

College of Pharmacy Leads Interprofessional Education Workshop in Qatar

Qatar University (QU) College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Chair of Interprofessional Education (IPE), Alla El-Awaisi kicked off another IPE event of the under the theme 'Smoking Cessation'. The event was hosted at the College of the North Atlantic Qatar (CNAQ). This is the second occurrence of this specific IPE activity and it was another great success. Mrs. Alla El-Awaisi said: "Part of our goal from these workshops is preparing our students for shared decision making through collaborative practice in their careers ahead. Smoking Cessation is an effective model for showcasing this collaboration and providing an environment for students of all healthcare backgrounds to understand and respect their roles and responsibilities to stakeholders".)

CNA-Q School of Health Sciences Dean Ms Irene O'Brien said: "It is a pleasure to host healthcare students on our campus, to help build professional aptitude and educational opportunities. Healthcare is all about teamwork and improving patient care -- It is wonderful that students can gain practice in this area to better prepare them for when they start working in Qatar's healthcare system."

Students were surveyed prior to the workshop to assess their knowledge and attitudes about IPE as this is the first time most of these students have been introduced to interprofessional education. Upon arriving at the workshop student's broke into groups to familiarize themselves with their interprofessional backgrounds. Second professional year Pharmacy students interacted with third year Public Health (Department of Health Science- College of Arts and Sciences - QU), Medical (Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar; WCM-Q), Respiratory Therapists (CQ) and nurses from University of Calgary-Qatar divided into mixed Interprofessional teams. Students discussed what they have in common and what is different about their areas of study.

Following the ice breaker activity, Dr. Ahmed Awaisu, Assistant Professor College of Pharmacy explained the relevance of smoking cessation and highlighted the role of healthcare providers. He also discussed the importance of why students in healthcare profession disciplines need to join forces for a healthier Qatar. Dr. Awaisu emphasized the role for collaborative care in tobacco cessation clinics as part of the strategies to control tobacco use in Qatar. Learning together using an interprofessional education (IPE) model is a unique opportunity to build a strong foundation for future partnership among pharmacy, medical, public health, nursing and allied health professionals students. Collaboration of this capacity provides all students the opportunity to further their skillset and become more well-rounded healthcare practitioners in the workplace.

Students then went on to solve cases of smoking cessation adopting the strategies learned during the session by Dr. Mohamud Verjee (WCM-Q). Over 72 students jointly solved cases involving helping a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patient who heavily smokes to quit and discussed strategies and roles in establishing a smoking cessation clinic.

During the group feedback session, student's emphasized how much they enjoyed the workshop and look forward to future sessions. Second Year Qatar University College of Pharmacy student and CPH Student Representative Radoa Al Ansari said: "Collaborating together with students from other healthcare programs gives us a better understanding of each other's roles and perspectives in the healthcare team. These sessions provide us the

tools we will need in the workplace and provide optimal care to the patient. Working together for the betterment of the patient is everyone's goal “.