Doctor Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan, Program Director of SHARP,

Doctor Robert Habib, SHARP summer certificate Program Director,

SHARP teaching faculty and staff,

Fellow classmates,

Distinguished guests,

Not often is summer associated with high academic learning and excellence. But this year, the association was found to be highly significant, even after adjusting for “Pizza Friday”.

For us Sharpees, the last seven weeks have been demanding, yet fulfilling. When once journal articles consisted of an abstract, results and conclusion sections, SHARP straightened our reading glasses and rightly directed our focus to the heart of all scientific work: the methodology. Now more than ever, we realize that it is the means that should justify the end. Research is a cause and, while researchers are entrusted with it, SHARP made sure that us, the future generation, had not only the basic tools and skills to conduct and critique scientific work but also, to do so within the confines of ethical rectitude.

We had the courage to ask for more and SHARP answered.

We put in the effort, yet SHARP doubled the stakes.

But if it wasn’t for the professionalism, dedication and inspiration of the teaching faculty, we would not have been here. Indeed, while our friends and some of our colleagues spent their days on the beach or carelessly enjoyed “10 Abid Zghar”, we struggled to come to terms with four projects and tens of exams and assignments. However we succeeded! Congratulations!

Some will say: “let’s enjoy summer!”

We will say: “what’s next?!”

Elias GHOSSOUB MD