

# Faculty of Medicine bioethics program reaches out to high school students; receives visit by ex-PM Salim El-Hoss

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| Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program | ta16@aub.edu.lb |

The head of the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program (SHBPP) at AUB's Faculty of Medicine recently spent two hours with high school students from the International College (IC) in Ras Beirut, highlighting to them the do's and don'ts of ethical conduct in research.



During her November 3, 2011 visit and as part of the program's outreach initiative, Dr. Thalia Arawi, clinical bioethicist and the bioethics program's founding director, highlighted to students the main principles of research ethics, the character traits of a researcher, The Nuremberg Code, the Helsinki Declaration and the Belmont Report – all of which detail the ethical principles and guidelines that should be followed in all research involving human subjects.

"These students will be the future scientists and physicians of the world and it is important to try to instill in them virtues and good character traits at a tender age," said Dr. Arawi.

Bioethics program trainers noticed that students who initially argued that anything should be allowed in research ended up realizing that the end does not justify the means and that an important line separates what one "can" do from what one "should" do.

"Character formation starts at a young age," said Dr. Arawi. "These students will be the future scientists and physicians of the world and it is important to try to instill in them virtues and good character traits at a tender age."

Wadad El-Hoss, IC's Middle School director, said, "We address the whole child and raising the awareness of children to ethical issues in research has become a priority in our changing world, particularly with the advancements in research and technology... Shaping character starts at an early stage, and adolescence is a prime time for us to instill ethical principles in our students."

Towards the end of the session, students ended up fighting for the rights of an Alzheimer patient in a research study. They concluded that it is character that makes a great scientist.



A week later, on November 11, 2011, former Prime Minister Salim El-Hoss and his daughter, Wadad, paid a visit to the locale of the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program, in a bid to follow up on the program which was launched with his support on April 7, 2010.

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browsed the newly released program website and discussed the diverse initiatives undertaken by the program.

“I am proud that such a laudable bioethics and professionalism program carries my name,” said El-Hoss. “The activities are impressive and quite comprehensive. The program carries a great responsibility, that of enhancing ethical education within the medical community – a task that will elevate an already noble program to further heights.”