EDITORIAL

Western as well as oriental gazes are often enthralled by the mesmerizing magic of the mashrabiyas. Once upon a time, mashrabiyas were places to cool the drinking water (as the Arabic word mashrabiya denotes). With time, these beautiful artistic wooden screens adorned the façades of houses the enchanted Orient is known to have had. They shielded the harem from being seen, but allowed them to gaze, think, dream and ponder about a world they saw discreetly but as a whole. Thus, mashrabiyas allowed vision, light and fresh air. In spite of Time and, for some unknown reason, they maintained their captivating effect: The mesmeric mashrabiyas carried within them the secrets of the viewer and the viewed. For us at the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics & Professionalism Program (SHBPP), mashrabiyas are a representation of what we do. They are often part of the world, yet discreetly away. They allow us to see things in a bird’s-eye view and appreciate features and dimensions that are often taken for granted and even go unnoticed but which are vital to life in general and to the profession of medicine in particular.

Welcome to the first issue of Al Mashrabiya, the SHBPP newsletter, a yearly newsletter aimed at sharing with our colleagues at AUBMC and AUB some of what SHBPP has been doing.

Thalia Arawi, PhD
Founding Director, SHBPP
Bedside Clinical Ethics Consultations
Back in 2013, SHBPP introduced a bedside clinical ethics consultation program at AUBMC, the first of its kind in Lebanon and the Arab world. Patients, family members, and/or members of the healthcare team can, at any time, request a bedside clinical ethics consultation. This program is at the core of the AUBMC 2020 Vision in “providing patients with the highest standards of patient-centered care”. Commenting on one of the consults at the pediatric unit, Dr. Lama Charafeddine noted that “the consult helped in bridging the medical team and the parents closer to each other in terms of understanding the situation on both sides. At the end, the parents understood that the medical team is there to help and not to disagree, and the medical team was able to reconcile the difference in opinions by finding a middle ground between what is agreed on and what is best for the entire family and the infant. The process of the consult and discussion helped all people involved to take time and reflect on what they were thinking and what decisions they were making. At the end, everyone was comfortable with the course taken.”

Mrs. Joyce Baddoush from Social Services explained that the bedside ethics consultation “was very valuable. It helped the father to rethink about his decision in a better way and to know that the baby’s comfort is the main goal of all the medical team. It also helped both parents feel less distressed emotionally and morally.” Patients were grateful for “taking the time to listen to [them] and not allowing [them] to rush in decision making”. This is one example among many, and it confirmed our belief that such consultations enrich patient centered care at AUBMC.

Organ Transplant Consultations
Organ donation saves lives, improves transplantation outcomes in certain situations and reduces waiting time for patients. At SHBPP-AUBMC, ethics assessments for recipients and donors involved in organ transplants are conducted on 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.
SHBPP ACTIVITIES

Workshops and Conferences
Ever since its launch, SHBPP has been actively involved in the dissemination of a culture of bioethics, both in Lebanon and the region. To date, 27 conference and workshops have been held. In 2015, the SHBPP organized six workshops and one regional conference on themes related to bioethics. Participants were professionals from Lebanon and the region.

• **SHBPP Outreach Program:** Workshop on “Mediation in the School Environment” (January 28, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s 7th Regional Conference:** “Medical Malpractice, Errors and Disclosure” (January 31, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s 4th workshop:** “Assessing Professionalism at AUBFM: the time is ripe” (September 19, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s Outreach Program:** Workshop on “Child Protection” (October 16, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s Outreach Program:** Workshop on “Mediation in the School Environment” (December 2, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s 5th workshop:** “Disclosing Adverse Outcomes and Errors: Training for Coaches” (December 4, 2015)
• **SHBPP’s 6th workshop:** “Simple Disputes, Complex Sequellae: Resolutions that Work” (December 5, 2015)
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 48 EM lectures, 8 of which were held in 2015. It included the new EM Dean’s Professionalism Series which was also launched in 2015 with several talks and workshops.

- **“Clinical Ethics: Towards Patient-Centered Care”** by Dr. Thalia Arawi, at the Hisham Jaroudi Auditorium in the Hariri School of Nursing (January 14, 2015)
- **“Conflict Resolution in the School Environment”** by guest speaker Dr. Haavi Morreim (Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Health Care), at the International College, Beirut (January 28, 2015)
- **“Doing Well by Doing Right”** by guest speaker Dr. Haavi Morreim (Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Health Care), in SB101, AUBMC (January 29, 2015)
- **“Child Abuse: Ethical concerns. Humane Concerns. Human Concerns”** Dr. Thalia Arawi Ismail M. Khalil Auditorium at AUBMC (February 23, 2015)
- **“Ethical Issues in End of Life Care- Artificial Nutrition and Hydration (ANH)”** by Dr. Thalia Arawi (May 8, 2015)
- **“Professional Integrity: Challenges and Consequences”** by guest speaker Professor Trudie E. Roberts (Director of the Leeds Institute of Medical Education University of Leeds, UK), in the Ismail M. Khalil Auditorium at AUBMC (September 18, 2015)
- **“Osler and Beyond: Clinical Ethics and Patient Centered-Care”** by Dr. Thalia Arawi, in the Ismail M. Khalil Auditorium at AUBMC (October 6, 2015)
- **“Child Protection 101: Making A Difference”** by Dr. Thalia Arawi and Dr. Leila Dirani, in the International College, Ras Beirut Middle School (October 7, 2015)
- **“To Tell the Truth: How Honesty about Adverse Outcomes Benefits Everyone”** by guest speaker Dr. Haavi Morreim (Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Health Care), in the Ismail M. Khalil Auditorium at AUBMC (December 3, 2015)
SHBPP launches the first Medical Professionalism Hub and Spokes project with Designated Spokes Leaders (DSL)

In concordance with the AUBMC 2020 Vision and the ongoing professionalism initiatives and projects, SHBPP launched a Medical Professionalism Hub and Spokes project which aims to complement and enhance the work of the Institutional Professionalism Task Force (IPTF) by systematically propagating and implementing the outcomes of professionalism initiatives in a more sustainable and impactful “domino effect” approach. With that, three primary benefits ensue: integration, sustainability and accountability.

This new design will help ensure that the work will be done by a devoted and trained team of professionals and will contribute to the strengthening of the sense of professionalism across AUBMC. Thus, six spokes were nominated and are undergoing training.

Good Luck!

HUMANISM AND PROFESSIONALISM

Humanism Fund

Launched in 2013, the Medical Humanism Fund is dedicated to helping needy patients who present to the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and who do not have the financial capabilities to cover their treatment. The first of its kind in the Arab world, the fund is a voluntary initiative from students, residents and attending physicians to their fellow human beings who need medical care. In addition to being pioneering in community services, this fund also helps enhance the spirit of Humanism and Professionalism at AUBMC-FM. Contributions are managed by the Social Services department at AUBMC.

To date, the Humanism Fund was able to garner over $33,000 from the donations of students, residents and attending physicians at AUBMC, which have been used to aid over 400 patients from all over Lebanon.

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 resident who exemplify the humane and professional aspects of medicine. In 2015 Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, Head of Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at AUBMC, received the 2015 AUB FM - SHBPP Physician Award and Dr. Khairat Al Habbal, 3rd year resident in the Department of Family Medicine, received the 2015 AUB FM - SHBPP Resident Award. Congratulations!
HE Dr. Salim El-Hoss replied to the words of Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, recipient of the AUBFM- Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Humanism and Professionalism Award, 2015.

A trustee emeritus since 2001, trustee since 1991 HE Dr. Salim El-Hoss replied to the words of Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, recipient of the AUBFM-SHBPP Humanism and Professionalism Award, 2015 by sending a letter where he adressed Abu Sitta for his bravery and humbleness. “Risking your own life to save the lives of people under siege and blind and savage artillery assures me there is still hope in human beings, in the medical profession and perhaps, in the Arab conscience.” He continued “I applaud you for the bravery and sacrifice that you have shown and for deservedly recieving the SHBPP Humanism Award, hoping that the medical students will learn from your bravery and follow suit.” He also praised the wise leadership of Dean Mohamed H. Sayegh for living up to his expectations “in promoting humane doctors by supporting its bioethics program that has now attained regional and international recognition.”

SHBPP AND EDUCATION

Medical Humanism as part of Medical Teaching

It might seem extraordinary to note that medicine must be listed under Humanities, but the reason for such a possibly audacious statement is that medicine is the most humane of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities! Starting from this belief and from the conviction that we need to graduate physician healers and not only healthcare practitioners, the SHBPP has made significant additions and changes to the undergraduate medical education program by integrating Bioethics and Medical Humanities as a requirement and introducing required courses and activities throughout the undergraduate medical curriculum by introducing the Physicians, Patients, and Society (PPS) course series for med 1 to med 3 students, now an integral part of the Impact Curriculum. This is in addition to several integrated lectures that reveal the intricate connection between bioethics and medicine. We are also happy to share that PPS4 is in the making!

Physicians, Patients and Society 1

Aims to allow students to appreciate the psycho-social dimension of illness. This course explores the place of medicine, illness, suffering and the human body in human culture expressed through art, literature and history of medicine, and the psychosocial dimension of illness through close encounters with patients (the Caring Spotlight Experience). PPS-1 brings together a more holistic approach that focuses on the whole patient (and physician-patient relationship) and not just the specific disease, condition, injury, or symptom. Reflecting on PPS1, one student noted that “it was interesting how we approached clinical topics from various and completely different aspects. It is important to get a comprehensive view of medicine, and this module really emphasized how broad the field can be.”

Another student highlighted another dimension: “It is a well needed humanity course that develops the student into a better more empathetic and understanding doctor.”

Physicians, Patients and Society 2

Aims to increase the awareness of students on the broad range of ethical issues that they might face at the bedside. The course consists of four modules, Palliative Care, Bioethics and Patient Care, Research Ethics (replacing the Spirituality in Medicine module which might experience a quick comeback), and Caring Spotlight Experience 2 (nurse shadowing).

With its various components and activities, the PPS-2 course aims to teach students the skill of ethical decision making at the bedside and give them the initial tools for looking at, and understanding, ethically loaded situations. This course also allows students to examine the numerous possibilities of dealing with such issues and reinforces their personal sense of compassion, commitment and care. Ultimately, it teaches them to appreciate the fact that clinical ethics is part and parcel of medicine and patient centered care. As noted by a recent PPS-2 graduate, this course “introduces us to lessons that will help us handle our future experiences as physicians and it brings to light many things that some of us have never even thought of or considered.”

Physicians, Patients and Society 3

Revamped in 2015, PPS-3 builds upon the need to increase the awareness of students on the various ethical issues that they might face in the clinical setting, as future physicians and members of the healthcare profession. With time, students appreciate the impact of these issues on patient care and become sensitized to them. In PPS3, students discuss and analyze ethical issues and dilemmas in pediatrics, internal medicine, OBGYN, ED, mental health, public health and others. They are also introduced to the medical law and the bearing it has on their profession. Students tackle issues related to bioethics and medicine, public health, medical law and others. The PPS-3 course also aims to teach the students the importance of being patient advocates.
Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research in the Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) summer certificate program (June - July 2015)

The Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) launched their summer certificate program for the third time in June, 2015. 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, Founding Director of the SHBPP. The work of the class of 2015 for the Research Ethics course project resulted in student presentations on numerous topics like Research in the Emergency Department (ED), compassionate use, research and vulnerable populations, research during times of crisis, whistleblowing, data management, mental health research, stem cell research and others. Congratulations to the graduates of 2015!
Promoting Humane Medicine: “M= EC²; Medicine is about Empathy, Caring and Curing”

In an effort to promote and enhance humane medicine at AUB FM and AUBMC, SHBPP created special posters carrying a new “formula for medicine”, “M= EC²”, which stands for “Medicine is about Empathy, Caring and Curing”. According to Dr. Thalia Arawi, this is medicine’s new formula for the 21st century. Physicians need to have and express empathy, try to cure whenever possible and when not possible, to offer all the care that a patient needs. The posters were posted throughout AUBMC and AUBFM. SHBPP also crafted lapel pins with M=EC² embossed on them and pocket cards with a message explaining the meaning of the pin. Both are distributed to the students at the White Coat Ceremony annually.
The New Medical Oath
The AUB FM released a new version of the Hippocratic Medical Oath, an expression of ideal conduct for physicians. The revised oath was developed by a taskforce within SHBPP. Medical graduates, in addition to third year medical students at the White Coat Ceremony, recited the new oath and pledged to support and abide by it. Residents also received a copy of the oath at their graduation ceremony. The new AUB FM version of the Hippocratic Oath focuses on humanism, compassion, care and healing. It addresses two important tenets: benefiting the ill and protecting patients against personal and social harm. The oath was altered to reflect the beliefs prevalent at the Faculty of Medicine which are loyalty to the profession of medicine and care for fellow human beings with compassion, empathy, and kindness.

In the Spirit of Hippocrates:

I do solemnly pledge before my teachers, and all these present, to be true to this oath:

I will be loyal to the ideals of the profession of medicine and its tradition of service to all human beings.

I will care for my fellow human beings with compassion, empathy, and kindness.

I will follow that treatment which according to my ability and judgment I consider for the benefit of patients, while respecting their choices and beliefs.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not perform any medical procedure for crimal purposes.

In the presence of epidemics or other danger, I will not allow fear or concern for personal harm to turn me from my duty.

Whatever I see or hear in the lives of people, which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will keep secret.

All my professional acts shall be for the benefit of the sick to the utmost of my power, holding myself aloof from any act of corruption or discrimination.

In purity and uprightness I will pass my life and practice my art.

While I continue to keep this oath inviolate may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art respected by people in all times.
SHBPP NEWS

SHBPP Launches Facebook Page
A Facebook page for the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program was developed and launched on March 7, 2015 as an additional platform to reach a wider audience in Lebanon, the Arab region, and other countries. The page serves as a platform to provide the latest updates and news about the SHBPP in addition to its being a suitable spot for raising awareness and increasing knowledge on bioethics, professionalism and the history of biomedical innovations in the region. The page can be reached at: www.facebook.com/shbpp.

AUBMC’s Chief of Staff addresses Med II students during their “Bioethics and Patient Care” Module
On November 5, 2015, Dr. Hassan El Solh, Chief of Staff at AUBMC, visited the “Bioethics and Patient Care” session in the PPS2 course and addressed the students about the relevance of bioethics in patient care. This talk was a great success; it represented much appreciated institutional support towards the PPS courses and SHBPP. Thank you Dr. Solh.

SHBPP Launches Women’s Day Campaign
The occasion of International Women’s Day, on March 8, 2015, marked an opportunity for SHBPP to encourage effective action for advancing and recognizing women and shedding light on ethical issues that women in the region deal with. To attain its aim, SHBPP published a set of English and Arabic posters. The campaign was very well received as an eye opener to specific matters related to women and bioethics. This campaign was also shared with BINWIAR (Bioethics Network for Women’s Issues in the Arab Region) of which Dr. Thalia Arawi is a founding member. See you next year!

The Arabic and English posters propagated by SHBPP on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2015
PopTalk and Humanism in Medicine

It all began with one enthusiastic Med I student, Sarah Abou Alaiwi, and a group of her colleagues; they wanted to develop something different and make an impact. Their focus was humanism in medicine. This marked the birth of the very successful PopTalk event! Under the patronage of the SHBPP, Med I students at AUB FM launched the first event of the PopTalk series on March 31, 2015. PopTalk 1.0, “Care to Share” was attended by students, staff and faculty from AUB and other universities in Lebanon. This was followed by PopTalk 2.0 “Behind the White Coat” on November 25, 2015 in the Jaber Sawaya lecture in the Saab Medical Libary. Dr. Ismail Khalil, renowned peripheral vascular surgeon who has been part of the AUBMC community for over five decades, and Khalil Choucair, second year medical student at AUBMC, shared their inspirational experiences of medicine behind the white coat. The event was attended by students, staff, and faculty from AUB. As one member of the PopTalk noted, “The mere fact that you are striving to set an example for future physicians and make a change is wonderful; don’t let negative role models deter you from your goal.”
The 1st Bioethics Multimedia Festival
The SHBPP initiated and organized the Bioethics Multimedia Film Festival, a first in the entire Arab Region, on May 20, 2015 at the Issam Fares Lecture Hall, with the goal of educating and empowering individuals about bioethics. The festival celebrated the works of Med III students in their “Physicians, Patients and Society 3 (PPS-3)” course. The top 10 submissions for this year were chosen, and students showcased samples of their bioethics projects (videos, edutainment games, and phone apps) tackling a range of bioethics topics including, clinical trials in pediatrics, dealing with non-compliant and non-cooperative patients, truth-telling, medical student competitiveness, as well as others. We take this opportunity to thank the ACPS team for their help in making this happen.

AUB FM-SHBPP Taskforce: Assessing Professionalism in Medical Students
How do we assess our students, residents and faculty on matters related to professionalism? In an attempt to deal with this issue, the SHBPP designated a task force including faculty, residents and students whose main task was to work on feasible ways to assess professionalism based on AUB FM and AUBMC’s core values. The task force was able to develop and pilot a template for the formative and summative assessment of professionalism in medical students, resident and faculty. More on this soon!
AUBMC Child Protection Program Launching and Training workshop
On November 7, 2015, the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, in collaboration with the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program launched the AUBMC Child Protection Program. The launching was followed with a training workshop which included talks surrounding the Lebanese legal framework on child protection, the role of the medical profession from an ethical perspective, and the child protection policy with the flow of the process at AUBMC. Real cases tackling physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, and false alarm were presented and discussed.
Community Service and Learning to Care: SHBPP and SANAD join forces!

Students at AUB FM learn the importance of becoming healers as opposed to healthcare practitioners and skilled technicians. To that effect, The SHBPP has introduced the Physicians, Patients and Society courses which aim at helping students appreciate medicine as an art and not only a science; they learn that humanism and empathy are part and parcel of being a doctor.

To bridge the gap between theory and practice even further, the SHBPP and The Home Hospice Organization of Lebanon (SANAD) have collaborated on a pilot project to provide an opportunity for second year Medical Students at the AUB FM 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.

Medical students were offered an opportunity to appreciate and see first-hand the psycho-social dimension of illness. In addition, this experience allowed medical students to gain hands-on experience in volunteerism. It sensitized and equipped them with the skills needed when working with patients and their families. Patients suffer, but so do their families: a perspective often ignored in medical schools, but now appreciated by Med I, Med II, and Med III volunteers.

Reflecting on what was felt as a “unique experience” a Med I student noted the important message learnt from this encounter, “Life is not a matter of quantity but quality.” Med II student Sarah Chamseddine remarked on how the experience gave her added insight on the perceived value of healers in the community, stating, “It is astonishing how little our society includes the caregiver in the treatment of the disease. Sometimes all it takes is acknowledging their selfless work.” Another student Rozana El Eid, described a touching and eye-opening moment she experienced at the end of her encounter, “When I was leaving the patient’s house after our visit, her daughter pulled my hand gently and asked if I could come again soon. In her eyes, I could see the impact that a caring interaction could make.” SANAD’s President, Mrs. Lubna Izziddin, thanked SHBPP “for initiating this important volunteer program". According to her, “It was inspiring to witness the students’ interest in palliative and hospice care and their drive to offer support to patients and their families in the most difficult times of their lives.”

Working with the students were a team of nurses and a Palliative Care specialist, Dr. Salam Jalloul. Dr. Jalloul remarked, “For the new generation of medical students, it is very important to be acquainted with the holistic approach to patient care emphasizing on the humane aspect of the relationship with both patients and their families. Volunteers learn that it is not just about curing patients, but it is also equally important to preserve the patients’ dignity and enhance the quality of end of life care. As future doctors, medical students were able to learn, through this experience that palliative and hospice care is also provided to family members and caregivers giving them a chance to play an active role in caring for and supporting their loved ones in the comfort of their own home.”
CONGRATULATIONS!

  A member of 2013’s first prize winning group in the Bioethics Documentary Award (part of the PPS course for third year medical students), Zaid Al-Tawil pursued the topic of the project “Uterine Transplant: Promising yet controversial” and presented a Grand Round under the same title in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Round, which was held on February 12, 2014 in SB101. After graduating, Dr. Al Tawil worked with Dr. Thalia Arawi extensively and ended up publishing “Uterine Transplantation: Ethical Considerations within Middle Eastern Perspectives.” Congratulations Dr. Zaid Tawil!

  Nasma Berri, Research Assistant at SHBPP published with Dr. Thalia Arawi an article that discusses the implementation of the “Physicians, Patients and Society 2” course in a curriculum that can provide future physicians with the tools to become healers in the art of medicine and not just practitioners in its science. The article carried the new formula that was coined by the founding director of the SHBPP.

- Congratulations to the LeMSCIC-SCORA team in AUB for the success of their “Speak Up” campaign on the occasion of International Women’s Day (IWD) on March 8, 2015. The campaign revolved around quotes from faculty members, influential individuals in the society as well as students on what IWD means to them and on the importance of women embracing themselves and speaking up for their rights.
Miss Diana Mikati, who joined SHBPP as a research assistant, was promoted to Administrative Assistant. Diana has also received her MS degree in Environmental Sciences from AUB. Mabrouk Diana!