

Pharmacy Leads Interprofessional Education in Qatar



Qatar University (QU) College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Chair of Interprofessional Education (IPE), Ms. Alla El-Awaisi kicked off the third and largest IPE event of the 2014/15 academic year on December 1, 2014 under the theme 'Smoking Cessation'. The event was hosted by the Pharmacy Technician Program from the College of the North Atlantic Qatar (CNAQ), with the support of Mr. Norman Wong.

Dr. Ahmed Awaisu, Assistant Professor College of Pharmacy explained the relevance of smoking cessation and why healthcare professions students need to join forces for a healthier Qatar in his presentation. He emphasized the role for collaborative care in tobacco cessation clinics as part of the strategies to control tobacco use in Qatar. Learning together using an interprofessional education (IPE) model is a unique opportunity to build a strong foundation for future partnership among pharmacy, medical, public health, nursing and allied health professionals students.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the importance of learning from, with and about each other to improve collaboration and quality of patient care. The WHO launched a framework for action on interprofessional education and collaborative practice in 2010 to encourage health science programs to develop it into the curriculum. Integrating IPE into the curriculum was adopted by the College of Pharmacy in 2013.

Second professional year Pharmacy students interacted with third year Public Health (Department of Health Science- College of Arts and Sciences - QU), Medical (Weill Cornell Medical College - Qatar; WCMC-Q) and Pharmacy Technicians students (CNAQ) , divided into mixed teams to solve cases of smoking cessation adopting the strategies learned during the session by Dr. Mohamud Verjee (WCMC-Q). Over 60 students jointly solved cases involving helping a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patient who heavily smokes to quit and discussed strategies and roles in establishing a smoking cessation clinic. These are tools they will use in their future was the group feedback during the debriefing session.

A public health student , from Department of Health Sciences, Khuloud Alshaiba spoke about her takeaways from the workshop, “working with different specialties gave me a better understanding of the roles of other health professions in the healthcare team. Being patient-centered is our shared goal”.

Qatar University College of Pharmacy has future IPE events to follow including hosting the First Interprofessional Education Symposium in February 2015. This symposium will be facilitated by two leading experts in Interprofessional Education from Robert Gordon University in the UK to an audience of faculty from health care programs in Qatar. Previous IPE activities for this academic year, involved pharmacy students working with WCMC-Q and the University of Calgary in Qatar students on diabetes care.