

## **AUB (FM) Releases a New Medical Oath**

The American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine (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 the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program. 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.

The Hippocratic Oath was introduced in ancient Greece as a guide to behavior. It is an oath taken by physicians stating their intentions to practice medicine justly and ethically. Many versions with slight variations have been incorporated in graduation ceremonies of medical students over the past 500 years. In the 1940s, a modern version of the oath was introduced as a symbol of ethics and has been used since then.

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.