

Dear Colleagues and friends,

Welcome to our First Palliative and End of Life Care Master class jointly held by the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program and the Hariri School of Nursing.

The basic philosophy of palliative care is to achieve the best quality of life for patients even when their illness cannot be cured. This care is provided through an all-embracing management of the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of patients, while remaining sensitive to their personal, cultural, and religious values and beliefs. Indeed one of our mottos at SHBPP is that $M=EC^2$ (medicine equal empathy, caring and curing).

I will not say much about what Palliative Care is and how important it is (indeed this, I hope, will be made clear during these two days). This is why I will show you a short documentary prepared by some of our Med III students last year. You will be surprised (or may be not) at how almost no one interviewed was even aware that such a thing as PC existed and you will hear the experience of a family member to whom palliative care is as important, if not more important, than medicine itself.

Before I do so, allow me to welcome our International guests, Dr. Carol Taylor and Dr. James Tulsky. Both Carol and James are experts in Palliative Care and have always been supportive of the SHBPP and its activities. I thank them for coming all the way from the USA to be here with us today and would like to take this opportunity to offer them the SHBPP Humane medicine pin as a token of appreciation.

All the best for this conference.

Dr. Thalia Arawi