

## **Qatar University College of Pharmacy Wins the Bid to Host the IPE Conference in December**



QU College of Pharmacy (CPH) is proud to announce it has successfully bid to host the first middle east conference for Interprofessional Education (IPE) in Qatar this December. This conference will bring together faculty members from across the arab world to learn about adopting an IPE approach into their curriculum. IPE is still a relatively new

term to the middle east although it has been gaining momentum worldwide in response to the need to prepare health and social care professionals to collaborate more closely to improve quality and safety in caring for patients. The Lancet Commission and the World Health Organization have both endorsed IPE since 2010.

Qatar University College of Pharmacy has adopted the lead role to incorporate this ideology into the curriculums in Qatar health science programs and has initiated the first IPE Qatar Committee in 2013, chaired by Ms. Alla El-Awaisi, Assistant Dean at the college.

The winning bid was announced following a successful year of IPE events organized by Qatar University. A 2-day IPE Symposia was held February 11 -12, 2015 called “Interprofessional Education – Symposia to Qatar” the 5th IPE event organized by CPH during the academic year. Healthcare faculty members from institutions throughout Qatar joined IPE industry leaders for the 2-day workshop. The workshop mandate was to provide faculty members with the knowledge to further advance their IPE educational programs within the curriculum.

IPE Experts Professor Lesley Diack & Dr. Sundari Joseph from Robert Gordon University in the UK were brought in for the training program. Outcomes anticipated include experiencing IPE activities that can be incorporated into the curriculum, developing facilitation skills, learning about IPE networks and how to develop them from scratch. Deans from Saudi Arabia participated in the symposia to learn how to bring IPE in KSA: Professor Zainy Banjar, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy at King Abdulaziz University and Dr. Abdulrahman Alahdal, Vice Dean-Clinical Training & Development at King Abdulaziz University.

“IPE is a global movement with most countries and continents having some form of interprofessional education which often leads to collaborative working. There are at present 8 IPE networks representing Australasia, North America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, the Nordic countries, and two for Japan. The symposia, research undertaken by the QU/RGU IPE research team and recent educational initiatives at Qatar University put it at the forefront of IPE developments in the Middle East. It would be a great outcome of the conference in December to see an IPE network is established in the Middle East”, said Lesley Diack, IPE expert.

Conference registration and call for abstracts will be announced shortly.

