

Medical News

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International Union of Physiological Sciences Teaching Conference and Workshop 5-6 March 2011, AGU, Kingdom of Bahrain

Invited Speakers:

Professor Penny Hansen, Co-chair IUPS education committee and Professor of physiology, Faculty of medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

Emeritus professor Ann Sefton, Previous co-chair IUPS education committee and associate dean of medicine and dentistry, Emeritus professor of physiology, University of Sydney, Australia.

Professor Usha Nayar, previous director health professions education program and chair of physiology at the Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain.

Professor Osamu Mastsuo, director of medical education centre, professor of physiology, Kinki University, Japan.

The workshop program includes hands-on sessions and discussions on current educational issues related to teaching and learning of the basic sciences. ADInstrument will run sessions with the latest power laboratory data acquisition systems.

Abstract submission date and registration details will be circulated later. For more information: Dr Feisal Subhan, Department of physiology, College of medicine, AGU, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 17239887, email: feisalmm@agu.edu.bh, website: www.agu.edu.bh/iups.

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Healthy Living

People in Bahrain will have the opportunity to improve their health and lifestyle through meditation. The Middle East Meditation Conference was launched on Tuesday the 11th of January at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sanabis. The three-day event was held under the patronage of Deputy Premier Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and the theme was “Awakening Your Inner Power and Potential”. It was organized by Bahrain Meditation Centre for Self Development, in partnership with Bahrain Exhibition and Convention Authority. Organizers said that the conference attracted expert speakers and professionals from Japan, Australia, the US and India among others as well as participants from across the Middle East. Workshops were held, where participants had the opportunity to develop their skills and practiced diverse methods of self-improvement.

Health Clamp on Fast Food Outlets

Health authorities started carrying out a clampdown on Bahrain's restaurants and fast food outlets violating safety rules. Officials said scores of such places had either been fined or shut down temporarily. Those which have been fined included several well-known fast food restaurants as well as other popular eating places. Health inspectors moving around at several places have spotted these violations. This move came after the Lower Criminal Court had fined BD300 a well-known fast food joint when a cockroach was found in a customer's meal. Health officials urge consumers to inform the ministry about shops or restaurants storing food improperly, selling expired goods or any other unsafe practices.

Job Health Checks to be Faster

Health authorities plan to halve the waiting time for foreign workers undergoing pre-employment medical tests. Officials at the Al Razi Health Centre, Naim, want to speed up the process after already reducing it from a month to 14 days. Expatriates, who secure a job in Bahrain, are required to undergo a medical check-up at their country of origin and on arrival in Bahrain before being given residence permits.

The pre-employment medical tests include a general medical examination and chest X-ray. Blood investigation for HIV, Hepatitis-B and VDRL test for syphilis for certain occupation groups such domestic workers, food handlers, barbers and beauty saloon staff. Workers who fail these tests are considered unfit for work and not issued a work permit. Private hospitals and clinics had been given the green light to conduct mandatory pre-employment medical tests in a bid to ease the pressure on the centre. A residence permit is issued after the formalities are completed and a medical certificate is issued by Al Razi Health Centre or private hospital. A total of 30,960 new work permits were issued in the first half of this year

alone - 34 percent of them for construction workers. A total of 597,402 people were employed in Bahrain at the end of the third quarter, of which 457,487 were expatriates.

Taking the Lead

Bahrain is preparing a national strategy to protect the rights of the disabled. The initiative, which is the first of its kind in the region, is spearheaded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Social Development Ministry and Higher Committee for the Care of the Disabled. The main aim is to have a strategy that promotes the development of people with disabilities through the mainstreaming of services such as education, health and housing. Other targets include ensuring that the disabled have proper access to employment opportunities. The year-long project began more than seven months ago and includes conducting background studies and compiling existing data. In addition to drafting a strategy, there are workshops and training for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and those working with the disabled. Bahrain signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 but it has still not been ratified. According to official statistics, less than one percent of people in Bahrain have disabilities, which is much lower than World Health Organization figures of 5% to 10% of any population. Various working groups had been established to look at different aspects of the strategy including legislation, media, accessibility, health, education, employment, economic and social empowerment. There will be a special focus on women with disabilities in pregnancy, marriage and sexual relations.

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REFERENCES

1. GDN and MOH intranet webpage.