

AUBMC

The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program (SHBPP) Announces the Winner of the First Moral Courage Award 2018:

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The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program granted the first AUBMC- SHBPP Abdul Wahab Itani Moral Courage Award during the AUBFM White Coat Ceremony which took place on June 4, 2018. The award, consisting of a medal, pin, and a check in the amount of \$1000, was presented to this year's winner graduating fourth year medical student Mr. Mohamad Ali Cheaito by President Fadlo Khoury, EVP and Dean Mohamad Sayegh, and Dr. Thalia Arawi.

A first at AUBFM-MC, in Lebanon and the region, the call for nominations for the award was first announced in December 2017. Under the auspices of the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program, the award is granted by Ms. Diala Itani, the wife of the late Mr. Abdul Wahhab Itani, to a medical student or resident/fellow who exemplifies qualities of moral courage and shows integrity and consistency of thought and action. Ms. Itani believes that professional moral courage leads the way to value-based decisions. The willingness to question, speak up, and be courageous in a world filled with inequities deserves to be a priority in the work setting.

According to Dr. Thalia Arawi, Founding Director of SHBPP, "moral courage is an exceptionally honored trait exhibited by individuals, who, despite potential personal risk, decide to act upon their ethical values to help others during difficult ethical dilemmas. Morally courageous professionals persevere to stand up for what is right despite the consequences or even when their action means they may do so alone. Since moral courage requires a steadfast commitment to standing up for what is right, morally courageous individuals deserve to be acknowledged and honored. Accordingly, this annual award will be offered to encourage residents, fellows, and medical students at AUBMC to continue being a role model in moral courage, particularly when it comes to patient-centered care. The award is aligned with AUBMC 2020 Vision in that it gives supremacy to patient-centered care and emphasizes the value of doing the right thing even in the most challenging situations."

In response to receiving the award, Mr. Mohamad Ali Cheaito expressed his gratitude by humbly thanking his family, role models at AUBFM and AUBMC, and all those who helped mold him into the physician he is today. Addressing the class of 2020, he added “always remember that although the world has a lot of physicians, we still have a shortage of healers who possess the moral courage to do the right. Please try to be such healers this world needs.”