

## **Student's Speech - Bashar Hassan**

President Khuri, Dean Sawaya, Dean Sibai, Dr. Glass, Dr. El Hajj Fuleihan, Dr. Tamim, Esteemed Professors and Faculty Members, Parents, Family, Friends, and the SHARP Summer Diploma Class of 2022:

They say the way to success is a way of learning, but it should be done wisely. I have chosen SHARP to be my way to success, and now I know I have chosen wisely.

When I got into medical school in 2018, I came in already knowing that I will take SHARP after graduating from medical school. Thanks to Dr. Al Shaar, my aunt, and her constant reminders throughout the past 4 years about the importance of SHARP and that I should in no way start my research fellowship without having taken SHARP before.

On the first day of SHARP, we have been told that for the upcoming month and a half, we will eat, sleep, dream, and SHARP. We thought this was a bit of an exaggeration. It was also personally challenging because I had my USMLE Step 2 exam 2 weeks into SHARP on July 4<sup>th</sup>. After 2 weeks of sleepless nights not to fall behind in SHARP, and yet do well on my exam, I can tell you that you were NOT exaggerating.

SHARP needs time, effort, and dedication. It has a lot to offer, but you should be well absorbent to get the best out of it.

I also recall Dr. Fuleihan telling us that you will love us in the first 2 weeks, hate us in the following 2 weeks, but love us again at the end. And this is exactly what happened. Things started easy with the basics with Dr. Tamim, Dr. ElZein, and Dr. Arawi then started escalating with Dr. Fares and Dr. Mahfoud. Story ends with us loving you again.

In the rest of my speech, I highlight the impact of SHARP on my peers and me.

So, I have asked my friends and colleagues how SHARP contributed to their academic and research knowledge. I summarize the answers I got in the following points:

- SHARP allowed us to expand on our potential as both academicians and future physicians

- It broadened our capacity for critical thinking, critiquing, and evaluating everyday evidence
- It allowed us to approach articles differently and in a more mature perspective
- It redefined our perspective of our career paths
- It gave us the privilege to meet stellar faculty and... each other becoming family in few weeks

To add some personal opinion/facts:

1. First and foremost, SHARP gave me the opportunity to meet great people and previously strangers who are now great friends
2. It allowed me to carry 2 statistical analyses for the team I am and will be working with at Hopkins during my research fellowship, thanks to our Biostatisticians
3. Also, it introduced me to the world of epidemiology, which I fell in love with, and was the trigger for me to start planning my MPH at Bloomberg school of public health at Hopkins. So, thank you Dr. Shaya, Dr. El Bejjani, Dr. Chakhtoura, and Dr. Ghandour for your great influence.

Finally, I want to thank Dr. Fuleihan for her continuous support since years. I first met Dr. Fuleihan when I was a senior biology student, 5 years ago. I took an appointment with her to introduce myself and interest in research. AND Guess what she told me. Take SHARP after medical school. So, I told you, it's as if I came into medical school to take SHARP. Dr. Fuleihan, thank you for being a great mentor and idol.

I will end my speech with a quote by Johns Wooden, known to be the best coach in the history of American sports whose quotes are known as Woodenisms: Things turn out best for those who make best of how things turn out. We think we have made the best out of how things will turn out by taking SHARP. We have acquired, we have engaged, and we are ready to advance.

Thank you everyone and congratulations to the 10<sup>th</sup> Unique Cohort of SHARP.