

## **CPH IPE Workshop Engages 112 Healthcare Students**

112 first-year students from Qatar University (QU) colleges of Pharmacy (CPH), Medicine (CMED), and Health Sciences (CHS)- Human Nutrition, and the University of Calgary-Qatar (UCQ) participated in the recent workshop “Introducing Interprofessional Education”.

The workshop which was organized by CPH Interprofessional Education (IPE) committee and provided the students with the opportunity to interact and share experiences. Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Chair of the IPE committee Alla El-Awaisi welcomed the students and introduced them to the Qatar IPE shared competency document encompassing; interprofessional role clarification, communication and patient-centered shared decision making. Questions were then posed to the students on what does it mean to work interprofessionally, whether it’s part of their qualified role as a healthcare provider and can they work interprofessionally. Students enjoyed an introductory icebreaker activity in getting to know each other, before moving on to Interprofessional educational activities and games designed to highlight the common values, strengths and differences of each of their future professions. This included a case study about a Qatari man who has hypertension for the past 8 years, a family history of diabetes and coronary heart disease and now comes to the clinic because he feels he may have developed diabetes with his sedentary lifestyle. Students were asked to think about the different healthcare professionals that will be involved with the patient during his treatment journey.

Alongside the Chair of the IPE committee, the workshop was facilitated by CPH Assistant Professor Dr Daniel Rainkie, MSc Pharmacy student and IPE Student Society president Myriam Jaam, CMED Research Assistant Professor Dr Nadia Al-Banna, CMED Assistant Professor Dr Farhan Cyprian, CHS Human Nutrition lecturer Tamara Al-Abdi, UCQ nursing instructors: Katheleen De Leon Demare, Diane White and Carnelle Symes.

CPH Dean Dr Ayman El-Kadi said: “This workshop is an excellent opportunity for students to interact with their peers and gain greater insight into their respective roles in the healthcare sector. It also aligns with the College’s efforts to foster interprofessional dialogue and provide an environment for collaboration which is in line with the goals of the National Health Strategy.”

Commenting on the workshop, QU VP for Medical Education and CMED dean Dr Egon Toft said: “Interprofessional education is a pedagogical approach of particular importance for QU. The university already has a strong record in leading interprofessional education in Qatar through its College of Pharmacy, and is now moving boldly towards more integration in health education through its programs and collaboration with other institutions in Qatar. I am confident that with time this will result in enhanced performance, increased synergy and ultimately improved patient care.”

CPH assistant dean for Student Affairs and IPE Committee chair Ms Alla El-Awaisi said: “A culture of shared decision making and team-work early in their education is essential to clear any misconceptions healthcare students may have about one others. Even though they are all from different healthcare disciplines, they must learn to work together and respect each other’s strengths. This will ensure that they are prepared for collaborative practice in their future careers.”

CPH student Iqrah Mohammad Qurishi said: “Learning about other healthcare professions

will contribute to enhancing our skills and ability to provide the most optimal care to patients. I look forward to participating in more IPE activities.”

Department of Nutrition-College of Health Sciences student Haya Alaayesh said: It was an interesting activity, I learnt a lot about how working with other health professions is important, especially between doctors, nurses, pharmacists and dietitians. Collaboration with each other is important in helping the patient”

UCQ nursing student Rubeena Touqif said: "The IPE was amazing! It was a great opportunity for us!, We had the chance to meet students from a variety of health care professions. We had the chance to have a look at patient care from different aspects and different perceptions and we worked together to complete multiple tasks which were very beneficial to us! We also learned from each other to further understand the value of each profession. This was a priceless experience and I'm looking forward to having more of them!”

All healthcare students reported that the workshop exceeded their expectations for learning about each other, and felt they had better Interprofessional communication skills as a result.