Background

Short Term Training: The Scholars in HeAlth Research Program D 43 was funded Sept 2012 at the American University of Beirut (AUB) was launched in July 2013. This is a hybrid curriculum development and training grant aimed at capacity building in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Lebanon and the region. The 7 weeks intense 12 credits summer certificate program in quantitative methods graduated 19 students in Aug 2013 (short term training), with equal distribution from both genders: 16 from Medicine, 2 from Nursing and one from Faculty of Health Sciences. Its newly established Responsible Conduct of Research Module was attended by three PhD students at Faculty of Medicine and the EPI-Biostats-Large dataset modules by a PhD student in engineering.

Intermediate Term Training: Four of the summer trainees have transitioned into intermediate training and completed analyses of a large cardiovascular data set made possible through a collaboration with University of Toledo, and co-authored 4 abstracts submitted at the American Association of Thoracic Surgeons 1,2 and to the American College of Cardiology 3,4. Two master trainees are enrolled as research fellow in the Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program has finalized under the mentorship of the SHARP PD the first FRAX based Lebanese Osteoporosis FRAX based guidelines Full Text /Presentation, guidelines that will be endorsed by a ministerial decree from the Lebanese Ministry of Health an activity with direct relevance to national Health Policy She will also be involved in the implementation of the first Fracture Liaison Service at AUB, a quality care intervention to improve outcomes in patients admitted with hip fractures.

Long Term Training: One of the summer trainees has proceeded to pursue additional credits needed to complete a PhD in Nursing at the University of Colorado, and three from the School of Medicine have enrolled in the similarly newly established SHARP Master of Sciences degree Program (long term training). Three students are in process of completing the write up of clinical trials protocols to be implemented in Lebanon and the region in the fields of cancer, osteoporosis, and maternal fetal medicine. Two master trainees are enrolled as research trainees: 1. Time-varying Effects of Prior Intracoronary Stenting on Early-to-Late CABG Mortality in Diabetic Patients with Three Vessel Disease (Abstract). V.D. Nauffal*, M.H. El Zein*, A.M. El-Hage-Sleiman*, M.B. Yammine*, A. Kabour, T.A. Schwann, R.H. Habib*. American Association of Thoracic Surgeons 2014 (Toronto, Canada)


The above individual projects are presented as posters. [*SHARP/AUB affiliated; Presenter = underlined Author]

Clinical Trials Protocols Submitted

1. Randomized trial of Vitamin D in pregnant women with low 25 hydroxy-vitamin D level: maternal and neonatal outcomes. Marlene Chakhtoura*, Asma Arabi*, Nick Harvey, Cyrus Cooper and Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan*

2. Prevention of aromatase inhibitor-induced bone loss using once yearly Zoledronic Acid: a randomized controlled trial. Maya Barake*, Sally Temraz, Ali Shameddine and Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan*

3. Cisplatin versus cetuximab in patients undergoing radiation therapy for locally advanced head and neck malignancies with acneiform skin rash secondary to cetuximab: a multi-center Phase III study Karine Al Feghali* and Fady Gara. [SHARP/AUB affiliated]

Conclusion

This substantial research productivity within the first year of the launch of SHARP speaks to the strength of the program in terms of curriculum faculty and trainees as well as to the gap it has filled for medical graduates at AUB with a clear commitment to research training at all levels. The tools acquired during this training and the topics chosen are at the heart of NCDs and are of direct relevance to Lebanon.