

Medical News

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A team of researchers/clinicians headed by Major General Dr. Salman AlKhalifa, the CEO of King Hamad University Hospital, Dr. Dalal Alhasan, Director of Training & Education and Dr. Jaffar Albareeq, Director of Research and Ethics visited and established a link with King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center in Riyadh on 20 June 2012.



Dr. Jaffar Albareeq, Dr. Sultan Al-Sedairy, Executive Director, King Faisal Research Center, Major General Dr. Salman Alkhalifa, Dr. Dalal Alhasan

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Dr. Dalal Alhasan, Major General Dr. Salman Alkhalifa, Dr. Mohammed Alamoudi, National Laboratory for Newborn Screening, Dr. Jaffar Albareeq, Dr. Mamdouh Albaqumi, Deputy Executive Director Research Center

The team visited King Faisal Research Center (KFRC) in Riyadh based on the invitation from His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al-Sedairy, Executive Director of KFRC.

The objective of the visit was to establish a link between future King Hamad Research Center and King Faisal Research Center, to discuss the design of the future center and equipments needed, to discuss the research fields in Bahrain and avoid duplication of efforts, to study KFRC protocols and guidelines and to discuss the accreditation of the future research center in Bahrain. In addition, KFRC executive director, Dr. Sultan Al-Sedairy agreed to train scientists from King Hamad Research Center if needed.

The team's main interest was concentrated on the following areas: Oncology and Immunology, Genetic, Stem cell and regenerated biology research.

H.E. Dr. Sultan Al-Sedairy, has opened a channel between KHUH and KFRC; he offered to help the future research center in Bahrain in all the stages of development. The visit was concluded at 4.30 pm 20 June 2012 on the understanding that the two centers will strengthen the bilateral relations between the two institutions to the benefit of both. An open direct channel was established between the offices of Dr. Salman Alkhalifa and Dr. Sultan Al-Sedairy.

Bahrain Medical Society Course

Bahrain Medical Society (BMS) held a licensure preparatory course for more than 50 people, some of whom travelled from Saudi Arabia and UAE, on 26 June 2012. The Speakers were from Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) and Bahrain Defense Force Hospital; the course concluded with mock examination for the participants.

“How to Use Electronic Library” and Educational Program

As part of its commitment to continuous medical education, the Department of Surgery at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) and Ahmed Al-Farsi Library, College of Health Sciences have organized a workshop on “How to Use Electronic Library”. It was attended by 15 members from the department of surgery. It took place in the computer laboratory of Ahmed Al-Farsi Library on Monday 25 June 2012. Mr. Al Khatam demonstrated the procedure of registration and gave an overall orientation of the various databases available. The electronic library is a keystone to literature review and updates in the medical field.

As part of its commitment to continuous medical education, the Department of Surgery continued its 2012 out of campus activities. The last activity was held on Monday 18 June 2012. A lecture on “Surgical Site Infection” was presented by Dr. Mariam Al Junaid (Specialist General Surgeon). It was held at Movenpick Hotel in Al Murjan Hall at 9:00 pm. The lecture was attended by the Department of Surgery members of SMC. It was followed by a presentation by Gulf Corporation.

World Day against Drug Abuse

Education and awareness projects were held to celebrate the International Day against drug abuse and trafficking on 26 June 2012. According to a spokesperson from the ministry of interior, an awareness exhibition was held at the Country Mall displaying the different kinds of illegal drugs confiscated by the police in the past. Through the exhibition, the interior ministry raised awareness of the dangers of illegal drug abuse. Bahrain’s war against drugs, through official and public efforts, is coordinated by a National Committee against Drug Abuse, which was established by the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Two units assigned for tracking suspected people were established at King Fahd Causeway and at the Bahrain International Airport to trace suspected passengers, exchange data with other countries and cooperate with Interpol in extraditing suspects. Laws have continuously been bolstered to provide tougher punishments on violators of the drug law. On the level of awareness and guidance, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been working on combating the phenomenon with focus on youth through a number of awareness programs and activities.

Diabetes among Children in Bahrain

According to the organizers of the diabetes awareness nationwide project, as much as 30% of school children, whom they have checked, have a tendency to be diabetic. The Manama Rotary Club is spearheading a nationwide project to screen up to 30,000 schoolchildren for diabetes with the help of the Al Kindi Hospital. It was highlighted, almost two years ago, that the incidence of diabetes in Bahrain is one of the highest in the world. Currently, the screening process is still continuing; more than 20,000 children were checked already according to Rotary's past president. After screening, the children with diabetic tendencies will be referred to Bahrain Diabetic Society for counseling. Phase two of the project is to have a van fitted with mobile diabetes educational and awareness program to travel from town to town.

Sickle Cell Crisis

A meeting was held in July 2012 to discuss the sickle cell crisis and measures undertaken to treat patients. Health Minister Mr. Sadiq Al Shehabi has called the meeting following the death of three sickle cell patients in early July of this year. The meeting reviewed the current therapeutic measures and assessed their effectiveness in treating Bahraini sickle cell patients. The Minister requested a comprehensive plan to solve the problem of sickle cell disease management in Bahrain.

The ministry has already turned the 44-bed Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Centre into a temporary facility for the treatment of sickle cell patients. A new four-storey hereditary blood disease center comprising 90 beds is expected to be operational later this year. Mr. Al Shehabi called on all civil society institutions, particularly the Bahrain Sickle Cell Care Society, to join ranks with the ministry to avert marriages between families with a history of hereditary blood diseases. The ministry is planning a media campaign to raise awareness and reduce the incidence of sickle cell disease in Bahrain.

REFERENCES

GDN, Daily Tribune and MOH internet webpage.