

## **Pharmacy, Nutrition and Sport Science Students Practice Interprofessionalism**

A 52 year old Qatari man has had hypertension for the past 8 years, a family history of diabetes and coronary heart disease and now comes to the clinic because he feels he may have developed diabetes with his sedentary lifestyle. Who and how should the healthcare team treat him?

1st year Pharmacy, 2nd year Human Nutrition (Department of Health Science) and 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students from Sport Science participated in the 4th Interprofessional activity of the semester on December 21st, 2014. The event centered around learning about their respective roles, defining interprofessional education (IPE) and learning how to have shared decision-making.

IPE Committee Chair and College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Mrs. Alla El-Awaisi commented, “an understanding of the scope of professional practice and the roles of each member of the healthcare team will allow the students to make decisions together. IPE in a primary health care setting is more than working together. Health professionals need to use common language and confer together for the best outcome for the patient.”

A pre-survey was completed by students to discover their knowledge and attitudes about IPE prior to the event start. This is the first time these students have been introduced to interprofessional education.

The first activity was an ice breaker for students to get into groups to familiarize themselves with their interprofessional backgrounds. Students discussed what they have in common and what is different about their areas of study. “Both pharmacy and human nutrition program have internship as a requirement for graduation so we both receive hands-on training in how to care for patients,” stated Radoa Al-Ansari, a first year pharmacy student.

Videos demonstrating healthcare situations whereby professionals are making decisions together further enriched their learning. The event place emphasis on understanding everyone’s capabilities because healthcare professionals tendency for silo behavior by profession. Role clarity and understanding the overlap in knowledge and awareness has proven to improve patient outcomes.

‘Interacting is not talking to the other person but meaningful dialogue with them’. ‘Patient care interactions with a focus on team work’. ‘We need to use common language not jargon’. ‘All of these things can improve care of the patient which is why we are all in healthcare’. These were the common sediments echoed by the students when asked what they learned.

Mrs. Alla El-Awaisi, Chair of IPE in Qatar and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, College of Pharmacy, Mrs. Tamara Al Abdi, Clinical Coordinator Department of Health Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Lina Majed, Sport Science Program, College of Arts & Sciences, and Dr. Maral Yazdandoost, Naturopathic Doctor, College of Pharmacy facilitated the event.