

# CPH to lead first-ever Middle East Conference on IPE

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CPH launched the 1st Middle East Conference on Interprofessional Education (IPE), the first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, at a press conference held on November 23.

Details of the 2-day conference (December 4-6) were outlined by QU Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Dr Mazen Hasna, 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 in the presence of QU College of Arts and Sciences dean Dr Eiman Mustafawi, and QU Biomedical Research Center (BRC) director Dr Asmaa Al-Thani, as well as CPH officials.

The IPE conference follows the selection of the College 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 encouraging IPE into curricula. It is organized under the platinum sponsorship of the Supreme Council of Health, and the academic partnership of CAS and CMED, the University of Calgary in Qatar, and Hamad Medical Corporation.

Themed “New Frontiers in Healthcare Education”, the conference aims to bring 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 will discuss and exchange ideas and strategies to integrate an IPE approach into the curriculum and teaching methodologies.

The opening ceremony will be inaugurated by Qatar Minister of Public Health H.E. Abdulla bin Khalid Al Qahtani, QU President Dr Hassan Al-Derham, Dr Ayman El-Kadi, and Dr Alla El-Awaisi.

The keynote speaker will be CAIPE president Prof Hugh Barr who will present on “Celebrating Interprofessional Education Worldwide”.

The conference agenda will comprise two panel discussions on “Introducing, developing and sustaining interprofessional education in the university environment” and “Examples from the Middle East, Healthcare Practitioners Experiences of Interprofessional Practices in Qatar.”

It will also include 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 Interprofessional Education Committee”, “The impact of an IPE Workshop on student perceptions of other Healthcare professions”, “Diversity and Internationalisation in Interprofessional Education”, “Effect of IPE Workshops on Student Perceptions of Interprofessional Learning”, among many others.

Commenting on the conference, Dr Hasna said: “It is a significant opportunity to bring healthcare experts from around the world to discuss, share experience and exchange ideas on the development of IPE curricula. This event highlights QU’s pivotal role as a driving force for innovation in health education that promotes inter-activity and collaboration among the various professions. We look forward to the outcomes and recommendations that will emanate from these discussions that will ultimately benefit students and professionals in the health and medical field.”

Dr El-Kadi said: “The College of Pharmacy is well-placed to lead this important event that will engage thought-provoking discussions on IPE. The College continues to enhance its programs with innovative concepts with the aim to advancing its students’ learning and appreciation of shared knowledge among health professionals working in the wide spectrum of the healthcare sector -- the ultimate goal being optimum patient care and safety, and a national health system of international standard and best practice.”

Dr Diab said: “The support of our partnering institutions is greatly appreciated and highlights the important role of IPE in bringing together both academic and practicing healthcare professionals to support the development of a modern and vibrant healthcare sector to meet today’s health challenges.”

Dr El-Awaisi said: “This event underlines the College’s ongoing efforts to collaborate with their partners in Qatar to integrate IPE experiences at the core of health education, so providing students with an inspirational environment of teamwork, collaboration and communication, and ensures students’ success as well-prepared professionals to enter the healthcare sector.”