

Dear colleagues, friends, and esteemed guests,

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today representing VP/Dean Mohamed Sayegh at the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program at the American University of Beirut, Faculty of Medicine. This year's conference is in collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB and the UNESCO Cairo Office and in joint sponsorship with Yale University. I would like to thank our collaborators for making this event possible.

Every year the topics of this regional conference dive deep into important and controversial bioethical issues, giving a tremendous amount of insight through lectures by world-renowned speakers from all over Lebanon, the Arab region and the world. This year is no different. We have participants from Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, UAE, Algeria, Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and of course Lebanon. The topic at hand this year is Bioethics Issues for Women: Ethics of reproductive health- social and political conditions in Arab countries. In current events we see ethical issues regarding the treatment of women gaining more and more visibility; bioethical and medical issues should be no different.

This year's regional conference will also announce an important network, the Bioethics Network on Women's Issues in the Arab Region, of which you will hear more about later.

The AUB Faculty of Medicine has always taken on a leadership and pioneering role in Bioethics. The Salim el Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program was the first of its kind, and since then and under the leadership of Dr. Arawi has continued to advance bioethics in the region. As part of our AUBMC 2020 Vision, we are committed to be

advancing patient-centered care, education and research to heights that have never been seen before in our region. Bioethics is a critical part of this vision.

We will continue to support and advance the field of ethics in medicine and this conference is one of those ways.

I encourage you to make the most of this exciting conference. Having leading experts from across the region in one location to discuss and debate Bioethics Issues for Women is a tremendous opportunity to advance bioethics across the Arab World. Thank you again for joining us all here and enjoy the meeting.