

Medical News

Amani Al Hajeri, MD, MSc MG*

Dr Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa Prize for Medical Research

Three doctors were presented with the first Dr Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa Prize for Medical Research on the 10th of April 2008. A Bahraini, Dr Jameel Nasser, who works at the Isa Town Health Centre, won the first prize of BD1, 000. His research was titled "Evaluation of Diabetes Care in a Primary Care Setting". A Saudi, Dr Abbas Al Saeed, won the second prize of BD600 for his paper titled "Sensitization to Allergens among Patients with Allergic Rhinitis in Warm Dry Climates". A Saudi, Dr Soheir Adam, won the third prize of BD400 for her research titled "Analysis of Prognostic Factors Affecting Response to Treatment and Survival in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Patients". The ceremony was sponsored by Kuwait Finance House in Bahrain, and was held at The Diplomat Radisson SAS Hotel Residence & Spa under the patronage of Supreme Islamic Council chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa. The prize is named after Defence Minister Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who has sponsored it. It was agreed that the Prize is to be held annually to encourage doctors in the region to undertake medical research. The winning medical research papers were published in the BMB in 2007.

University Offers Degree Course in Health Ethics

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-MUB) has launched a part-time master's degree course in healthcare ethics and law. The program is designed specifically for healthcare professionals and individuals in fields related to health care and law. It also aims to provide professionals with an opportunity to gain deeper and more systematic understanding of ethical and legal issues, explore the moral problems they face at work, recognize potential legal liability and to understand healthcare practice in its legal and social context.

American Mission Hospital Clinic Inaugurated

The refurbished pediatric clinic, sponsored by Riffa Views, has been officially inaugurated at the American Mission Hospital. Riffa Views has been the official sponsor of the clinic for two years in view of its platinum and diamond sponsorship of the AMH Island Classic Golf Charity Tournament. Proceeds were utilized to upgrade the clinic's medical services through the purchase of equipment, including a pediatric ventilator, a portable nebulizer, an infantometer, an ophthalmoscope, bassinets, an otoscope and an Alaris Tri-site thermometer.

* Clinical Geneticist
Genetics Department
Salmaniya Medical Complex
Kingdom of Bahrain

Introduction of Rotavirus Vaccine in Bahrain

A survey had been conducted between April 2006 and March 2007 about the prevalence of the common and contagious sources of gastroenteritis that cause repeated and protracted bouts of diarrhoea and vomiting. The study showed a high prevalence of rotavirus in Bahrain. The results revealed that more than 50 per cent of the gastroenteritis cases admitted to the Salmaniya Medical Complex were affected by the rotavirus. The Ministry had taken the results of the survey into account before a final decision was made and that it was based on the overall cost assessment and the effectiveness of the vaccine. The Ministry will provide the vaccine in the health centers. The first dose of the vaccine is being given to infants at two months and a booster dose will then be given at four months as oral drops at all the health centers.

New Health Centre in West Riffa

Bahraini Cabinet gave the green light to the creation of a new health centre in West Riffa on the 23rd of March 2003. This follows a request submitted by the parliament. The Health Ministry would include the cost of the new health center in its 2009-2010 budget. Additionally, the Ministry was directed to create more centers for the treatment of addicts, and allocate funds for such projects in co-operation with the Finance, Interior and Municipalities.

Help for Handicaps

The Cabinet studied a proposal submitted by parliament about the possibility of raising the current BD50/individual monthly financial assistance, which is paid to 5,040 handicapped people. It may be noted that the government also assists the handicapped to integrate in community and receive adequate training, rehabilitation and employment.

Healthy Lifestyle Campaign

Anti-obesity nationwide two-day campaign was held on the 12th of March 2008 at Seef Mall. It is launched by Future Doctors (a group of volunteer doctors), who are trying to shed light on the importance of healthy diet and lifestyle. Present at the event was reality TV show "Al RabeH Al Akbar (Biggest Winner)" second season winner Emirati Waleed Ahmed, who entered at 130.5kg and won the show at 65kg. He came to Bahrain to encourage people to eat healthy food and play sports. Brochures, leaflets, and booklets on obesity and how to fight it were distributed to the public. Various competitions and programs were also held to promote anti-obesity at the event.

Medicare Conference

The Royal Medical Services at BDF, in cooperation with US Central Command, organized the first international medical conference, entitled 'Medicare in peace, disasters and crisis situations' on March 23-25 at the Muharraq Hall in the Diplomat Hotel. Experts and specialist from 13 countries discussed issues related to Geneva Protocol and shared views and experience.