

CPH student wins 1st place at International Healthcare Challenge

CPH MSc student and Interprofessional Education Student Society President Maryam Jaam won with her team the 1st place at the International Healthcare Challenge at the 8th International Conference on Interprofessional Practice and Education which was recently held at Oxford University.

The students Maryam Jaam, CPH final year 4th-year student and Qatar Pharmacy Undergraduate Society President Amani Faissal Al-Haddad, and CPH 4th-year student Noora Mohammad AlHamad each were placed in an interprofessional team and competed against each other. The interprofessional student teams were from various countries including Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, Qatar, Sweden, Turkey and USA. They participated in a 4-day “real world” health care case challenge in which they applied an interprofessional approach to take care of a 30-year-old quadriplegic with various health care complications and presented in front of an international panel of judges from Canada, Japan, Singapore, and the UK.

Myriam Jaam delivered an oral presentation on “The IPE Student Society in a Middle Eastern setting: Take on the challenge and ride the journey” and the three students presented a poster on “A student Journey of Interprofessional learning in a Middle Eastern context” under the supervision of CPH Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and IPE Committee Chair Ms Alla El-Awaisi.

Commenting on the students’ achievement, CPH Dean Dr Mohammad Diab said: “This competition provides our students with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of IPE and to showcase their talents in front of their peers and experts at both the local and international levels. They continue to make us proud as leaders in the field of pharmacy and across interprofessional disciplines.”

Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE) President Prof Hugh Barr said: “Team challenge! A challenge too for each student getting the measure of others from different countries and professions, entering into another role, working against the clock to prepare her presentations to an audience of 500 then thinking on her feet in response to additional information. A challenge especially for those from Qatar arriving only days before in England before meeting students from other countries for the first time then speaking so assuredly in their second language. I feel sure that you would have enjoyed their presentations as much as I did.”

CPH Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Ms Alla El-Awaisi who travelled with the students said: “Participating in these conferences is a great opportunity for our students to represent the college, the university, the country, and the region as a whole. The knowledge and skills that our students gain from the CPH program continue to allow them to shine on the world stage. CPH is planning to initiate next spring a National Healthcare Challenge in Qatar which will bring together students from various health care professions across Qatar to compete in interprofessional teams and provide the best care plans for patients. With the successful execution of such a competition, CPH plans to grow the following year to a regional competition including students from across the Middle East.”

Myriam Jaam said: “Our participation in this conference was a great opportunity not only to learn about other professions but also about the various health practices and systems around

the world. It was an exciting and enriching experience and I am very thankful to the College of Pharmacy for providing us this opportunity as well as the knowledge and skills which distinguishes us from others.”

Noora AlHamad said: “Being part of such an international competition is a motivating experience and drives students to show their talents and apply their skills beyond the classroom. It was an amazing opportunity to test my critical skills in real life and case scenario setting and to be able to collect the feedbacks of international leaders and health care professionals from various disciplines.”

Amani Al Haddad said: “The experience of meeting and sharing our expertise with students from various professional backgrounds has been a great learning opportunity. It is an honor for us to represent the College of Pharmacy, Qatar University and Qatar on the international stage.”

During their trip, the students had also the opportunity to participate in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Conference which was held in Birmingham. Amani Al Haddad and Noora AlHamad were conference delegates while Myriam Jaam presented her research poster on “Evaluating the Evidence on Barriers to Medication Adherence in Patients with Diabetes: A Systematic Review of Systemic Reviews”.