

CPH holds 1st-ever IPE MENA conference

2015-12-13



CPH held the 1st Middle East Conference on Interprofessional Education (IPE) on December 4-6, under the theme “New Frontiers in Healthcare Education”.

The conference, the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, aimed to showcase IPE in the Middle East. It is organized under the platinum sponsorship of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), and the academic partnership of QU colleges of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and Medicine (CMED), the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

It follows the selection of the College of Pharmacy as host in March this year by the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE), the IPE world leader, based on its leading role in the Middle East in raising awareness and incorporating IPE into curricula.

The opening ceremony was inaugurated by QU President Dr Hassan Rashid Al Derham in the presence of Qatar Minister of Public Health H.E. Abdullah bin Khalid Al-Qahtani, QU Acting VP for Research and Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) director Dr Darwish Al-Emadi, CPH dean and Chair of the Conference Advisory Committee Dr Ayman El-Kadi, CPH associate dean for Academic Affairs Dr Mohammad Diab, and CPH assistant dean for Student Affairs and Chair of the Organizing Committee Dr Alla El-Awaisi, as well as 215 representatives of local and international healthcare and medical institutions, and QU leadership, faculty, staff and students.

The 3-day event brought together over 300 healthcare leaders from 13 countries -- Qatar, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. They discussed and exchanged ideas and strategies to integrate an IPE approach into the curriculum and teaching methodologies.

Keynote speakers were CAIPE president Prof Hugh Barr, Professor of Interprofessional Education at the University of Leicester Prof Elizabeth Anderson, Associate Principal at the University of British Columbia (UBC) College of Health Disciplines Dr Lesley Bainbridge, and Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba and member of the Canadian Inter-professional Health Collaborative (CIHC) Steering Committee Dr Ruby Grymonpre. They provided in-depth reviews of the development, implementation and impact of IPE in schools and on-site experience.

The program agenda included a panel discussion themed “Examples from the Middle East, Healthcare Practitioners Experiences of Inter-professional Practices in Qatar” led by Dr

Mohammad Diab and including healthcare leaders from HMC -- Executive Director of Medical Research Professor Ibrahim Janahi, Deputy Chief of the Continuing Care Group and Supreme Council of Health Nursing Affairs Dr Nabila Al Meer, Heart Hospital Director of Pharmacy Dr Sumaya Al Saadi, and Corporate Head Dietitian Ms Noora Aljaffali.

It also featured sessions in the form of panel, oral and poster presentations, as well as workshops that address a wide range of topics such as “IPE Experiences from the Qatar University College of Pharmacy Inter-professional Education Committee”, “The impact of an IPE workshop on student perceptions of other Healthcare Professions”, “The Effect of an Educational Workshop on Health Care Professionals Perceptions of the Role of Occupational Therapy in Kuwait”, “Developing an Interprofessional Clinical Educator Model and Curricula in a Greenfield Women’s and Children’s Hospital in the Middle East”, “Diversity and nationalisation in Interprofessional Education”, “Faculty Development For Interprofessional Continuing Education: Employing An Innovative, active Approach”, “Simulation based Curricula for an interprofessional Audience”, and many others.

In his opening remarks, Dr Al Derham said: “The health sector in Qatar has taken tremendous leaps in the last years and has expanded in the scope, coverage, and quality of services it offers. Throughout this process of strategic expansion, Qatar University has been a major partner in educating the health cadre. This involvement was recently intensified by the inauguration of the first national College of Medicine. Together with the College of Pharmacy and the various health sciences programs, health and medical education at Qatar University has moved into a new era.

“We are keenly aware that health is not served by a single specialty and that optimal preventive and curative care comes from a well-trained inter-disciplinary team, working together and combining their skill sets in a manner benefitting the complexity and uniqueness of each case. When health care professionals work together, the positive outcomes are multiplied. We are also aware that this caliber of teamwork is more easily and effectively built when it starts at an early stage of education -- hence, the importance of inter-professional education, and our drive to make it a success in our educational and clinical settings.

“I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the creativity, drive and dedication of the faculty and students of the College of Pharmacy, who took the lead on this effort, with enthusiastic support from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Medicine. Their combined efforts will truly take us to the “New Frontiers in Healthcare” that we seek, as academics working for the welfare of society.

“To our students, I say that gaining IPE experiences in your academic journey is a gift that will keep on giving both in your professional and personal lives and will inspire you to be effective communicators, generous knowledge-sharers, and excellent leaders and drivers of change.”

Dr El-Kadi said: “This event reflects QU’s pivotal role as a key driver of progress and innovation in higher education in Qatar and the region. It also highlights CPH’s ongoing efforts to integrate IPE experiences at the core of health education, and provide students with an inspiring learning environment in which they learn how to become effective communicators, problem-solvers, and excellent leaders who are capable of playing key roles in the country’s development. The discussions and recommendations emanating from this

conference will certainly serve to raise the health system standard in Qatar as the country moves towards fulfilling the National Health Strategy and the goals of the National Vision 2030.”

Dr El-Awaisi said: “The goal of this conference is to give each and every one of the attendees the knowledge and confidence to implement IPE principles directly into their academic and professional lives. We wish to establish a network of skilled and innovative educators, dedicated to the principles of interprofessional education. At the heart of interprofessional education and collaboration are principles that we can all agree are vital to providing the best care for our patients. These principles are teamwork, collaboration, knowledge-sharing and problem-solving. These principles are critical to shaping the future of healthcare professionals here in the Middle East.”