med 4 student) and Dr. Zakia Dimassi.

Majlis Al-Shura in Muscat, Oman
SHBPP Founding Director was invited to the Majlis Al-Shura in Muscat, Oman on behalf of the World Health Organization, to discuss the need to revise the Patient Safety Law in Oman. The meeting took place on January 18, 2017.

SHBPP PARTICIPATION
In addition to the activities it organized in 2017, SHBPP, represented by its Founding Director Dr. Thalia Arawi, also participated in a number or local, regional, and international activities, which included:

Majlis Al-Shura in Muscat, Oman
SHBPP Founding Director was invited to the Majlis Al-Shura in Muscat, Oman on behalf of the World Health Organization, to discuss the need to revise the Patient Safety Law in Oman. The meeting took place on January 18, 2017.

SHBPP meeting with the Lebanese Prime Minister
On March 10, 2017, SHBPP Founding Director, Dr. Thalia Arawi, met with Prime Minister Saad Hariri and discussed the future of bioethics in Lebanon.
The 10th Annual Congress of the Lebanese Society of Critical Care Medicine
SHBPP Founding Director was invited to participate in the 10th Annual Congress of the Lebanese Society of Critical Care Medicine, where she gave a talk about physicians and patients in critical care to a wide audience of physicians and healthcare professionals from all over Lebanon.

The Patients’ Rights and Duties pact in Muscat, Oman
SHBPP founding Director met with HE Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Obaid al-Sa’eedi in Oman, and was invited to participate on behalf of the WHO in the Ministry of Health conference discussing the Patients’ Rights and Duties Pact that was held in the Grand Mosque in Muscat, Oman on March 16, 2017.

The workshop of the Office of the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs
Founding Director of the SHBPP, was invited by the Office of the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs (OMSWA) to participate in its workshop discussing the strategy of the ministry. The workshop took place at the Monroe Hotel, Beirut on April 28, 2017 and was attended by a number of academic professionals, experts, and NGO representatives from all over Lebanon.
“Constructing Peace. A Challenge for Christianity and Islam” at the Universidad de la Mística in Avila, Spain
Dr. Arawi from SHBPP was invited to participate in the conference “Constructing Peace. A Challenge for Christianity and Islam” at the Universidad de la Mística in Avila, Spain. Dr. Arawi talked about the “Ethos of Morals and Duties” focusing on the necessity of being virtuous as a whole and not only in part and the importance of respecting the principle of ethics when dealing with humans in general and patients in particular regardless of their religious background, with highlights on the important role that spirituality can play in medicine.
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to SHBPP for achieving these milestones in 2017!

• The SHBPP at AUBFM-MC officially announced a Network Affiliate of the International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health

The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program at AUBFM-MC officially became a Network Affiliate of the International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health (IAMEPH), founded this September in Paris. This Academy is headquartered at the Université René Descartes (Sorbonne Paris Cité). The network has 120 affiliated centers from different countries and renowned universities (McGill, Yale, Sorbonne, Oxford, Vanderbilt, Bristol, etc.). SHBPP is the first and only Network Affiliate from the Middle East. The IAMEPH works closely with the International Academy of Law and Mental Health (IALMH) for the biannual congresses bringing together the international community of researchers, academics, practitioners and professionals in the field, whose wide-ranging perspectives provide for a comprehensive look at important law and mental health issues.

The International Academy of Law and Mental Health (IALMH) is founded on the belief that issues arising from the interaction of law and mental health can be best addressed through multidisciplinary and cross-national approaches, drawing on law, the health professions, the social sciences, and the humanities. Every two years, the IALMH holds an International Congress on Law and Mental Health.

• SHBPP recognized by the visiting JCI team

“The information that was shared with us was simply fascinating in terms of a systematic approach to the fascinating field of Bioethics and its future development. So you [SHBPP] will be leading...you already are a Center of Excellence in our opinion.” - JCI Chair

The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program are honored and proud to have received this heartening testimony from the Joint Commission International surveyor team during their last visit to AUBMC. We hope to continue our mission in further enhancing biomedical ethics, medical humanism and professionalism among future physicians, and continuing to spread this culture among physicians and the community in Lebanon and the Arab World.
Suggestions for book lovers:

The book that we recommend to medical students as a must read even prior to entering medical school is The Plague (La Peste) by Albert Camus. This master piece is a fascinating reflection on human behavior, society, human unity and personal responsibility. The author has one main prerequisite before we embark on reading the book and before any attempt at understanding his ideas: to remember that we are mortal. The same prerequisite is needed when embarking into medical school and the medical profession. The inescapability of death is the best teacher and gadfly that awaken us from our intransigent slumbers. The Plague beings with the author inviting readers to read the book as a camouflaged depiction of something other than merely an epidemic in the city of Oran. The opening scenes reveal the deaths of people from all walks of life. As readers, we are left to watch, anticipate, listen, and if intelligent enough, learn from those who are warned again and again of their fate to die and decide to remain indifferent to the forewarning. The book is a beautiful page turner about man’s defiance of, and cohabitation with, death. The fight of a single physician, Dr. Rieux who defies the odds to save as many patients as possible; the proclamations of Father Paneloux who sees the plague as a well-deserved scourge sent by God; the metamorphoses of young Tarrou who wants to become a saint even though he does not believe in God, and of course others. As noted by the critic John Cruikshank, La Peste is a reflection on “man’s metaphysical dereliction in the world”. The novel defies the boundaries of time and space: It was a great and timely read, it continues to be and will remain so.

Enjoy!