



**S**cholars in **H**e**A**lth **R**esearch **P**rogram (**SHARP**) is a novel Program to be launched at AUB July 2013.

The Mission of the **S**cholars in **H**e**A**lth **R**esearch **P**rogram (**SHARP**) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) is "To provide superior didactic education complemented with state-of-the-art interactive and practical training in health research. It is intended for physicians and other health care professionals, to improve and advance the health care agenda for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Lebanon and the region". This paradigm is inspired by similar programs at Harvard University, namely the Scholars in Clinical Sciences Program, and the Program in Clinical Effectiveness, and is in collaboration with faculty from these programs.

Spearheaded by Dr. Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan, the Program Director from the Faculty of Medicine (FM), SHARP is an interfaculty collaborative effort involving co-investigators Dr. Robert Habib from FM, Professor Abba Sibai Faculty from Health Sciences (FHS), Professor Nahla Hwalla from Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), and Professor Huda Huijer from the Hariri School of Nursing (HSON). Members of the Local Training Advisory Group (TAG) include Drs Kamal Badr, Ali Abu-Alfa, and Huda Zurayk. The external US TAG group includes Drs Gordon Williams and Ellen Seely at Harvard Medical School, Fran Cook at Harvard School of Public Health, and Mary Ellen Sheridan, retired Associate VP for Research at the University of Chicago.

SHARP is a novel curriculum and training program designed to prepare and graduate the human capital needed to conduct NCDs related research in general, and especially focusing on those that are most relevant to Lebanon and other countries in the region. The Program spans from short, to medium, and long term training. SHARP thus offers a new summer certificate and a novel Master of Science (MS) in health research, the first of its kind in the region, focusing on NCDs. The SHARP summer certificate is a 12-14 credit program, open to graduates from various health fields; it offers the fundamental skills in the essential disciplines to conduct research, namely epidemiology, biostatistics, research ethics, library science/informatics, and involves hands-on training in the analysis and reporting of large health (NCD) related datasets. Credits earned for the SHARP summer certificate can also be counted towards established master's degrees at FHS, FAFS, HSON, or towards the novel SHARP MS degree. This 40-credit master's degree, solidifies the foundations acquired in the certificate program with additional courses in special topics in biostatistics, clinical trials, health policy, leadership and management, epidemiology of NCDs, and also includes a longitudinal seminar series and a 6 credits thesis.

In addition to supporting the development of the novel SHARP curriculum, the grant supports the training of 58 certificate students and 6 master students, and a "Train-The-Trainer" initiative, where AUB faculty members involved in SHARP will attend a 3 weeks intensive Summer Institute at the Harvard School of Public Health. SHARP provides graduates with the required foundation to pursue a career in clinical and translational research, a successful model available in several top-tier academic institutions in the US, and a first of its kind in the region. It will help create and sustain a cadre of highly trained researchers who will conduct patient and population-oriented studies on NCDs. It will also equip trainees with management and leadership skills needed to become "change agents" and lead research groups, academic departments, or other health care settings.

Candidates, who are interested in officially submitting their name to be considered for selection by the SHARP admission committee, are kindly requested to click on link below and fill the application form:

[Application to be filled by applicant](#)