

College of Pharmacy Collaborate in Organization of IPE Workshop



Qatar University's College of Pharmacy and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) collaborated in organizing an Interprofessional Education (IPE) workshop, entitled Being an Effective Team Player. They partnered with University of Calgary in Qatar and College of the North Atlantic in Qatar. The workshop, held May 19 was designed to orient healthcare professionals on the importance of effective teamwork and communication in ensuring patient safety.

The forum is one of a series of Interprofessional Education (IPE) events in which CPH partners with healthcare institutions. It was the biggest IPE event to date, bringing together 112 students from six different healthcare disciplines –pharmacy, medicine, nursing, pharmacy technician, medical radiography and emergency medical science. The aim was to teach them how to work effectively in teams and how to collaborate and communicate with other health professionals, thereby preventing errors in real-life medical and emergency situations.

IPE Chair and CPH Assistant Dean Mrs. El-Awaisi said: “The lessons these professionals learned today will be reflected in their future dealings with others in the healthcare sector. The College is constant in its commitment to integrating IPE experiences within our curriculum to prepare our graduates to be part of an holistic environment of good teamwork, collaboration and communication. Ultimately, this will be of huge benefit to their patients.”

The workshop oriented the students on how to make collaborative decisions and to communicate with team members in an appropriate, timely and clear manner. They also acquired insight into the scope of the jobs conducted within the various professions. Using real-life scenarios and simulations the students also learned the DOs and DON'Ts and how to avoid human error in life-threatening emergencies.

WCMC-Q Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine Dr Stella Major said that collaborative events like this improve understanding and teamwork among healthcare professionals, reducing the chance of mistakes and giving individuals the confidence to speak out. “In practice we all work alongside each other, so as the trainees are learning, they can begin to learn together and develop comfort with discussing how human-factor errors may lead to poor patient outcomes”, she said.

CPH 2nd-yr student Amani Al Haddad said: “A scenario in today's event dramatised miscommunication among the healthcare team as a result of which the patient died from liver failure. I want to incorporate this learning into my upcoming internship this summer at the hospital where I will collaborate with a group of multi-disciplinary professionals. These events are making us, as students, better prepared to work as a team for the benefit of our patients.”

First-year medical student Shaikha AlQahtani said that the event served to increase her

appreciation of the work of all health professionals and the respect they receive for being on the frontlines of patient care.

Note: The College of Pharmacy was recently named by the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education, the IPE international body, to host the 1st Middle East Conference on Interprofessional Education in recognition of its leadership in promoting IPE in the region. The forum will take place on December 4-6, 2015.