

Qatar University College of Pharmacy and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar Join Forces for Patient Care



Interprofessional education or IPE include students from at least two different healthcare disciplines working with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care for the patient. World Health Organization endorses IPE as a means to prepare young professionals for collaborative practice which is demonstrated to improve health outcomes, an important goal of the National Health Strategy 2011-2016.

For the first time in their curriculum 3rd year pharmacy and medical student convened for an IPE activity oriented around diabetes care on Sunday November 9, 2014 to mark the World Diabetes Month.

Ms. Alla El-Awaisi, Assistant Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Chair of the IPE Committee commented, “We are delighted to have the medical students join our interprofessional education activities that we have been delivering at the College of Pharmacy in Qatar University since fall 2013. My sincere appreciation goes to Dr. Stella Major (Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Director of the Clinical Skills Center, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar) and Dr. Kerry Wilbur (Associate Professor in Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Director of the Doctor of Pharmacy Program, College of Pharmacy) for leading this activity and to all the faculty and staff who contributed to making this event a great success”.

Standardized patients were trained to portray a real patient with a set of diabetes symptoms for a mixed team of pharmacy and medical students. The students cooperated to interview the patient and then determined a plan for care. The learning objectives outcomes of this IPE activity were drawn from the Qatar IPE shared competency document encompassing; interprofessional role clarification, communication and patient-centered shared decision making.

Third year pharmacy student Shaima Ali spoke about her experiences, “having an IPE session with medical students was a good opportunity to improve communication between different health care sectors. I enjoyed working with medical students to resolve a patient case and show them what we know and can do”.

Formal IPE initiatives in Qatar are coordinated and organized by Qatar University College of Pharmacy with representation by University of Calgary in Qatar , QU Department of Health Sciences, College of the North Atlantic Qatar and now Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Their goal is to improve health systems and patient care by coordinating interprofessional student activities in advance of their careers in Qatar.