

## **Medical News**

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### **Counseling Centers for Students**

Bahrain is to establish counseling centers aimed at helping students to understand health, lifestyle and social issues. The Education and Health ministries would establish the counseling centers through a joint committee. One or two centers would offer psychological guidance service and early diagnosis of various health diseases. They would also solicit the help of parents, education and health officials. The two ministries would be conducting campaign for food awareness and holding seminars throughout the school year. This was announced at the opening of the Second Gulf School Health Conference which began at the Crowne Plaza on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. The three-day event was held under the patronage of Dr Al Nuaimi and Health Minister, Dr Faisal Al Hamer. More than 700 school health specialists, teachers, students, ministry officials attended. The conference, under the theme of 'School Health: Partnership and Responsibility'; it was an opportunity for participants to exchange expertise and to strengthen partnerships in the field of school health.

### **Evidence Based Medicine Symposium in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

A major international health-care conference was held for the first time in the Middle East on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2009. Evidence-based Medicine and Health Promotion: Research into Practice” took place in Muharraq, Bahrain, at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Medical University of Bahrain (MUB) under the patronage of H.H. Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

The symposium was organized by the Bahrain branch of the UK-based Cochrane Center of the Cochrane Collaboration (CC), a global organization with its secretariat based in Oxford, England. Plenary sessions at the conference took place each morning and four workshops in the afternoon. The conference brought together two of the world’s leading international organizations - the Cochrane Collaboration and National Institute for Clinical Excellence - in a symposium. The sponsors of this event were BDF Hospital, the Ministry of Health and Bahrain Medical Bulletin. The symposium followed a three-day meeting of the directors of the monitoring and registration group, an advisory unit to the board of directors of Cochrane Collaboration, in conjunction with director of the UK Cochrane Center Professor Mike Clarke and chief executive officer of the Cochrane Collaboration Nick Royle.

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## **Two New Units Commissioned for SMC Radiology Department**

Medical Equipment Directorate has commissioned two new units for SMC radiology department. One unit is a mobile X-ray machine to be used in the operating theater and wards for the in-patients. This new mobile unit has chargeable battery packs, which enable smooth movements of the machine. Multiple X-ray procedures can be carried out with fully charged machine without plugging it in the mains supply. These features will prove to be practical and efficient for machine operators as well as patients. The second unit is a Thermoluminescence Dosimeter (TLD) reader. This reader has a unique integrated soft and hardware solutions to read 200 dosimeter cards at the same time, which makes it a unique dosimeter in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Likewise, it will be dedicated to serve both general and private sectors in the kingdom. Two staff had completed the 1st part of the training on the facilitation and operation of this reader, between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. Thermoluminescence Dosimeter reader can be used both for environmental monitoring and for staff personnel in facilities involving radiation exposure, among other applications.

## **Awards for Two Doctors**

Hereditary diseases consultant Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Arrayedh has won the Kuwait award for scientific research; she received a certificate and \$20,000 (BD 7,540) in cash. Dr Amal Al Jowder has won the world health organization Sasako award 2009. The executive council awarded the prize in recognition of her efforts towards health development. She's the first Arab woman Doctor to get the award which carries a statuette and a cash prize of \$30,000 (BD 11,308). Both doctors received their awards on May 21 on the sidelines of the WHO annual meeting in Geneva.

## **Center for Sick Children Revamped**

Hospital trips are no longer such an ordeal for a group of children, thanks to a donation by a Bahrain-based company. The children's hematology daycare unit at Salmaniya Medical Complex has been revamped at a cost of BD12, 000, to make it a fun place to be while they undergo treatment. Staff at the company dressed-up and donated a day's salary and the firm gave a day's profit to raise money for charity. It was part of a charity day campaign, which the global financial brokerage (ICAP) stages in all its offices worldwide, one day each year. ICAP Bahrain approached the Palm Association charity group to help them decide the best way to donate the money.

Bahrain's Rotary Club built an activity room at the hospital many years ago for the children. It was thought that refurbishing the room and bringing it up-to-date would make a real difference to the children who have to go there for treatment on a regular basis. The association was granted permission by the hospital to begin the renovations last February, although work did not actually began until June and finished at the end of October 2008. The association was also keen to improve the facilities offered in the room and donated arts and craft supplies to the room's art corner, which encourages creative thinking. Four

computers with educational software, 44" Samsung plasma home cinema system, donated by Samsung dealer Techno blue and a Play Station 3 with a dedicated screen.