

## IPE Student Society Host their First Event



Healthcare students at Qatar University College of Pharmacy (QU-CPH) and Department of Health Sciences (DHS), Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q), University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) and College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNA-Q) united at Weill Cornell on October 17th for the Inaugural Interprofessional Education Student Society (IPE-SS) Research day. Organized by the IPE-SS the conference was designed for students from various healthcare disciplines to

present their research results and compete in categories for best poster and oral presentation.

President of the IPE-SS, Myriam Jihad Jamm of Qatar University's College of Pharmacy stated: "With events such as this we hope to further develop the good communications between our colleges, to learn about each other's values and to understand our own roles more clearly. As a member of the College of Pharmacy Interprofessional Education Committee, I was asked to create IPE-SS. Advances in medicine and technology are occurring so quickly that it is crucial for us to share the latest developments in our respective fields with each other so that we can provide the very best care to patients."

Dr. Alla El-Awaisi, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Chair of the Interprofessional Education Committee from Qatar University, College of Pharmacy opened the day by recognizing the effort and hard work of the IPE Student Society. She also conveyed the importance of such collaboration. "Through building the IPE committee, our current and future healthcare students will learn to understand, respect, and implement the core values of interprofessional collaboration: teamwork, mutually supportive relationships, knowledge sharing and problem solving".

Dr. Nayef Mazloum, assistant research professor at WCM-Q, welcomed the students to the event. He said: "We are delighted to see so much enthusiasm for both research and Inter-Professional Education among students from each of these esteemed colleges. This is helping our professions to grow together and I am sure that the commitment shown by all of the students will have a very positive impact on the health of the community in years to come."

Students presented research on a variety of health related conditions including Alzheimer's disease, respiratory problems related to Qatar's climatic environment, adverse drug reactions and the inherited blood disorder thalassemia. They then presented a total of 19 posters and spent time discussing the findings of their research projects with faculty and their peers before the panel of 4 judges (Dr. Nasrin Mesaeli, Dr. Kay Bruening, Dr. Norman Wong, Dr. Alla El-Awaisi and Dr. Diana White) made their final decisions.

The sense of accomplishment and pride among the students was unsurpassed. Poster presentation participant Fatima Maraghi stated, "While research is a core component of our program requirements at QU-CPH, this is a very tough competition to be selected for, and to

be chosen is such an honor. It helps us gain confidence in research and presentation abilities and working with other professionals helps us build our knowledge base and take it into the field with us to collaborate with other healthcare professionals. My advice to future students is to seize these opportunities as it gives you the chance to develop skills and learn from peers beyond the classroom.”

The Research Day then concluded with an awards ceremony at which the winners in each category were presented with certificates of achievement by Dr Ayman El-Kadi (CPH Dean) and Dr Kim Critchley (UCQ-Dean) . 1st place in the oral presentation went to Nahel Tunio, Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar for her research on Mutant Tau Propagation and Toxicity. For the Poster presentations 1st place went to Vignesh Shanmugan, Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar for his research on Comparative gene expression profiling of pilocytic (Grade I) and diffuse (Grade II) astrocytomas - Identification and validation of new biomarkers. 2nd and 3rd place went to Nermin Al Hassan, Qatar University College of Pharmacy for her research on Assessment of quality control parameters and in-vitro bioequivalence/interchangeability of multisourced marked metformin hydrochloride tablets and to Sawsan AlMukdad, Qatar University College of Pharmacy, for her research project: The Health Belief Model.

In addition to winners each receiving awards and certificates of achievement, the experience and opportunity they took away was substantial. As 4th year student Nermin Hamid Mohamed AL-Hasan, stated “Winning 2nd place means that our research project has a positive impact not only in the pharmaceutical science field but also in the clinical practice.” As 2nd year Qatar University-College of Pharmacy and 3rd place poster winner Sawsan AlMukdad stated: "It was a great experience where I had the opportunity to interact with other health care professionals. This makes me believe I have gained enough knowledge and skills where I can apply it in real practice. Further, I have recognized the importance of applying IPE in practice and collaborating with other health disciplines, which will eventually lead to provide patients with best quality of care."

All students who competed received certificates of participation to mark their contributions to research.