

## **Medical News**

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### **Radiography Course**

Two radiographers from SMC Radiology Department returned from France after finishing Technologists training held at Nancy Hospital and Amboise pare Hospital in France. Mr. A.Ali Hasan Mahfoodh and Muntaha Hasan were trained on GE model Innova 3131 Bi-Plane Vascular system covering peripheral angiography, neuro, cardiac procedures, advanced training 3D rotational angiography and diagnostic workstation. The course was organized by general electric company (GE) from the 26<sup>th</sup> of August to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2008.

### **Digital Fundus Camera at the Diabetic Clinic at Salmaniya Medical Center**

A digital fundus camera has been installed at the diabetic clinic at Salmaniya Medical Center. It's inaugurated as the last stage of the diabetic retinopathy screening program. This camera is donated by Rotary Club of Salmaniya, at a cost of BD 16,000. The project is a product of the joint effort of the national committee for prevention of blindness (NCPB), in collaboration with the department of ophthalmology at Salmaniya Medical Complex. The first fully digitized clinic for diabetic eye diseases screening was introduced in Muharraq health center; this was the first pilot unit in this project. It represents a collaborative effort between Ministry of Health NCPB and Lions club as part of the diabetic retinopathy screening program conducted in July 2003. Currently, there are five digital cameras distributed over 5 regional health centers in Bahrain. Digital photography is being performed by a technician at Muharraq health center which is electronically connected to the ophthalmology department at SMC. An ophthalmologist at Salmaniya medical center diagnoses and grades these images after receiving them via the Internet. Patients who have abnormality are referred from the health center to receive treatment at ophthalmology department. They are supplied with Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Card which includes Demographic data, Family physician details, Diabetes history, ophthalmological history, and fundus examination. This project is the first of its kind in the region and will add a high quality service to the management of Diabetic.

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## **The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO)**

Under the patronage of His Highness Sh. Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Prime Minister, the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health will conduct its 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress from 26-30 March 2009 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It will be held at Bahrain International Exhibition Center in collaboration with American Academy of ophthalmologist, International council of ophthalmology and Bahrain Ophthalmological association. MEACO is one of the four supranational organizations of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO); it is the executive body of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS). All national ophthalmic societies of the Middle East and African countries are members of MEACO, including Turkey and Iran, making MEACO the largest supranational organization in the world. The MEACO international congress is held every two years. The scientific program is expected to have more than 400 speakers of whom 90 international speakers. The technical Exhibition will host more than 120 companies exhibiting their latest products and services. More than 2000 participants from all over the world are expected to attend the event.

### **Bahrain Donates One Million Dollar Aid to Gaza**

One million Dollar (BD378, 000) aid consignment left Bahrain on board two planes for Gaza yesterday. The initiative was supervised by the Royal Charity Organization (RCO), chaired by Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, following the directives of His Majesty King Hamad to form a national committee aimed at assisting Palestinians in Gaza. Eighty tons of medicine and food supplies were sent by the RCO in co-operation with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) and the Palestinian Embassy. Society deputy secretary-general Sadiq Al Shehabi said that the consignment would travel to Al Arish Airport, Egypt, where it will be received by officials from Bahrain, Egypt and Palestine. Two Bahraini volunteers from the society are travelling on board the planes to make sure the supplies get to Gaza without any trouble.

### **Bahrain to Step up Aids Battle**

A new four-year campaign to combat Aids and HIV in Bahrain was launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2009. The activity was held at the International Convention Center of Gulf Hotel, under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr Faisal Al Hamer. The framework of the program, which covers a four-year period from 2008 to 2011 guides the National Aids and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) control program in the country. It also provides key recommendations on containing and eliminating HIV/Aids in Bahrain. It is the first of its kind in the GCC and has been developed with the support of UNDP in close collaboration with all government ministries and civil society organizations.

### **DIA's 8<sup>th</sup> Middle East Regulatory Conference**

The Drug Information Association (DIA), the premier, multidisciplinary, non-profit association that provides a neutral forum for the exchange of information critical to the

advancement of the drug discovery and lifecycle management processes, hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Middle East Regulatory Conference from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 in Bahrain. Key stakeholders, including representatives from ministries of health, local and multinational pharmaceutical companies had exchanged views, discussed topics of interest, and identified actions to increase patient access to new and improved medicines and therapies in the Middle East. The programme of this conference was discussed during a MERN/Health Authorities joint workshop that was held in November 2007, and the topics for the conference were identified during a Programme Advisors meeting held in April 2008, involving regulators of the region. Sessions topics included local regulatory authority views and key issues, pharmaco-vigilance, pharmaco-economics, counterfeits, innovation in the quality arena, quality-by-design, good Manufacturing Practices including PIC/S, biologics, evolving global legislation on medicines, bio-similars and common Technical Document and electronic submissions.

## **REFERENCE**

GDN and MOH internet webpage.