

Pharmacy and Nursing Students Engage in Shared Learning

Qatar University College of Pharmacy's (QU CPH) 3rd year students joined the University of Calgary-Qatar 2nd year Nursing students for an interprofessional exercise related to the shared care of patients with Diabetes and acute complications of diabetic ketoacidosis on October 30, 2016 at the University of Calgary campus in Doha.

22 pharmacy students and 42 nursing students worked together in small teams on a specific diabetic ketoacidosis case, a complication of type 1 diabetes mellitus. The highly interactive group focused on examining distinct and complimentary nursing and pharmacy roles in patient care throughout the various stages, from admittance to emergency care through to the patient's discharge from the hospital.

This case helped stimulate exchange of information and new appreciation for one another's skills and knowledge. Nursing students were able to learn more about designing insulin dosing regimen strategies and calculations, while pharmacy students in turn gained new appreciation for administration and assessment techniques. These interprofessional activities enhance the way in which health-care professionals learn from each other and strengthen information-sharing that will ultimately benefit the patient. Dr. Kerry Wilbur said: "Diabetes is a highly prevalent condition in Qatar requiring collaboration among multiple health professionals in patient care. This session is one way for students to develop a greater understanding of one another's abilities before they meet as graduated nurses and pharmacists in practice".

Third year pharmacy student, Ms. Nansi Zaghloul said it was a "great experience to share and integrate our knowledge from different healthcare fields, in this case nursing".

Her classmate Ms. Sawsan AlMukdad added, "diabetes is a big concern in Qatar and needs a multi-disciplinary approach to care and as pharmacists we benefit from learning what nurses can also offer for these patients".

Pharmacy and Nursing students have now met for 4 consecutive years to participate in this popular shared learning experience. The IPE activity is coordinated by Dr. Kerry Wilbur (CPH), and Zohra Hasnani-Samnani (Nursing Instructor UCQ). They were joined this year by CPH Facilitators Dr. Sownd Sankar and Dr. Hebatallah Deghady, Ms. Sandi AliAdib as well as Carolyn Wolsey, Kathleen de Leon-Demare, and Dr. Jessie Johnson from UCQ.