**Vision of a “New Physician”**

While Lebanese, regional, and global needs and opportunities, and the University’s Strategic Plan, all support a promising vision for the new medical school at LAU, the truly inspiring drive for such a school is the opportunity to educate and train a unique new medical graduate. The abiding character of our School will be determined by the kind of physician it will graduate. Indeed, the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine at LAU is being conceived and designed to create a new physician, one who is superbly trained in the skills of 21 century medicine, but who believes deeply that a physician is, above all, a merciful healer.

The integrated curriculum we have embraced, with its reliance on small group, self-directed, patient-based learning and its emphasis on the patient, rather than the disease, will develop the depth of character and the insight into human nature required of the physician we aim to graduate. To better prepare students for this training, we will include pre-medical requirements in philosophy, history, literature, religious studies, music and art.

We are also developing curricular requirements for competencies in areas in which doctors today find themselves significantly challenged. The first is “Money”. The intrusion of ‘money’ into the medical profession remains a major challenge for most doctors. Unfortunately, mixing business with medicine has too often detracted from the status of the profession and, more ominously, its mission. At LAU, the role of money in the practice of medicine will be addressed during medical training. In collaboration with the LAU School of Business, curricular offerings addressing aspects of finance and business which impact on the medical profession will be required of LAU medical students.

In collaboration with the LAU School of Pharmacy, the medical school will also require of its graduates to be well versed in, self-confident, and ethically transparent in their professional interactions with the pharmaceutical industry, and with emerging global therapeutic and healing trends and technologies.

A third area of emphasis will be the fostering of skills aimed at preparing students to meet the “changing science and practice of medicine as lifelong learners.” Self improvement and critical thinking are crucial for this process, and are also deeply incorporated in the School’s curriculum.