

Dr El Hajj Fuleihan Speech

Good afternoon. Welcome to the graduation ceremony of the 2024 SHARP Summer Diploma Cohort.

One of the additional joys the SHARP program brings us is the SHARP Summer graduation. Of course, SHARP Summer is the poster child of the success of SHARP, and this is the 12th cohort. We are very excited to be celebrating an amazing cohort this year, a cohort who has threatened to exceed the first cohort in many ways. We have witnessed this morning amazing large dataset presentations. Really, we got, I think “Blases” by how good you are, and by how you keep raising the bar. I hope some of them will come to publications with your colleagues. Before I acknowledge the cohort and say a couple of words addressing you and how you go from here embarking on a long and successful journey, I have to recognize our stellar faculty very briefly, and before you receive your diplomas, we will recognize the 5 years and 10 years milestones of service and teaching, at SHARP. So as far as teaching faculty, we have, of course, library science, Dr Ola Zein; for Ethics Dr Rami Mahfouz, Dr Deborah Mukherji, and I teach a couple of concepts; for Biostats, Dr Ziad Mahfoud, who unfortunately couldn't be with us, and who else? Pere Hani Tamim; for Epidemiology, Dr Monique Shaya, Dr Lillian Ghandour, Dr Marlene Chakhtoura, and Dr Martine Bejjan, Dr Ghina Mumtaz, and of course, for large data sets, the two Hannis, Dr Hani Tamim and Dr Hani Dimassi. I really want to applaud them all for sacrificing their summers for SHARP. When we embarked on this, I think Dr Chaaya, Dr Tamim, and Dr Sibai, would remember, I sent FM and FHS faculty an Excel sheet, asking for their commitment for the coming five years; and they all gracefully committed. And now we're going on commitment to year 15. So, it's been an amazing journey. and I really want to thank them for this. And of course, the founding executive committee member, Dr Abla Sibai, and Dr Hani Tamim, and Dr Monique Chaaya for being with us from the beginning of the journey starting in Boston, as we reflect on a lot of good memories with Dr Lillian Ghandour.

Now, I always tell you, don't ever forget us. You are part of this family; you are our ambassadors. You are the success story that keeps coming, having more graduates getting into the best programs. And you can pay back by opening networks for your colleagues, by succeeding in getting grants and publications, and importantly by staying in touch with us. Deputy Provost Lina Choueiri, suggested to start a SHARP alumni network. We now count almost 400 diploma grads (301 SHARP summer diplomas, 95 on-line diplomas), 30 of which are master students. We will launch that network and want you to stay engaged.

Now to the three Ps that I think are the secret behind the success of many people, certainly has been, for me. Purpose: I have chosen to be a physician, and most of you have you all have, I have chosen to be in healthcare, and it's been the most rewarding experience. My second choice was to complete the Master in Public Health, Clinical Effectiveness concentration, at the Harvard School of Public Health, and that's starting with a diploma like you just did. So, purpose you have. Passion, I saw today, you all have. And if you couple these with perseverance, (resilience and grit), these are the secret ingredients, that will make you get to places and be stars that you are and will always be. The sky is the limit. I wish you the best and want to thank your families for supporting you through this. Importantly, I want to thank, of course, Loubna, Ali, Razan, and Mira for supporting our program. And last but not least, the IT people behind closed doors, VP IT Dr Yousef Asfour, who is on the SHARP Training Advisory Committee, thank you so much. And Mr Patrick Fitzgerald, who has really been putting all his efforts and energy into making the SHARP online diploma a success, and it's been growing despite all the challenges and financial difficulties. So, thank you all for being with us.