



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT



RCSI MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
OF BAHRAIN



The Shurooq Diabetes Camp introduced me to the daily activities and challenges faced by children with Type 1 diabetes. By providing them with the knowledge and tools for proper self-management, we play a role in supporting their long-term wellbeing.



Mr Omar Almulla
N4, School of Nursing & Midwifery



Message from the President, Chair of the Executive Committee	4
Board of Governors	14
Leading Transformative Research	18
Global Leadership, Transnational Education and Quality Enhancement	28
Healthcare Environment Development, Global Mobility and Employability	38
Student Life and Experience	48
Community Engagement and Service	60
Collaboration with our Partners	70



Message from the President, Chair of the Executive Committee



With the excellent medical curriculum and truly transformative experience of medical education offered by RCSI, combined with the University's 2023-27 Strategic Plan, we have centred all our effort towards our students and their bespoke University experience, to lead us forward as a regional leader in medical and health sciences education and healthcare research.

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2022-23 Annual Report of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, featuring our activities from September 2022 to August 2023. I welcome this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all staff, students, and alumni who have contributed significantly toward the achievements, activities, and developments featured in this report.

It has been another remarkable year at the University with the completion of several milestones and contributions toward our three strategic pillars of Teaching and Learning, Community Engagement & Service and Research. We launched the new RCSI medical undergraduate curriculum to the MED1 cohort, and also launched of our first nursing exchange programme with Keele University (UK). We also achieved Saudi accreditation of the nursing undergraduate programme, signed two research agreements with public health sector entities, launched the University's 2023-27 Strategic Plan and completed our campus' solar project. Together with the support of our stakeholders and partners, we are very proud that we also expanded the broader impact of the University on healthcare and the society.

Launch of the University's 2023-27 Strategic Plan

In January 2023, led by Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, the University launched its 2023-27 Strategic Plan during the annual Staff Awards Ceremony. Our new five-year strategy offers an exciting and clear plan for the future in line with the Bahrain 2030 vision and the strategic directives of our key stakeholders. Our three strategic pillars remain fundamental to our mission over the next five years and provide the foundation for growth and advancement.

Pillar 1: Enhancing Learning and Teaching will be expanded around four key areas: Student Profile, Learning Environment, Quality of Learning, Teaching & Assessment, and Employability.

Pillar 2: Increasing our Research Capacity within the University, across Bahrain and the wider region, which will be achieved through increased engagement, partnerships, publications and funding, as well as introducing MD/PhD postgraduate programme(s).

Pillar 3: Further strengthening the Community Outreach function as an integral aspect of the University through increased volunteer participation, collaborations, events and expanding our University representation externally.

For more information and details, please visit: [2023-27 Strategic Plan](#)



The inauguration event was led by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, who made the inaugural speech highlighting this milestone in the history of our campus since its opening in 2009

Inauguration of the University's Solar Project

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain inaugurated its solar project in the presence of His Excellency Mr Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs; Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, former Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees; His Excellency Brigadier Abdulla Khalifa Al Jeeran, Muharraq Deputy Governor; Dr Tasnim Atatrah, Head of WHO Representative Office; officials, members of the University's Board of Governors and Executive Committee, students and staff members.

The inauguration event was led by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, who made the inaugural speech highlighting this milestone in the history of our campus since its opening in 2009.

The University is proud of being one of the early adopters of solar power in the higher education sector, as well as our contribution towards the environmental sustainability of Bahrain and the 7th Goal 'Affordable and Clean Energy' of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our sincere thanks and appreciation is conveyed to His Excellency Mr Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), and our stakeholders for their support with this project.

Thanks to this renewable energy source, we are reducing our carbon footprint by 2,247 metric tonnes per year, which is the equivalent of taking 927 cars off the road every year. A total of 4,993 solar panels were installed over the campus parking area, thus providing 681 shaded car spaces, which is a bonus for our students, staff and visitors.

The 2.72MW solar project is producing 3.664 million Kwh of electricity annually, which represents between 60% and 65% of the University's annual electricity needs.





Meeting with newly appointed Secretary General of Higher Education Council

Meeting with newly appointed Secretary General of the Higher Education Council

In May 2023, we were pleased to host Her Excellency Dr Diana Abdulkarim Al Jahrami, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees, and Dr Farzana Abdulla Al-Maraghi, Assistant Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, for a meeting on campus led by Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director; and Mr Eunan Friel, Managing Director of Healthcare Management, RCSI in Dublin. RCSI undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in medical and nursing higher education aimed at supporting the development of healthcare services in Bahrain were discussed with Her Excellency, who kindly extended the cooperation of the Higher Education Council for our future plans.

Meeting with Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force and King Hamad University Hospital

In April 2023, a delegation from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain led by the President, Professor Sameer Ootom; the Managing Director, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Alfred Nicholson, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, Professor Stephen Atkin, the Director of Quality and Academic Development, Dr Kathryn Strachan; and Head of Department of Surgery, Professor Martin Corbally, met with the newly appointed Commander of the Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defence Force, His Excellency Brigadier Professor Fahad Khalifa Al-Khalifa, to extend congratulations and support.

In June 2023, a stakeholder meeting was held between an RCSI delegation led by Professor Laura Viani, President of RCSI in Dublin. In attendance were Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar, RCSI in Dublin; Professor Hannah McGee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, RCSI in Dublin; RCSI Council Members; Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; and senior management of RCSI Bahrain, with His Excellency Brigadier Professor Fahad Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defence Force, and a delegation from the Crown Prince Center for Training and Medical Research. The enhancement of healthcare services, medicine, training and education, and research were discussed. A visit of the Crown Prince Center for Training and Medical Research facilities and a showcase of the latest equipment were extended to the RCSI delegation.

The delegations from RCSI in Dublin and Bahrain were also hosted at the King Hamad University Hospital, for a meeting with Colonel (Dr) Salman Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer; Brigadier General Professor Hesham Al-Rayes, General Manager of Medical Affairs; Professor Elias Fadel, Director of Bahrain Oncology Center and Chairman of Bahrain National Tumor Board; and colleagues, to discuss various areas of cooperation. The meeting was followed by a visit to the Bahrain Oncology Centre.

Welcoming two new Members of the Board of Governors

Professor Laura Viani, President of RCSI in Dublin and Chair of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Board of Governors, welcomed His Excellency Brigadier Professor Fahad Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force and Her Excellency Dr Shaikha May bint Sulaiman Al Otaibi, Co-founder and Executive Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Bahrain Bayan School, as members of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Board of Governors in a meeting held on campus in June.

Both new members have dedicated their careers to serving the Kingdom of Bahrain, and with their longstanding experience in education and healthcare, they will provide invaluable experience in relation to the future of our student body, the provision of healthcare services in Bahrain and the sustainable development of the University.

Education Minister honours RCSI Bahrain's Art Contest Winners

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr Mohammed Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain held a ceremony to announce the winners of the Health Awards Art Competition 2022-2023, where students from secondary public schools compete to create artwork reflecting on health-related themes.



Education Minister honours RCSI Bahrain's Art Contest Winners

Ms Durra Adnan, Year 12 student at Saar High School for Girls won first-place in the competition, followed by the second-place winner Mr Sami Hassan, Year 10 student at Al-Naim Secondary School for Boys, and third-place winner Ms Zahra Mahdi, Year 12 student at Saar High School for Girls. His Excellency congratulated the winners and commended the initiative taken by the University in organising this contest which plays an important role in raising health awareness and the humanitarian nursing profession.

We extend our appreciation to His Excellency for his patronage of the competition and his commitment to building important partnerships between all educational institutions in Bahrain for the benefit of students.

Organised by the University's Community Engagement Office in collaboration with "Future Nurses Bahrain" and the Ministry of Education, students from 10 public schools were invited to participate in the competition and create an art piece that reflects this year's theme of "Who is a nurse?". The "Future Nurses Bahrain" campaign's mission is to promote nursing as a positive career choice and contribute to the future development of the nursing workforce in the Kingdom, by raising awareness among high school students and the community on how to access a career in Nursing. Ms Hanin Al-Hooti, Nursing Year 4 student, and Ms Zainab Sayed Ahmed, Nurse Alumna (Class of 2021), took part in guiding the students during the competition.

Membership at the Bahrain Council for Health Studies and Specialties

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Decree (13) of 2022, establishing and forming the Bahrain Council for Health Studies and



Specialties. Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, has been appointed as a member of the Bahrain Council for Health Studies and Specialties, along with the Chief Executive Officer of Governmental Hospitals, the Chief Executive Officer of the Primary Healthcare Centers, and representatives of the National Health Regulatory Authority, Supreme Council of Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defence Force, King Hamad University Hospital, Arabian Gulf University, University of Bahrain, Mohammed Bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialist Cardiac Centre and the private sector.

The Council shall supervise the establishment and evaluation of health training programmes, as well as their preparation for international certification. The Council shall also oversee the evaluation of professional certificates across various health disciplines, national health programmes, and the establishment of specialised training programmes. We look forward to supporting the establishment of the Council for the benefit of the health sector and health practitioners in Bahrain.



King Hamad American Mission Hospital

Located on the fifth floor, our new teaching facility spans over 750m² and includes two teaching rooms, two clinical simulation rooms with an observation/control room, one debriefing room, the Avicenna Library, study space with a 50-seater capacity, three offices and one reception area.

This collaboration will allow the King Hamad American Mission Hospital to be acknowledged by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain as a teaching hospital, which is an important international quality marker. We look forward to strengthening our mutual collaboration and joint engagement in healthcare education for the benefit of patients in Bahrain.



Avicenna Library



Debriefing room



Clinical simulation room



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain receives WHO EMRO Healthy University Certification

WHO 'Healthy University' Certification

On behalf of the University, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, was honoured to receive the WHO "Healthy University" certification from Dr Ahmed Salim Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, in February 2023 in the presence of Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health, other government officials and senior executive members of the University.

We are proud to be continually working towards a more environmentally sustainable campus and promoting good health and well-being, by implementing our solar farm project and various health-related community engagement activities, such as educating the children of Bahrain on healthy eating and its correlation to diabetes prevention through our Diabetes Mobile Unit.



New Agreement and Official Opening of King Hamad American Mission Hospital

In January 2023, a delegation from RCSI in Dublin including Professor Cathal Kelly, RCSI Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar; Mr Roderick Ryan, RCSI Council Member; Mr Barry Holmes, RCSI Director of Human Resources; Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and members of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Executive Committee attended the Official Opening of the state-of-the-art King Hamad American Mission Hospital, inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

As part of our longstanding partnership with the American Mission Hospital, the University is delighted with the opening of a new teaching facility at this hospital. The two not-for-profit organisations are joining forces for their staff and students to access world-class clinical and teaching facilities in pursuit of their professional advancement. Through the collaboration agreement, an internship programme overseen by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain will be launched at the hospital. In addition, our students will be able to undertake clinical electives in the new hospital, which includes a medical innovation hub where a highly skilled medical team will train local surgeons on the use of specialised technologies in healthcare.



Agreement Signing between Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Jordan Red Crescent Society, RCSI Bahrain and Operation Childlife

Recognition for Community Service

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was invited to attend the Jordan Red Crescent Society's 75th Anniversary held in May 2023 in Amman, Jordan. The event was hosted by the President of the Jordan Red Crescent Society, His Excellency Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid; the Honorary President of the Jordan Red Crescent Society and Jordanian Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr Firas Al Hawari. The University, represented by Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, was recognised with an award for its contribution to supporting the healthcare needs of refugees in Jordan. This recognition comes after the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRCS), Bahrain Red Crescent Society and Operation Childlife, in November, held under the patronage of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and in the presence of senior government officials. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with JRCS and applaud them for all the humanitarian support extended to all communities in Jordan.

New Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery

In May 2023, Dr Kathryn Strachan was nominated as the new Professor and Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain. Professor Strachan holds a wealth of experience in nursing and educational management, both with the University and from her previous roles in the UK. Over the past 11 years with the University, through her position with the Quality Enhancement Office and interim Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery during the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Strachan has greatly contributed to the continuous development of the University.

In her new position, Professor Strachan will spearhead our strategic growth plan, oversee the continual enhancement of our curriculum, and work to strengthen our relationships with clinical partners. One of her core commitments is to nurture an environment that encourages both faculty development and student success, aligning with our overall strategy. We wish Professor Strachan continued success in her new role.



Professor Kathryn Strachan
New Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery

University Future Plans

University's 20th Anniversary

In 2024, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary, a milestone which we are planning to mark with our students, staff, alumni, stakeholders, and partners. The presence of RCSI started in Bahrain in 2004, followed by the opening of a purpose-built campus in 2009. The programmes delivered at the University have been central to the advancement of medical and nursing education in Bahrain. From our earliest days, we have trained doctors and nurses who have contributed to the advancement of healthcare services, healthcare research, and national health programmes for the benefit of the people of Bahrain. We look forward to celebrating this milestone in the new year.

Campus Expansion Plan

Since 2022, we have been working on a proposal for expanding our campus. The review of our existing facilities assessed the suitability of our ongoing operations, along with the requirements for the new curriculum of the medical undergraduate programme and future programmes. The result of which is a new large state-of-the-art building featuring six areas of development: Teaching, Clinical Simulation, Research, Student Experience, Conferring & Events, and Offices.

The proposed expansion will accommodate more space and facilitate the demand for places at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain. This demand is underpinned by an expansion of healthcare services in Bahrain and internationally, and the growth of the student body is anticipated to be from regional and international demand, which aligns with the strategic goal of Bahrain's Higher Education Council of making the Kingdom a regional hub for higher education. We have discussed our proposal with our key stakeholders, and we look forward to moving forward with our plans in the near future.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Executive Committee



Professor Sameer Ootom
President



Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield
Managing Director



Professor Alfred Nicholson
Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Head of School of
Medicine



Professor Kathryn Strachan
Former Director of Quality
and Academic Development,
Newly appointed Head of
School of Nursing & Midwifery



Professor Stephen Atkin
Head of School of Postgraduate
Studies & Research



Dr Wendy Maddison
Head of Student
Development and
Wellbeing
(Nominee)



Mr Gary Brady
Head of Human
Resources
(Nominee)



Mr Adam Wallace
Head of Marketing,
Communications, Student
Recruitment and Admissions
(Nominee)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Board of Governors



Professor Laura Viani
President
RCSI



Professor Deborah McNamara
Vice President
RCSI



Professor Cathal Kelly
Vice Chancellor and CEO/Registrar
RCSI



Professor Hannah McGee
Deputy Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs
RCSI



Professor Simon Cross
Chair
RCSI Academic Council



**His Excellency Brigadier (Prof)
Fahad Khalifa Al-Khalifa**
Commander of the Royal Medical Services
Bahrain Defence Force



**Her Excellency Dr Shaikha May bint
Sulaiman Al Otaibi**
Executive Chairperson of the Board of
Directors, Chairperson of the Board of
Trustees, Bahrain Bayan School



Mr Mahmood Al Kooheji
Chairman
Social Insurance Organization



Professor Sameer Ootom
President
RCSI Medical University of Bahrain



Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield
Managing Director
RCSI Medical University of Bahrain

A YEAR IN PICTURES

September

UK Alumni Reunion at the Royal Society of Medicine



January

Opening new RCSI Bahrain wing of KH-AMH



November

President's Honours List 2022



October

New Curriculum for Medicine Year 1



February

WHO EMRO "Healthy University" certification



December

Nursing Programme Accreditation by KSA





May
Education Minister honours RCSI
Bahrain Art Contest Winners



July
Research Summer School 2023

March
Research Agreement Signing
with Government Hospitals



June
2023 Intern Award Winner
announced



April
Welcoming Board of
Governors New Members



“Presenting my team’s research at the 2023 Annual Research Conference helped me gain experience on how to showcase our findings to the scientific community.”

*Ms Renad Hesham AlAnsari,
MED1, School of Medicine*



03

Leading
Transformative
Research

FAST GROWING HEALTH RESEARCH 2018-2023



358 PUBLICATIONS

69%



ARE
OPEN
ACCESS

7,802
CITATIONS

Source: SciVal 2018-2023

76%
INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIONS



Leading Transformative Research



Leading transformative research

The strategic research priorities are focused on the themes of diabetes, metabolic medicine and obesity, which are major health issues in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Cutting edge technology and research in stem cell biology and pancreatic islet cell research are being pursued, together with an additional focus on women's health, such as research into polycystic ovary syndrome. The Faculty research has led to student opportunities to engage in research through the Research Summer School, and other Faculty led projects that have resulted in a record number of student publications in international peer-reviewed high impact journals, some of which were presented at our Annual Research Conference.

Ministry of Health Cooperative Research Agreement

To enhance the collaborative research being undertaken, a Memorandum of Understanding for research was signed in October between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the Ministry of Health, Primary Healthcare Centres, in the presence of Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health; Dr Lulwa Rashid AlShowaiter, Primary Healthcare Centres Acting Chief Executive Officer; Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.



Cooperation Agreement signing with Ministry of Health

Research Agreement with Government Hospitals

In March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research with the Government Hospitals (including Salmaniya Medical Complex) led by Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, to enhance the research capabilities for both institutions and to advance the healthcare sector in Bahrain. His Excellency Professor Ahmed Mohammed AlAnsari, Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals and Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, signed the agreement in the presence of Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Government Hospitals and senior officials from both organisations.



RCSI Bahrain and Government Hospitals Sign Agreement



Joint research proves efficacy and safety of a specific COVID-19 vaccination programme

Joint research proves efficacy and safety of a specific COVID-19 vaccination programme

In January 2023, through a joint effort by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in collaboration with the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus COVID-19 in Bahrain, the Supreme Council of Health, the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force, the results of a joint research project were published in the international peer-reviewed journal "Vaccine". This was the first report on the efficacy and safety of a COVID-19 vaccination programme involving Sinopharm (BBIBP-CorV) and Pfizer (BNT162b2) vaccines in individuals initially vaccinated with two doses of Sinopharm. The study outcome showed that there was a waning of immunity, increased infection and immune-evasive COVID-19 variants among Sinopharm-vaccinated patients. This could be addressed by the booster vaccine programme, specifically for those that showed an enhanced response with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination compared to the patient group who received the Sinopharm vaccination; both vaccination boosters were shown to be safe and well-tolerated options.

The study was led by Professor Manaf Alqahtani, Head of Microbiology Department, in collaboration with Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research; Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology; Dr Nitya Kumar, Senior Lecturer in Public Health & Epidemiology; Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory Affairs Manager; Ms Sawsan Saeed, Clinical Research Coordinator and Mr Saad Mallah, Senior Cycle 2 student.

Joint research to combat Type 2 Diabetes in Bahrain

With 15% of Bahrain's population suffering from Type 2 diabetes, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) began a joint research project to measure the physical activity of Bahraini patients with Type 2 diabetes. In addition, the project aimed to explore the psychological and environmental factors which influence the patients' behaviour, with the goal of gaining insight in how to address this prevalent metabolic disorder.

The research aims to develop standard interventions to support the decrease of sedentary behaviour and potentially the incidence rate of Type 2 diabetes in the Bahraini population. The project is being led by Dr Ebrahim Rajab, RCSI Bahrain Senior Lecturer in Biology, Year 1 Co-Director and the Principal Investigator of this research project, who is collaborating with Professor Randah Hamadeh, AGU College of Medicine and Medical Sciences Professor, along with Dr Abeer AlSaweer, Consultant Family Physician and Diabetologist at AGU, Professor Edward Gregg, Professor at the School of Population Health, RCSI in Dublin, and Dr Lisa Mellon, School of Population Health Lecturer, RCSI in Dublin. Conducted at four primary healthcare centres with specialised diabetes clinics, the research team has been tracking the physical activity of 340 participants and collecting required medical data.

The project is being funded jointly by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf University through the Joint Research Collaboration



2022 Research Review Competition Winners

Committee led by Professor Stephen Atkin, RCSI Bahrain Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, and Professor Afif Bin Salih, AGU Vice Dean for Graduate Studies

2022 Research Review Competition Winners

Annually, the School of Postgraduate Studies & Research holds the Research Summer School-Research Review Competition for undergraduate students to encourage their first steps in becoming future researchers. In December, the University announced the top three winners of its Research Summer School – Research Review Competition 2022.

The first-place prize winners were Ms Sania Shabbir, Ms Emaan Khurram, Ms Vedhika Moorthi and Mr Youssef Eissa for their review titled 'The Interplay Between Androgens and the Immune Response in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome', with the support of two mentors, Professor Alexandra Butler, Senior Research Fellow and Professor in Pathology, and Dr Mohammad Kamal, former Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The second-place winners were Mr William Junior Khalil, Ms Meriem Akeblersane and Ms Ana Khan for their review titled 'Environmental pollution and risk of developing metabolic disorders: Obesity and diabetes', with the support of mentors Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, and Dr Abu Saleh Moin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The third-place winners were Ms Prianna Menezes and Ms Isabell Lawrence, for their review titled 'Evaluating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the physicians' psychological health; a scoping systematic review', with the support of their mentor Dr Shaista Salman, RCSI Bahrain Professionalism Lecturer.

2023 Annual Research Conference

The RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Annual Research Conference has become a much anticipated forum for sharing innovation and research. This year, a record 75 abstracts were submitted for the conference, which took place in March 2023, under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health.

The Research Conference commenced with four research update presentations by our senior faculty members – Professor Naji Alamuddin, Deputy Head of School of Medicine, on 'Clinical Trials in Diabetes and Obesity'; Professor Paul Murray, Head of Pathology Department, on 'Spatial phenotyping identifies pathogenic mechanisms in the tissues of patients with severe COVID19'; Professor Michael Keogh, Associate Professor in Human Biology and Director of Research Laboratories, on 'Gene activated biomaterials to improve Diabetic Foot Ulcers' chronic wound healing'; and Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Programme Director of BSc Nursing Programme, on 'Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity among Nurses in Bahrain'.

Among the 75 research abstracts received, the top six abstracts were presented orally, with the remainder exhibited as poster presentations.

At the Annual Research Conference, three poster abstracts were showcased by soapbox presentations, equivalent to a spontaneous public address, which generated great enthusiasm around the poster presentations. The soapbox winner was declared as Ms Sara Ali Hasan, MED1 student, on 'Investigating the Effects of Dietary Gum Based Macromolecular Crowding on Age-Related Wound Healing'.



Annual Research Conference

The other soapbox participants were Ms Kawther Nemrishi and Ms Khadeja AlHoussani, both Senior Cycle 1 students, on 'A clinical audit on the application of cardiotocography comparison of current national practice to international guidelines' and Ms Zainab Al Kheyr, Senior Cycle 1 student, on

"Assessment of self-confidence and body image satisfaction amongst women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome".

Lesley Diack Award for Outstanding Research 2023

Students at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain are exposed to different pathways to be involved in research, either to conceive their own research project with relevant supervision, apply for the Faculty led Research Summer School, or assist with other Faculty research projects.

In June, Dr Colin Greengrass, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Academic Director of Technology Enhanced Learning, and Ms Shahad Abdulkhaleq Mamalchi, Senior Cycle 1 student, conducted a research project in collaboration with the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (USDSSM) with Professor Valeriy Kozmenko, USD-SSM, the principal investigator (PI) of the study.

The research project titled "Changes in Metacognitive Accuracy Post-IPE Simulation; An Interprofessional Perspective", explored the potential benefits and challenges of interprofessional education, with a focus on the dynamic among medical, nursing, pharmacy and occupational therapy students within an educational clinical simulation setting, with the ultimate goal of developing methods to best prepare future professionals for the interconnected nature of modern healthcare delivery.

The project received the Lesley Diack Award for outstanding research for 2023 at the Academy of Medical Educators and International Network for Health Workforce Education joint conference held in Cardiff, UK.

Fulbright Scholar

As part of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's strategic aim to attract international students to Bahrain, the University welcomed the Fulbright

Top six abstract winners for oral presentation:

1. Ms Aysha Sanad Albuarki, Nurse Educator, at King Hamad University Hospital for her research titled 'Perceptions of Students on a Patient Care Assistant Program about effective characteristics of Nursing Preceptors: A cross-sectional study'
2. Ms Prianna Menezes, Senior Cycle 1 student, 'Prevalence of Computed Tomography Overuse for Mild Head Injury in Adults: A Single Center Experience'
3. Mr Mohamed ElHennawi, Senior Cycle 1 student, '"Pain assessment and management after sleeve gastrectomy: A Comparison Study of Robotic Versus Laparoscopic Approaches'
4. Ms Renad Hesham AlAnsari, MED1 student, on 'Effect Of Bovine Serum Albumin Decorated Silver Nanoparticles on Breast Cancer Cells', who also won the Best Oral Presentation.
5. Dr Mustafa Hammad (Class of 2021), 'Polymorphisms of Metabolizing Enzymes with the Serum Concentration of Paracetamol and its Metabolites'
6. Dr Abu Saleh MD Moin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow under the supervision of Professor Alexandra Butler, Senior Research Fellow and Professor in Pathology, for their latest research on 'Expression of Amyloid-Related Proteins associated with Dementia in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome'.



Lesley Diack Award winner

Scholar, Ms Maria Morcos, at the beginning of the academic year. Ms Morcos is a graduate of the MSc Physician Assistant programme from Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, US.

During her year at RCSI Bahrain, Ms Morcos participated in a research project led by Professor Ghufuran Jassim, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Family Medicine, titled "A Feasibility Randomized Controlled Superiority Trial of Fluticasone-Vilanterol Once Daily Use for the Treatment of Mild Asthma in Adults", which led to the development of recommendations and updated guidelines in relation to the management of mild asthma in adults in the Middle East. The research project was awarded a monetary prize at the Fourth Forum for Women in Research entitled "Quwa: Sustaining Women's Empowerment in Research & Innovation", held at Sharjah University, United Arab Emirates.

During her stay, Ms Morcos, accompanied by RCSI Bahrain's representatives, met with Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Rana Bint Isa Bin Duaij Al Khalifa, former Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees, in the presence of Ms Linda McMullen, Public Affairs Officer and Ms Samar Hasan, Educational Specialist, both from the US Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



First Fulbright Scholar

2023 Research Summer School

Students at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain are encouraged to participate in research to expand their academic horizons and contribute to innovative projects that have the potential to address real-world challenges. During the 2023 Research Summer School, 63 students participated across 23 projects to develop their research skills and gain hands-on experience in different research disciplines, under the mentorship and guidance of 15 faculty members from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing & Midwifery and Postgraduate Studies & Research, as well as RCSI Bahrain Alumni.

The students participated in faculty nominated projects which included investigating novel biomarkers of pancreatic β -cell stress that can lead to type 2 diabetes, under the guidance of Dr Abu Saleh Moin, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, and Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 4 Director, mentored students in completing an integrative review of the literature investigating the Effects of Toluene Exposure on the Health of Workers, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and enthusiasm of the students.

Professor Fryad Henari, Emeritus Professor, and Dr Roshan Deen, Lecturer in Chemistry, worked with students on the development of highly fluorescent gold nanoparticles for glucose detection and silver nanoparticles for environmental remediation in addition to other topics.

Dr Bedoor Sami, a medicine graduate (Class of 2011), also mentored students on a project titled "Audit of Completeness and Appropriateness of Radiology Request and Adequacy of Clinical Information on Radiology Request", which has been accepted for an oral presentation at the 1st Radiology Highlights Conference to be held in October, in Dubai.



Research Summer School 2023

Research Centre Update

Under the leadership of Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, the RCSI Bahrain Clinical and Biomolecular Research Centre at King Hamad University Hospital has expanded with the recruitment of international scientists to develop translational research to address key national and regional healthcare challenges.

Viral Immunology Research

Professor Paul Murray, Head of Department of Pathology and PI of the Viral Immunology research group, is conducting an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) cancer study. EBV is the first human cancer-associated virus to be discovered.

Several experiments were conducted on different cancers caused by EBV, including Burkitt lymphoma, a type of cancer that occurs in children, and is one of the most common childhood lymphomas in the Middle East. The Viral Immunology group is studying new molecular pathways in cancers associated with EBV to find new treatments for patients. The group has been exploring the use of serotonin, a well-known neurotransmitter, connected in the make-up of EBV-associated cancers (as evidenced by research), and studying how a virus protein called BILF1 could contribute to the development of Burkitt lymphoma and be a potential target for new treatments.

Regenerative Medicine Research

The Regenerative Medicine group led by Professor Michael Keogh, Associate Professor of Human Biology & Director of Research Laboratories, has been developing gene activated biomaterials to improve wound healing in skin, particularly in diabetic foot ulcers. The group has produced several successful publications in peer reviewed international journals using various cell types, including diabetic stem cells. This work is particularly important given the prevalence of diabetes and associated factors such as diabetic related amputations in Bahrain. The group is currently working extensively with the Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force on skin wound models.

The group is also collaborating with the Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG) based in RCSI in Dublin on a novel biomimetic antimicrobial biomaterial that may prevent post-operative infections and improve wound healing. The group is currently carrying out split skin models of this wound healing technology, which is the most recent collaboration between the two groups.

Islet and Stem Cell Biology Research

The Diabetes and Islet Cell Biology research group, led by Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, has been leading several projects with the biomolecular research team investigating the molecular mechanism of how insulin-producing beta cells survive and function under low oxygen (hypoxic) conditions.

The team has also been investigating the mechanism through which traditional medicine (Chinese herb-derived) can improve metabolic syndrome in obesity-induced type 2 diabetes (T2D), in collaboration with Arabian Gulf University (AGU).

The Stem Cell Unit has been working on generating induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), a type of stem cell which can be developed into any type of cell in the body, from the blood samples of patients with different diseases including type 1 diabetes (T1D) and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). The team has generated iPSC-derived pancreatic β -cells (cells responsible for the synthesis, storage and release of insulin), which may ultimately be a treatment option for type 1 diabetes. The team is currently working to improve the functionality of iPSC-derived β -cells.

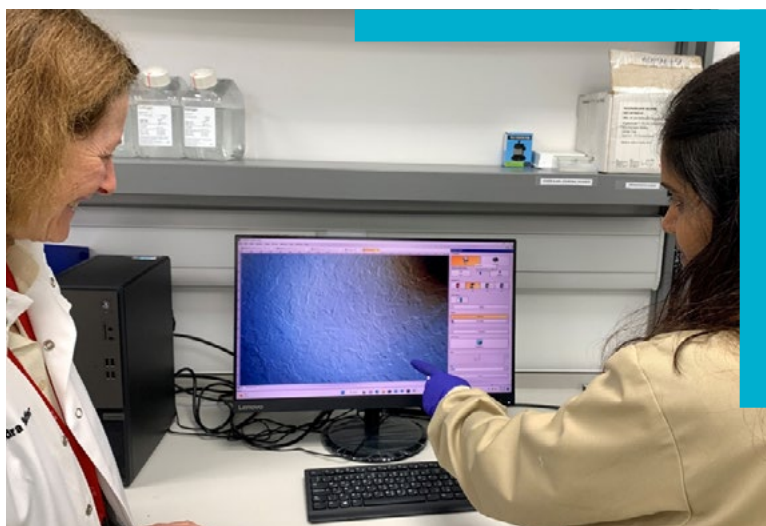
International collaborations with the University of Osaka in Japan and the University of Montpellier in France, are currently in progress.

Biochemical Pharmacology Research

Professor Stephen Safrany, Associate Professor in Pharmacology/Medicine Year 2 Director, and lead of the Biochemical Pharmacology research group, has continued researching Sigma-1 receptors, which are predominantly localised at the endoplasmic reticulum of both neurons and oligodendrocytes. From behavioural studies, sigma-1 receptors were shown to be involved in higher-ordered brain functions, including memory and drug dependence.

The ongoing research involved uses triple-negative breast cancer cell lines to investigate the enhancement of standard chemotherapeutic drugs through pharmacological inhibition of the Sigma-1 receptor. Currently, data analysis of a large patient cohort (chemotherapy treated breast cancer patients) is underway, and manuscript writing for publication is in progress. This research was the precursor for one Student Choice module project in May and three Research Summer School projects.

Dr Preeti Borde, Postdoctoral Researcher working with Professor Safrany, presented a poster at



the European Association for Cancer Research's Annual Congress which took place in Torino, Italy in June 2023, on the research titled, "Targeting the Sigma-1 receptor increases the anti-proliferative effects of chemotherapeutic drugs and reduces motility in a triple-negative breast cancer cell line.", conducted by Dr Borde, Dr Ebrahim Rajab, Senior Lecturer in Physiology and Year 1 Co-Director, and Professor Stephen Safrany, Associate Professor in Pharmacology/Medicine Year 2 Director, and lead of the Biochemical Pharmacology research group.

Materials for Medicine Research

The Materials for Medicine research group led by Principal Investigator Dr G Roshan Deen, Lecturer in Chemistry, is dedicated to the development of new materials for wound healing and cancer therapy, with research papers published in prestigious journals such as *Nanomaterials* and *Advanced Functional Materials*.

In line with the University's commitment to fostering the next generation of scientific leaders, the group currently has 10 undergraduate students supporting the research. Students are trained in several areas, including material synthesis, cell studies, critical thinking, data analysis, and scientific writing, to develop their research skills.

MED1 students Ms Renad AlAnsari and Ms Bushra Hasan presented a lecture on "Liposomes as Drug Delivery System" for the Henry Stewart Talks (HS Talks), a leading provider of online seminar presentations in the biomedical and life sciences field, under the Biomedical Science Lecture Series.

Clinical Trials Unit

The Clinical Trials Unit undertakes observational, retrospective and interventional medicinal clinical trials in alignment with international regulatory guidelines at European and FDA standards. Some of the recent projects led by the Unit include:

"Prevalence of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Risk in the Middle East and Africa: Primary Results of the PACT-MEA Study"

Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of School of Medicine, participated in a collaborative non-interventional, observational study in response to countries in the Middle East and Africa bearing a disproportionate burden of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and associated cardiovascular complications, yet high-quality contemporary data on the associated risk in these regions is lacking. The study recruited 3,700 patients from 55 health centres across seven countries in the Middle East and Africa, including Bahrain. The results of the study provided one of the first contemporary prevalence estimates of vascular risk among people with type 2 diabetes across the Middle East and Africa, with Bahrain as the highest.

Professor Alamuddin led the Bahrain centre of the study, with support from the Clinical Trials Unit. The study was very successful, resulting in its publication in the renowned journal *Circulation* in April 2023, with an impact factor of 39.922.

"Plasticiser intake over Ramadan: does it affect weight change?"

The study investigated the exposure of Bahraini people to a chemical called Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) through their diet, especially during the month of Ramadan and the link between exposure to DEHP and changes in weight or blood sugar levels. DEHP is a chemical that can disrupt the way hormones work in the body and is found in some food packaging materials and processed foods. The study involved 40 patients with type 2 diabetes and 40 control subjects who do not have diabetes and measured the amount of DEHP in their bodies, in addition to their body weight and blood sugar levels. The study is now complete, and data is under analysis.

"Living with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)"

Led by Professor Stephen Atkin and Professor John Flood, Professor and Head of Department of Medicine, the study is a survey of women who have Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) - a condition in which the ovaries produce an abnormal number of androgens, male sex hormones that are usually present in women in small amounts - to understand their perspectives on developing an educational programme on PCOS. The goal of the study was to develop a written curriculum for an evidence-based structured education programme to help women with PCOS make lifestyle changes to improve their condition and reduce the risk of future complications. The research team is currently reviewing the data and will be piloting the programme and assessing its impact on cognitive outcomes related to PCOS.

“ A paradigm shift – teaching undergraduate students ‘Professionalism’ practices reflects RCSI’s institutional pragmatism. I am proud to be part of this professional culture at RCSI. ”

Dr Shaista Salman
Professionalism Lecturer



04

Global
Leadership,
Transnational
Education and
Quality
Enhancement

Global Leadership, Transnational Education and Quality Enhancement



International Education Forum 2023

RCSI's transformative learning experience is focused on the quality of the education we deliver and the nurturing of young healthcare professionals. Our curricular and extracurricular programmes support the development of our student's personal and professional identities with a view to becoming global healthcare leaders and contributing to national health programmes, patient care and human health. Additionally, we have made great strides in our Quality Enhancement systems, which empower us to track all our goals and be more proactive at monitoring progress.

RCSI Bahrain School of Nursing & Midwifery Programmes receive Saudi Accreditation

Attaining accreditation for its programmes is a crucial step to upholding RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's reputation, enhancing its quality of education and attracting students from across the globe.

In December, the Higher Education Council in Bahrain announced the University's accreditation from the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia for its undergraduate School of Nursing & Midwifery programme. This accreditation reflects the University's strategic aim of advancing the role of the nursing workforce in the Middle East. In addition, this step aligns with Bahrain's Vision 2030 and the higher education strategy, both of which aim to make the country an attractive educational destination for students from all over the world and elevate Bahrain's standing in the regional higher education sector.

RCSI Bahrain's undergraduate Medicine programme had also previously been accredited by the Saudi Ministry of Education. As a result, the University's accreditation has grown to include all of the Gulf Cooperation Council's member states countries in the Middle East and beyond.

Irish Medical Council's (IMC) Re-accreditation Confirmatory Visit

Following its re-accreditation of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's undergraduate medicine programme in November 2021, the Medical Council of Ireland (IMC) held a confirmatory visit to the University's clinical sites in October 2022.

The team of IMC personnel and panel members led by Professor Mary O'Sullivan, University of Limerick, Ireland, met with the management team, toured the RCSI Bahrain campus facilities and visited King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain Oncology Centre, Salmaniya Medical Complex, Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force



International Nurses Day 2023

Hospital, Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialist Cardiac Centre and Halat Bu Maher Health Centre.

The Medical Council utilises the framework of the World Federation of Medical Education's (WFME) 'Global Standards for Quality Improvement in Medical Education' to assess medical programmes. The Medical Council's accreditation report provided feedback and recommendations for the University to maintain the high-quality medical education offered to its students. The Council also commended RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for the strong presence of professionalism throughout the undergraduate medicine programme, in addition to the quality of facilities on campus and at teaching sites, the support provided by the research office to medical students and staff across the spectrum of research activities, and the enthusiasm and commitment of our medical students to their education.

RCSI International Education Forum 2023

The RCSI International Education Forum, held annually in Dublin, gathers staff members across the RCSI international community to share innovations and education-focused initiatives.

At this year's forum, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain faculty members Dr Shaista Salman, Professionalism Lecturer and Dr Helen Cooper, a former Lecturer in Medicine, were recognised for contributing to initiatives under the 'RCSI Education Innovation Awards'. Dr Salman was recognised for her contribution to the initiative "Using express team-based learning to harness core medical professionalism values and behaviours", led by Professor Denis Harkin, Centre for Professionalism in Medicine and Health Sciences, and Dr Cooper was recognised for her contribution to the

"Interprofessional Scrum: health promotion workshop for nursing and medical students" along with Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing and Dr Georsan Caruth, Lecturer in Paediatrics, who supported the delivery of the project.

International Nurses Day Conference 2023 with Global Universities

To mark International Nurses Day and share experiences and findings, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and four international Universities held a joint conference in May, under the theme of "Cultural Perspectives in Nursing & Midwifery 2023".

The two-day online conference presented an opportunity for both students and faculty from the School of Nursing & Midwifery to share their experiences with their counterparts from the Nethersole School of Nursing at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Keele University, UK, the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka, and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

Participating in the conference were senior nursing students, Ms Maria Trinidad and Ms Thajba Yaqoob Abdulrahman, who presented their participation in the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) World Congress held in Portugal in December 2022. Additionally senior nursing students Ms Sana Alhaj and Ms Hanan Faraj, shared their learnings from their participation in the nursing exchange programme with Keele University, UK, in July 2022.

Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of the BSc Nursing Programme, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, provided an



42nd Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research & Education Conference in Dublin

update on the “Internationalisation of Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum: A Window for Cultural Awareness”.

42nd Annual International Nursing & Midwifery Research & Education Conference in Dublin

To improve the health outcomes of people worldwide, our students and faculty members are encouraged to participate in opportunities for knowledge transfer across the globe. In February, three academic staff and one nursing student from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain were awarded the Professor Seamus Cowman Bursary to present at the 42nd Annual International Nursing & Midwifery Research & Education Conference held at RCSI in Dublin. This was under the theme ‘Nursing and Midwifery – Leading the World to Better Health’.

Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing, presented her works on “A Nurse-Led Family Based Approach in Diabetes Care”; Ms Eman Fateel, Lecturer in Nursing and Year 2 Director, presented her works on “Academics use and adoption of technology in higher education in Bahrain”; Ms Sarah Turner, Lecturer in Nursing and Year 3 Director, presented a poster on “The Transition to Fatherhood”, and Ms Kawthar Shaheen, Nursing Year 4 student, presented an abstract on “Caring for a Patient with Ischemic Stroke: From the Perspectives of a Nursing Student”.



Ms Sarah Turner

New Curriculum in Medicine Year 1

In June 2023, we marked the completion of the first year of the new undergraduate medical curriculum under THEP, RCSI’s transnational “Transforming Healthcare Education Project” (THEP).

This milestone was a fantastic achievement for the School of Medicine under the leadership of Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine; Professor Naji Alamuddin, Deputy Head of School of Medicine; Dr Paul O’Farrell, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry and MED1 Year Director; and Dr Ebrahim Rajab, Senior Lecturer in Physiology and MED1 Year Co-Director, with the extensive collaboration and diligent efforts of many academic and operational staff members in Bahrain and Dublin. We were very excited to implement our new student-centred medical curriculum, with a truly transformative experience of the medical education offered by the University.

There are six key elements to THEP, which we believe to be the best curriculum to lead us forward.

- The content has been rationalised with a variety of teaching formats and a new structure, blending foundational and clinical sciences in a block module approach.
- Assessment is programmatic. Instead of major examinations at the end of the year, there are multiple smaller assessments, which evaluate the student’s overall comprehensive performance across multiple disciplines and skills, rather than individual modules.
- Three educational pillars form the scaffolding of THEP: Knowledge, Clinical Skills, and Personal and Professional Identity (PPI). We believe PPI is very important for the education of a doctor, as it trains students in how they should conduct themselves and behave as medical practitioners. It also focuses on their professionalism and enhances their understanding of leadership and resilience.
- Sophisticated technology facilitates the delivery of the programme. The principal software used is Kaizen, providing a personalised dashboard for each individual student so they will know where they stand in relation to their knowledge, skills and professionalism compared to their peers, on a continuous basis. Students can see their deficits, and where they need to improve. The second software is Practique, which streamlines the conduct of assessments, providing immediate feedback, results and information on where each student stands within the class.
- Each student has a personal tutor to guide them through their medical education.



New Curriculum for MED 1

- The student class is divided into smaller groups named "Learning Communities", which serve as social and learning hubs, and place an emphasis on case-based learning.

During the academic year, MED1 students in Bahrain and Dublin were surveyed for their feedback, helping tackle teething issues and identify areas for enhancement, while guiding us to consolidate the successful elements of this new student-centred medical curriculum.

Resilience Training introduced in MED1

Resilience training is a vital aspect of the Personal and Professional Identity (PPIID) theme of the new undergraduate medical curriculum. Professor Kevin Dunne, Head of Paediatrics Department; Professor Nuha Birido, Associate Professor in Surgery & Academic Director of Clinical Simulation; Dr Sally Doherty, Senior Lecturer in Psychology; Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery; Dr Luma Ebrahim Bashmi, Lecturer in Psychology; and Dr Hani Malik, Lecturer in Family Medicine, are the six core members of the resilience training team who have been trained at the UPenn's (University of Pennsylvania) Positive Psychology Center.

Student Choice Module introduced in MED1

The Student Choice Module was introduced as part of the undergraduate medical curriculum. This allows students to select some of the modules they would like to study and participate in personal and professional development opportunities. The Student Choice Module runs across MED1 for one week and MED2 for two weeks, with grades awarded after MED2.

The objective of the module is to provide students with the opportunity to expand on their learning experience. This allows the students to explore topics such as humanities, languages, research and the study of core curriculum-related topics and specialties, in more depth. The Student Choice Module also supports an individualised learning process and provides an active learning environment which facilitates discussions and group-based learning. Through the module, students can reflect upon future opportunities in research, electives and career options. This enables the students to gain a broader view of their ability to effectively contribute to their workplace, society and compete globally.

The first iteration of the Student Choice Module was held in April and was supported by over 20 topic leads. In MED1, 221 students selected their top five topics to explore, across five themes. In addition, students were provided with 14 different topics including Social Entrepreneurship (Theme: The world around you), Lifestyle Medicine (Theme: Health and Wellbeing), Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (Theme: Research & Science), Clinical Simulation (Theme: Introduction to Clinical Practice), and Teaching Skills for Students (Theme: Humanities).

Based on the students' feedback, they valued the active small group sessions and the opportunity to broaden their knowledge. Faculty members also reported high levels of student engagement in the sessions.



Professionalism Campaign activities

Professionalism Campaign for Students

As students returned to studying on campus and re-engaged with clinical sites and patients, a six-week Professionalism Awareness Campaign was organised at the beginning of the academic year under the Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Programme. This was arranged to raise awareness and educate students on the importance of key aspects of professionalism.

Eight faculty and staff members and 17 students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing & Midwifery collaborated to develop activities, competitions and events each week to reflect on different skills, competencies and practices related to professionalism.

The themes included Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk, Engagement = Success, Professional Communications, Academic Integrity, Professionalism Demystified and Self-Care for Professionals.

Nursing Field Visits

To ensure our nursing students are provided with exposure early in their student journey, Nursing Year 1 students commenced field visits in the second semester to geriatric hospitals, day-care centres and industrial health clinics. Field visits aim to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice and aid the students in applying the theory components of the "Human Growth and Development" module.

The students were accompanied and supported by Ms Rachel Hughes, Nursing Coordinator; Ms Danah Ahmed Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and Year 1 Director; Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing; and Ms Zainat Ahmed, Clinical Educator in Nursing.

Internationalisation of Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum

The School of Nursing & Midwifery has been working on the internationalisation of the nursing undergraduate curriculum. This being due to several identified driving forces, such as a global shortage of competent, professional and culturally sensitive nurses, changes in population demography in almost all nations, as well as the evolution of global health issues.

At RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, we collaborate with various communities nationally and globally to prepare our students to provide care to patients with diverse health problems and cultural backgrounds. Additionally, we collaborate with Bahraini institutions to identify health priorities and improve wellbeing in accordance with the national health strategies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result, we have a good understanding of how patient care and healthcare services are evolving toward global practices. We have added new concepts in the new curriculum, such as Refugee Health, Domestic Violence, Artificial Intelligence, Nursing Informatics, Care of Individuals with Special Needs (e.g. Autism and Down Syndrome), Global Warming (Environmental Health), Social Inclusion, and Healthcare Policy. In addition, we are also introducing one compulsory elective module to enrich the personal and professional development and experiences of our nursing students. This will be through participation in varied community engagement activities.

The new undergraduate nursing curriculum is undergoing external reviews by the Academic Qualification & Committee in Dublin and will require final approval from the National University of Ireland and the Medical and Health Sciences Board. The target for implementation is set for the academic year 2024-2025.





Nursing Field Visit

Clinical Simulation and Experiential Learning

At RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, simulation training is essential for preparing and training students in a safe and realistic environment to become competent healthcare professionals who are practice-ready upon graduation. In Academic Year 2022-23, a total of 3,265 hours of consultation and history-taking training sessions across five medical specialties and nursing care were delivered at the Ibn AlBaitar Centre for Simulation and Experiential Learning (ICSEL).

Simulated Patient (SIM) Unit Training

Simulated patients, also known as SIM patients, are members of the public who have undertaken specific in-house training to portray a specific set of symptoms or medical conditions accurately and consistently.

During the academic year, the SIM Patient Unit trained 40 simulated patients at the new simulation teaching facility in Al Sayah Square, located across from the University campus. This training was aimed at enhancing the SIM patients' skills under the mentoring of Professor Nuha Birido, Associate Professor in Surgery & Academic Director of Clinical Simulation; Dr Sally Doherty, Senior Lecturer in Psychology; Dr Georsan Caruth, Clinical Educator in Paediatrics; Dr Hani Malik, Lecturer in Family Medicine; and Ms Ruth Searl, Administrator of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research. The training also served as a platform for the simulation patients to meet and share their experiences.

SIM patient Unit Training





Psychiatric SIM patient training

Professor Charlotte Kamel, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Psychiatry, and Dr Sally Doherty, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, trained simulated patients to be knowledgeable in specific psychiatric cases and support students to be better prepared for psychiatric history taking.

Professor Kevin Dunne, Professor and Head of Department of Paediatrics, and Dr Georsan Caruth, Clinical Educator in Paediatrics, carefully guided and trained children between 10-16 years of age as simulated patients. As a result, for the first time, paediatric examinations for Senior Cycle 1 students featured children as simulated patients.

Dr Sally Doherty, Lecturer in Psychology; Dr Hani Malik, Lecturer in Family Medicine; and Ms Ruth Searl, Administrator of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, held training sessions for simulated patients involved in the MED3 Consultation Skills sessions. The sessions focused on training SIM patients to provide professional, high-quality and individualised feedback to students on their communication skills, with the ultimate goal of training our students to become well-rounded and compassionate future doctors.

Interprofessional Learning Simulation

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain supports and encourages interdisciplinary teaching and learning between the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing & Midwifery. The



Simulation Team development - Professor Walter Eppich

interprofessional learning simulation is part of the unique collaboration between the Schools to offer interprofessional learning opportunities and a distinctive approach to improving patient care.

In October 2022, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department hosted the nursing exchange students from Keele University with the Senior Cycle 1 medical students, to participate in a high-fidelity simulation session on managing a primary post-partum haemorrhage.

In November 2022, Clinical Educators of the Clinical Simulation Centre attended the 'SIMposium' hosted by the RCSI Sim Centre for Simulation Education and Research in Dublin. The symposium focused on experiential learning approaches to interprofessional education. It brought together experts from a variety of disciplines to discuss how experiential learning can be used to prepare students for the challenges of interprofessional practice.

Simulation Team Professional Development

In March 2023, Professor Walter Eppich, Chair of RCSI SIM Centre for Simulation Education and Research in Dublin, held a three-day course on Simulation Debriefings for the Clinical Educators of the Clinical Simulation Centre. The Clinical Simulation Centre's team also held peer coaching sessions to transfer simulation skills and knowledge between Clinical Educators.



ASPIRE Programme Training

ASPIRE programme

With the focus on developing the University leaders among academic and professional staff, the Professional Development Unit hosted the AdvanceHE programme "Aspire: Developing Leaders in Higher Education".

The four-day programme, emphasised that the future of leadership is value-driven, not hierarchical in nature. The programme was highly interactive and discursive and led to practical outcomes. This included the development of very confident and competent leaders with a greater interest in values such as teamwork, managing change and working with stakeholders.

Simulation Training is essential for preparing and training students in a safe and realistic environment. In academic year 2022-23, a total of 3,265 hours of consultation and history taking training sessions across 5 medical specialties and nursing care were delivered by the University's Ibn Al Baitar Centre for Simulation and Experiential Learning.

Quality Management System Development

To facilitate the management of quality activities across the University, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has been digitalising the Quality Management System (QMS) since 2019. Covering a wide scope of Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) processes, the QMS eases the process of planning, execution and reporting, as well as providing a holistic view of all quality matters under the remit of the QEO.

The digitalisation of the QMS now includes the management of all forms of student and staff surveys, the Quality Improvement Plans, the Module Monitoring and Programme Analysis and departmental Self-Enhancement Action Plans. This academic year, the QEO has adopted a new approach to ensure the validity and quality of student feedback. Through the redesigned process, students completed an in-class instant evaluation for each module and a survey, after completing assessments. The second semester saw the launch of the pilot project, which recorded a significant increase in students' participation with an average response rate of almost 80% and was a valuable improvement in terms of qualitative data. Based on this success, the new design and approach were extended to the rest of the modules' evaluations, which included clinical modules.

“ Participating in the RCSI Exchange Programme allowed me to enhance my knowledge and skills as a student and future doctor by attending various medical events, conferences and hospital tutorials. ”

Mr Abdolaziz Abed Zadeh
MED2, School of Medicine



05

Healthcare
Environment
Development,
Global Mobility
and
Employability

Healthcare Environment Development, Global Mobility and Employability

With more than 3,000 Alumni in 39 countries, our Alumni Community represents nearly 10% of the RCSI global Alumni network. This achievement has been possible thanks to our ever-growing international outlook, competitive matching performances, and impressive first-destination employment rates (standing at 94% for medicine and 96% for nursing), as well as the unwavering support of our colleagues in Dublin and all our stakeholders.



Students and alumni celebrate matching into residency programmes

New Elective Agreements

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain provides a number of opportunities for students to undertake electives and enrich their academic journey, gain valuable experiences, and support their future career development. This year, we have signed agreements with US institutions, including George Washington University, Eisenhower Medical Center, and University of Tennessee Health Science Center, in addition to our catalogue of highly regarded institutions around the world for our students' selection.

Students and Alumni Match into Residency Programmes

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's approach to learning and teaching focuses on employability and producing work-ready graduates who have the holistic skills necessary to transition from study to practising.

In April and May, the Careers & Alumni Office, along with senior executives, academic staff, and clinical lecturers, celebrated both in person and virtually, the achievements of our students and alumni, who successfully matched into residency programmes across the US and Canada.

This year has witnessed the successful matching of 27 students and alumni to residency programmes in the US (six of whom are 2023 graduates), six matched to Canada (two of whom are 2023 graduates), and 123 matched to the UK Foundation Programme 2023 (107 of whom are 2023 graduates).



Alumni Reunion in Dubai

Alumni Reunions

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is keen on continuously engaging with its global network of alumni. Throughout the year, a series of events were hosted to reconnect with our alumni working in different parts of the world and to provide them with the opportunity to network and share memories and experiences with their colleagues and faculty.

In January, the Careers & Alumni Office held a reception in Dubai, UAE, to host alumni from various graduating classes working across the UAE and the GCC region. Alumni received updates on key developments and campus advancements which RCSI Bahrain has witnessed across the years, in addition to announcements from the Careers & Alumni Office on upcoming initiatives and events.

In April, a reception was held in Toronto for alumni working in Canada and the United States. Dr Doug Sider, Medical Director, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, Public Health Ontario, attended as the keynote speaker and commenced the event with a speech titled "Can my past(s) inform your future?...A physician's musings..." during which he shared his experience in the public health sector and focused on issues such as health systems and treatment developments, understanding the social determinants of health, connectedness in healthcare and finally artificial intelligence and genomic medicine.

Partnership Launch of Nursing Exchange Programme with Keele University

In October, we witnessed the official launch of the partnership agreement between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Keele University, UK, for an annual nursing student exchange programme. This is where nursing students from both universities visit one another's campuses to participate in learning and teaching activities and attend clinical observerships in local healthcare facilities.

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Bahrain, welcomed on campus Professor Julie Green, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Keele University, as Guest of Honour for the partnership launch in the presence of Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Rana Bint Isa Bin Duaij Al Khalifa – former Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees; His Excellency Mr Roderick Drummond, British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain and Dr Jameela Jassim Mukhaimer, President of Bahrain Nursing Society.



Launch of Nursing Exchange programme with Keele University



Inspiring Excellence Award Winners

Thanks to the ongoing collaboration, RCSI Bahrain welcomed a group of students from Keele University in September to undertake their month-long placement in Bahrain. In June, six Nursing Year 3 students, Ms Sara Mohamed, Ms Zahra Alzainuddin, Ms Fatema Qaher, Ms Manar Alnahham, Ms Shaikha Ali, and Ms Aysha Alrowaiei, spent three weeks attending lectures, simulation, and clinical placements in the UK.

Medicine Exchange Programme with Dublin

The RCSI student exchange programme offers a unique experience for medical students, allowing them to study at both Bahrain and Dublin RCSI campuses. The programme enhances the academic

experience of the students by exposing them to different cultures, curricula, and clinical settings.

Six first-year medical students, Ms Sama Khazaal, Ms Marwa Almarzooqi, Mr Abdolaziz Zadeh, Ms Ayleen Aamir, Ms Naba Almukharraq and Mr Hasan Ruyan, attended the RCSI in Dublin campus for a semester, while seven Dublin-based medical students exchanged to RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for their first semester of MED2.

In February, our exchange students presented to current MED1 students. The exchange students shared their experiences of living and studying in RCSI in Dublin and provided advice for students interested in participating in the programme the following year.



RCSI Bahrain Students at the Dublin Campus

For academic year 2023-24, MED2 students will have the opportunity to spend a full academic year in Dublin instead of just one semester.

2022 Inspiring Excellence Award Winners announced at Class of 2012 Reunion

In November, to commemorate their ten-year graduation anniversary, the Careers & Alumni Office hosted an Alumni reunion for the Class of 2012.

During the event, the portraits of the 2022 Inspiring Excellence Award winners, Dr Mona Albanna (School of Medicine, Class of 2012) and Ms Myrna Traboulssi (MSc Nursing, Class of 2018), were unveiled. The award aims to inspire students and visitors to the University by showcasing the outstanding achievements of the winners in the form of a gallery of portraits along the walls of the University's atrium.

The reunion featured a presentation by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, detailing on-campus advancements and developments. Professor Alfred Nicholson, RCSI Bahrain Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, expressed his pride in witnessing the professional progress made by the Class of 2012 and reiterated the continuous support offered to the alumni.

Dr Albanna, Vascular Neurologist/Neuro-hospitalist at Cleveland Clinic, USA, commented, "I have been inspired to reach for success and become a leader in medicine by many of my mentors and colleagues whom I met at University. RCSI Bahrain gave me the required knowledge base, which I continue to build on to this day, to master my specialty. In the future, I hope to play a role in improving and expanding stroke care in the Middle East and be even more involved in medical education."

Ms Traboulssi, Head of Nursing at Awali Hospital, shared her experience during her MSc in Nursing journey, stating "Pursuing my MSc in Nursing at RCSI Bahrain has been very rewarding in terms of expanding my knowledge in the field of nursing, as well as developing my critical thinking skills and actions, especially towards different patients. In addition, receiving my degree helped me progress in my career and be promoted to take on leadership roles."

The MSc in Nursing programme at RCSI Bahrain is a rigorous academic programme that prepares nurses and midwives to become future leaders and innovators in the healthcare system. The programme is designed to meet local and global health strategies. It emphasises clinical leadership, evidence-based practice, and research, providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to drive the development of nursing practice. Graduates of the programme are well-positioned to take on leadership roles in clinical practice, education, research, and policy.



Dr Danya Alaseeri (Class of 2022)

2023 Intern Award Winner

Each year, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrates the winner of the Intern Award for demonstrating distinction in professionalism, communication skills, collaboration, and patient management. In May, Dr Danya Alaseeri (Class of 2022) received her trophy in recognition of her outstanding efforts as an Intern over the past year at the King Hamad University Hospital.

Dr Alaseeri shared her experience: "During my one-year internship at KHUH, I have grown tremendously and received the opportunity to apply all the knowledge that I have learned as a medical student at RCSI and build further on it, with the help of all my colleagues, including doctors, nurses, research staff and fellow interns."

Careers & Alumni Talks

US Pathway and Residency Talks

Professor Majd Zayzafoon, Associate Provost for International Education, Assistant Dean for International Medical Education, visited the University in October to discuss the University of Alabama at Birmingham's IVMS (International Visiting Medical Student Programme) and navigating the Pathway to residency in the US.

In November, the University welcomed delegates from George Washington University, USA, Dr Huda Ayas, Associate Dean for International Medicine at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), Founder and Executive Director of the Office of International Medicine Programmes, Director of three interdisciplinary medicine courses, Director of the Global Health Track, and Professional Lecturer of Global Health in the Milken Institute of Public Health at the George Washington University. Dr Ayas was joined by Ms Shereen Toubaji, Programme Manager for the International Residency and Fellowship Programmes, Office of International Medicine Programmes at SMHS, where they discussed the residency application process, including changes to the 2022/2023 residency cycle, new trends in medical education in the USA, and shared match strategies with students.



Delegates from George Washington

Middle East Talks

In February and March, four alumni presented a series of events on 'Middle East Pathways'. Dr Ali Al-Fraihat (Class of 2018), Dr Omar Alwahoush (Class of 2020), Dr Omar Abbas (Class of 2021) and Dr Nazha AlFaraj (Class of 2022) returned to campus to discuss postgraduate opportunities in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, and Kuwait.

BDF Internship Talk

In February, the Careers & Alumni office welcomed Officer Maj. Amina Juma and Ms Fatima Askar, Internship Programme Coordinators at Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defence Force, who presented the hospital's internship programme, requirements, and application process to our Senior Cycle 2 students.

Canada Presentations

In March, Dr Ankit Kapur (Class of 2013), Emergency and Family Doctor and Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Dr Julia



Middle East Talks

Fox-Kapur (Class of 2014), Director for Addiction Medicine in Regina, Saskatchewan, discussed their experiences and pathways to Canada, while providing advice and guidance on students' postgraduate journeys.

In May, Dr Sehriban Diab (Class of 2011) shared her experience as a Consultant Rheumatologist in Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Dr Diab shared the pathway she pursued, starting with a residency in Internal Medicine at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada.

UKFP Preparation Course

From January to June, alumni Dr Rana Al-Najjar and Dr Mostafa Elsayed (both from Class of 2021) ran a preparation course with 12 interactive sessions on the UK Foundation Programme. The course began with clinical sessions to assist with exams, followed by a course with a practical outlook on being an FY1 Doctor.

Toronto Reception





Student Electives

In November, senior medical students presented to their colleagues on their summer elective experience in the US. The Senior Cycle 2 students, Mr Mohamed Diab, Ms Yumna Salman, Mr Ali Ayub, Mr Kamel Ikbariah, and Mr Faris AlMadi, shared their experiences at Hazelden Betty Ford Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Yale, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Cleveland Clinic and Lahey Hospital respectively.



Ms Sara Qasrawi, a MED2 student, was a Research Volunteer at the Heart and Vascular Institute at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi during the summer months, where she attended meetings and conferences with dedicated cardiologists and supported with screening patients, collecting data, and improving her research writing skills.



SC2 students Mr Farhan Rana and Mr Salman Muslem completed a four-week sub-internship at George Washington University. Mr Rana completed his sub-internship in Clinical Gastroenterology & Hepatology, and Mr Salman completed his sub-internship in Pulmonary Medicine.



SC2 student, Ms Deyari Kassim completed a four-week clinical elective in Rheumatology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she worked with the rheumatology team at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and honed her skills in diagnosing and managing complex rheumatological conditions.



Dr Zubaida Al Shaikh attends Nursing Careers Day

Nursing Careers Day

To prepare final year nursing students for immediate employment, information on career progression in the fields of nursing and midwifery, and future educational opportunities, the School of Nursing & Midwifery and the Careers & Alumni Office collaborated to host an annual Nursing Careers Day.

In January, the event was held under the Patronage of Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), and was attended by Dr Zubaida Al Shaikh, Medical Consultant and Chief Health Profession Regulation, NHRA, on behalf of Her Excellency Dr Al-Jalahma.

Addressing over 120 senior nursing students, Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, highlighted in his opening speech the importance of the Nursing Careers Day as an opportunity to gain insights from experts in the nursing field and help students prepare for a specialist career in nursing.

Dr Fariba Al-Darazi, a Nursing and Health Workforce Development Consultant, delivered the

keynote speech. She discussed major milestones in her career and emphasised the importance of lifelong learning, professional development, and interprofessional collaborative practice and care.

Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, also presented strategies for students to develop their nursing careers, followed by a presentation by Mr Ahmed Faraj, Nursing Profession Registrar, NHRA, on the topic of 'NHRA Nursing Licensing Examination in Bahrain' and the process students should follow to obtain their license to practice after graduation. Ms Fatima Ebrahim, Nursing alumna (MSc Class of 2015), and Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing and postgraduate alumna of RCSI in Dublin, shared their experiences in pursuing a postgraduate degree after having received respectively the Fulbright and Dilmun Scholarships. Ms Kashwer Reza, (BSc in Nursing, Class of 2022) also attended to share her experience and preparation advice on the NHRA examination.

The careers day concluded with a session by Ms Rita Feghali, Senior Customer Success Manager at LinkedIn MENA, who focused on CV writing, networking, and how students can utilise LinkedIn to advance their careers.

Activation of Bahraini Family Medicine Physicians Association

Over the years, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain alumni have undertaken leadership roles within their specialties. Dr Amal Dawood (Class of 2010) was appointed Vice President of the Association and to the Board of the Bahraini Family Medicine Physicians Association, headed by Professor Faisal Abdul Latif Al-Nasser. Dr Dawood is also a Family Physician and Chief of Production, Research, and Studies in the Health Promotion Directorate at the Ministry of Health.

Recently approved by the Bahrain Medical Society, the Association aims to consolidate the role of family medicine in the community, and the promotion of family medicine services in Bahrain, in addition to organising educational courses, conferences, and scientific seminars for family physicians to improve patient care.

About our Alumni

A total of
3,041
 alumni are
 currently working and living in **39** countries



Employment statistics
 First Destination,
 2023 Cohort



“The e-Professionalism panel discussion helped me develop an understanding of how to foster a positive professional reputation within my industry and enhance my interpersonal skills and sense of self-worth.”

Ms Zarish Hussain,
MED3, School of Medicine

06

Student
Life and
Experience

Student Life and Experience

Our students play an active role in the shaping and delivery of their own unique and immersive University experience. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, programmes, clubs, societies, sports and more, play an essential part in providing a holistic University experience for our students, during which they create the friendships and memories of a lifetime.



Winners of the StEP Champion Awards

StEP Champion Awards and Showcase

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's StEP (Student Engagement and Partnership) programme promotes a culture of partnership and inclusivity, where the expertise and perspectives of both staff and students are equally valued. Staff and students work together on StEP projects that drive positive change across the University and into wider communities. In May of this year, the first StEP Champion Awards were presented at a StEP Showcase event, where StEP Champions and supporters presented their project outcomes, while many StEP project achievements were showcased as a poster exhibition. The first StEP Student Partnership Awards (nominated by staff) were presented to Mr Faris AlMadi, a final year medicine student, for his role in developing the Student Mentorship Programme, and Ms Zarish Hussain, a MED3 student, for her extensive work on five StEP projects, namely the student professionalism campaign, embedding mindfulness within the organisational culture, the faculty research directory, the designated research site and the Research Summer School programme.

The first StEP Staff Partnership Award (nominated by students) was presented to Ms Ejlal Ahmed,

Student Clinical Coordinator in the Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA) department. Ms Ahmed and a team of staff and students developed the Collegiate Networking Platform (CNP) application. The application enables hospital clinical lecturers and students to communicate effectively and enhances students' clinical experience. The platform also functions as an information repository for students in their clinical years and features an e-portfolio for their records and reflections. The second StEP Staff Partnership Award was presented to Ms Donna Rice, Occupational Health Officer, who was involved in four StEP projects, being the student professionalism campaign, promotion of positive mental health through the 'Headspace' mobile application for all students and staff, an influenza awareness campaign and the first influenza vaccination clinic held on campus, and the planning of a 'Movement Project' which encourages students and staff to increase movement throughout the day to improve their health, wellbeing and efficiency.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact of future StEP projects, nested within the four StEP domains of Institutional Leadership, Academic Research, Community and Social Environment, and Teaching and Assessment.



White Coat Ceremony

White Coat and White Uniform Ceremonies 2023

In March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated the advancement of 319 students (190 from the School of Medicine and 129 from the School of Nursing & Midwifery) into their clinical training years during the Annual White Coat and White Uniform Ceremonies held on campus. The ceremonies are symbolic events based around the presentation of the students' white coats and white uniforms to mark their entry into their clinical training years.

With the support of our partner hospitals, our students have the opportunity to learn from highly skilled, jointly appointed RCSI Bahrain and hospital doctors from all over the world, which provides them with the skills needed to transform into competent work-ready graduates.

The events featured speeches by faculty and senior colleagues who shared their advice and experiences on their own clinical training.

The ceremonies concluded with the students' recital of the professional declaration, through which they vow to maintain professional attitudes

and behaviours with their patients, professors, colleagues and community.

International Citizenship Award

The RCSI Medical University of Bahrain International Citizenship Award programme equips students with the intercultural skills, values and professional attitudes needed to effectively work in a culturally diverse healthcare environment. In June, awards were presented to 35 students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing & Midwifery, who became International Citizens of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

The event guest speaker was Dr Hasan AlMosawi, Vice President of the charity 'Sabahat Amal' or 'Cloud of Hope', where several of our ICA students had volunteered and reflected on their experience. During their time participating in the two-year programme, students are guided by a staff Mentor, who supports them in building their portfolio of critical reflections. To date, a total of 102 International Citizens have been awarded since the programme started in 2019. The award appears on students' transcripts.



White Uniform Ceremony

Mental Health Awareness Campaign



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is committed to promoting positive mental health practices and raising awareness on the importance of mental health. Earlier this year, the University held a two-week Mental Health Awareness campaign on campus. The first week of the campaign was led by the Student Development & Wellbeing department, which promoted five essential steps to positive mental wellbeing with a focus on mindfulness. Events and activities were held based on the themes of the campaign. Advice promoted as part of the campaign included socialising regularly, being physically active, learning new skills, participating in philanthropic activities and spending time in nature. The second week-long campaign, organised by the Student Services Department under the guidance and supervision of Professor Charlotte Kamel, Head of Psychiatry Department, was led by the students' Clubs and Societies. The campaign included a lecture by

Professor Kamel and featured multiple social, sports and arts events held in collaboration with the Mental Health Society, Psychiatry Society, Chef's Club, Cardiology Club, Ortho Society, Anime Society, Women's Health Advocacy Club, Book Club, Badminton Club, Green Society, the Student Health & Wellbeing Unit and the Hub.

First Influenza Immunisation Campaign

In conjunction with the Student Health and Wellbeing Unit and the Primary Care and Public Health student society, the University hosted its first in-house influenza vaccination clinic as part of the Influenza Awareness campaign, which was a StEP project under the domain of Local Community and Social Environment. This was the first time that the Ministry of Health had given permission for a vaccination clinic to be held outside of clinical sites. KIMS Hospital administered flu vaccines on campus to 118 staff and students. As part of the awareness campaign, Professor Manaf AlQahtani, Clinical Professor and Head of Microbiology Department, gave a presentation to staff and students on the topic of 'Do you have everything you need to fight the Flu this season?'



International Citizenship Award Ceremony

51st National Day Celebrations

51st National Day Celebrations

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain staff and students attended an on-campus event to mark the occasion of Bahrain's 51st National Day. This lively event was a wonderful way to begin the weekend's celebrations for Bahraini nationals and residents who were all keen to show their proud affiliation to Bahrain. Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Bahrain, also celebrated National Day on campus whilst hosting delegates from Tamkeen and a group of Private Hospitals for a meeting.

Mentorship and Buddy programme

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain provides all new students with excellent levels of support during their transition to higher education. All new students are matched to a Buddy, who provides a welcoming friendly face to a small group of new students, guides their transition into University life and provides an invaluable source of information to help new students feel at home in the vibrant student community. The Buddy Programme is managed by the Centre for Student Success, and this academic year there were over 70 participating Buddies. To acknowledge the Buddies who had generously given up their time to be RCSI ambassadors and support our first-year students, the Centre for Student Success hosted a Buddy Appreciation Event in April, where a Buddy Star Award was also presented.



Membership and Buddy programme



International Night

In November, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted its annual International Night event. The event was a huge success, with 18 countries represented, and students had the opportunity to showcase their cultures through food, drink, traditional clothing, music and dance.



Homecoming



Winter Ball

Our annual Winter Ball event was held in the Radisson Diplomat Hotel with over 400 students in attendance.



Colour Run



Student Travel Awards

This academic year, with the support of the Centre for Student Success, 11 students have been awarded Travel and Conference Awards. Mr Faris Almadi (Senior Cycle 2), Mr William Khalil (MED2) and Ms Lana Aljabery (MED2) virtually attended the 3rd Mentorship Forum Middle East. Ms Hend Anwar (Nursing Year 4) participated in the 1st Bahrain International Wound Conference. Nursing Year 4 students Ms Hend Anwar, Ms Shawk Alsayadi, Ms Abeer Mashrah and Ms Oaima Alharees attended the "Nurses A Voice to Lead: Investing in Nursing for Health Security" conference in Bahrain. In June, Senior Cycle 1 students Mr Mohamed Abdulla, Mr Salman Alnasheet and Mr Hasan Aladraj attended the Scientific Writing and Publishing Workshop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We are pleased to support the personal and professional development of our students and to provide them with an opportunity to present their research and engage with extracurricular learning opportunities.

Library: Launch of PRIMO

In January, the Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC) achieved a significant milestone by launching PRIMO, a discovery platform and one-stop interface for all information needs. This new platform provides a simple one-stop search for books, e-books, journals, e-journals, articles, theses, dissertations, repositories, open-access sources, and more. The library team are continuously working to improve our online resources for students, and with the implementation of this new discovery platform, the team hope to maximise the exposure of library collections and provide students and researchers with fast access to scholarly materials and intuitive ways to explore new content.

Dr HH Stewart Awards 2022

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated Dr Samaher Ali Ebrahim Albinali (Class of 2022), who was awarded the 2nd prize Medical Scholarship in Clinical Radiology, and Ms Baheya Ali Dawaishan, a Senior Cycle 1 student, who was awarded the 1st prize in the Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarship in Ophthalmology, under the annual National University of Ireland (NUI) awards.

Commenting on receiving the award, Ms Dawaishan said, "This award challenged me to undertake intensive research in the field of glaucoma, and to critically assess the varying diagnostic and treatment modalities used in the specialty. It deepened my appreciation for the precision, artistry and nuance involved in the practice of ophthalmology, and I am excited to see how the new technologies available will change the future landscape of practice."

The NUI awards are offered in a range of specialities across the fields of medicine, nursing, midwifery and health sciences and are open to students and graduates of NUI institutions, in addition to the RCSI affiliated campuses in Bahrain and Malaysia.



Dr Samaher Ali Ebrahim Albinali (Class of 2022)



Ms Baheya Ali Dawaishan, a Senior Cycle 1 student



Library & Learning Resources Centre Team



14th Conferring Ceremony and Prize Winners
Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted its 14th Conferring Ceremony in June, which saw the graduation of 155 medical graduates and 120 graduates from the undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programmes.



A number of our graduates received special acclaim for their academic achievements during their studies, including Dr Ahmed Qaedi, who was awarded the Medicine Overall Medal and the Professor James Finucane Prize in Medicine. Dr Manar AlMansoor won the Degree Award Marks Gold Medal, the Senior Cycle Silver Medal, the Professor David Whitford Prize in General Practice, the Professor Charlotte Kamel Prize in Psychiatry and the Professor Joe McMenamin Prize in Paediatrics.

Dr Walaa Albaqali was awarded the Senior Cycle Bronze Medal and the Professor Niall O' Higgins Prize in Surgery. The Professor John Murphy Prize in Obstetrics & Gynaecology was awarded to Dr Rebecca Bulmer.

Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health, was in attendance at the School of Nursing & Midwifery and School of Postgraduate Studies & Research ceremony, where the Nursing Overall Medal was awarded to Ms Zainab Alderazi. The BSc Nursing Degree Award Gold Medal and the BSc Nursing Bronze Medal were awarded to Ms Hanan Faraj. The BSc Nursing Silver Medal was awarded to Ms Marafai Mabrook, and the Rifaida Al-Aslamia Award in Nursing was awarded to Mr Omar Almulla.



President's Honours List

School of Medicine

Medicine: Foundation Year - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
21200293	Yezen Alburgan	1 st
21202143	Bhargav Chigati	2 nd
21201823	Quinten Maes	Joint 3 rd
21201846	Lulwa Alqallaf	Joint 3 rd
21200330	Shahd Bucheeri	5 th
21201313	Yasmine Alcibahy	Joint 6 th
21202373	Sara Hasan	Joint 6 th

Medicine: Foundation Year - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
20204862	Aiman Khudair	1 st
20204861	Ahmed Khudair	2 nd
20207398	Fatma Al-Jabri	3 rd
20205573	Reem Alkhawaja	4 th
20200527	Mashmiyya Atif	5 th
20200226	Sania Shabbir	6 th

Medicine: Year 1 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
21200768	Taim Akhal	1 st
21200202	Youssef Eissa	2 nd
20204862	Aiman Khudair	3 rd
21201166	Heet Sheth	4 th
21200513	Yusuf Shakeeb	Joint 5 th
21202342	Sama Thiab	Joint 5 th

Medicine: Year 1 - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
20200275	Ola Mohammed	1 st
20200522	Ali Mardini	2 nd
19200158	Shahad Abdulkhaleq	3 rd
19203258	Reem Almerbati	4 th
19202420	Sabria El-Hajj	5 th
20204236	Noor Altafoo	6 th

Medicine: Year 2 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
20200275	Ola Mohammed	1 st
19208132	Muhammad Hassan Khan	2 nd
19203258	Reem Almerbati	3 rd
20204236	Noor Altafoo	4 th
20200293	Zain Almoqbel	5 th
20200911	Omar Karzoun	6 th

Medicine: JC3/IC1 - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
18236928	Ahmed Al Hindawi	1 st
19202638	Ahmed Ali	2 nd
18220401	Maryam Alrabeea	3 rd
19200944	Baheya Dawaishan	4 th
18203108	Walaa Sanad	5 th
18259332	Mohammad Alhajri	6 th

Medicine: IC2/IC3 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
19200944	Baheya Dawaishan	1 st
19200017	Waad Aldoseri	2 nd
18244777	Rawan Abouelenein	3 rd
19200732	Sami Ajbar	4 th
18220401	Maryam Alrabeea	5 th
18258565	Fatema Radhi	6 th

Medicine: IC2/IC3 - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
17256364	Ahmed Qaedi	1 st
17235669	Heba Alkoheji	2 nd
17228204	Zaynab Maqwar	3 rd
17228506	Walaa Albaqali	4 th
17246865	Ahmed Mohamed	5 th
18219152	Abdulla Almadhoob	6 th

Medicine: Senior Cycle 1 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
18257364	Manar Almansoor	1 st
17228506	Walaa Albaqali	2 nd
18236626	Rebecca Bulmer	3 rd
18219152	Abdulla Almadhoob	4 th
17221528	Mohammed Daoud	5 th
17228204	Zaynab Maqwar	6 th

School of Nursing & Midwifery

Nursing: Year 1 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
21204082	Ali Ramadhan	1 st
21201705	Rahaf Itani	2 nd
21203692	Hajar Aldoseri	Joint 3 rd
21200694	Fatema Khalil	Joint 3 rd
21201492	Fahad Rabea	5 th
21203104	Rawya Alabbasi	6 th

Nursing: Year 2 - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
19200004	Tala El-Zein	1 st
19206885	Fatema Alarab	2 nd
19207877	Sana Alhaj	3 rd
19203718	Chlea Maria Trinidad	4 th
19210200	Zainab Alderazi	5 th
19204041	Ameena Budalama	6 th

Nursing: Year 1 - 2020

ID	Name	Rank
20205274	Ayah Hasan	1 st
20204827	Aysa Alrowaiei	2 nd
20206626	Nayla Khamis	3 rd
20205725	Manar Alnahham	4 th
20205204	Maria Solido	5 th
20201246	Haleema Abusaif	6 th

Nursing: Year 3 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
19210200	Zainab Alderazi	1 st
19207877	Sana Alhaj	2 nd
19206885	Fatema Alarab	3 rd
19200004	Tala El-Zein	4 th
19206372	Hanan Faraj	Joint 5 th
19204041	Ameena Budalama	Joint 5 th

Nursing: Year 2 - 2021

ID	Name	Rank
20204827	Aysa Alrowaiei	1 st
20205725	Manar Alnahham	2 nd
20204279	Yosra Aljowder	3 rd
20206626	Nayla Khamis	Joint 4 th
20205274	Ayah Hasan	Joint 4 th
20205204	Maria Solido	6 th



“ The ICE trip to Jordan was a rewarding experience and I encourage students to participate in the programme to gain international exposure and open doors for volunteering opportunities and career development in different nursing specialties. ”

Ms Yosra Aljowder
N4, School of Nursing & Midwifery



07

Community
Engagement
and Service

Community Engagement and Service

We are exceptionally proud of our 333 student and staff volunteers who participated in 57 charitable events this year. The events touched the lives of thousands of people in our local communities and global developing countries, as well as breaking the University's record for Community Engagement events since 2012. Thanks to their efforts and the collaboration of our partners, we are following our pursuit towards the provision of health education, health and wellbeing, and patient care for all communities.



Students in Jordan



Professor Corbally and students in Vietnam

International Community Engagement Trips

In November, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain supported a cohort of student volunteers to travel to Vietnam as part of the University's International Community Engagement programme in partnership with Operation Childlife (OCL).

RCSI Bahrain's Head of Department of Surgery, Professor Martin Corbally, led the student volunteers Mr Saad Mallah, Mr Faris AlMadi, Ms Hend Anwar and Ms Zainab Alderaz from the undergraduate Medicine programme (Senior Cycle 2) and the undergraduate Nursing programme (Nursing Year 4).

The team volunteered at two hospitals in Vietnam's capital Ho Chi Minh, and attended complex paediatric surgeries with the support of OCL, a charitable organisation aiming to provide optimal surgical, anaesthetic, medical and nursing care to infants and children in developing countries. This joint effort between RCSI Bahrain and OCL brings an invaluable healthcare offering and experience to the communities we support. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in the future.

In April, two Senior Cycle 1 students, Mr Usama AlDallal and Ms Norhan Shaykhon, and two Nursing Year 3 students, Ms Maria Solida and Ms Yosra AlJowder, joined an expert surgical team from King Hamad University Hospital and Operation Childlife at the Jordanian Red Crescent Hospital in Amman, Jordan. The volunteering students and medical professionals performed ENT surgeries on 38 refugee paediatric patients and others in need, most of whom were from the Zaatari Refugee Camp.

The students upon their return, held a group presentation on campus to share details of their learnings, reflections and rewarding experience with staff and students in the presence of Col (Dr) Salman Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer, King Hamad University Hospital; executive members of the King Hamad University Hospital; Professor Laura Viani, President of RCSI in Dublin; Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar, RCSI in Dublin; Professor Hannah McGee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, RCSI in Dublin; RCSI Council members; Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and members of the University's Executive Committee.



Colorectal Cancer Awareness Campaign

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Campaign with KHUH

A group of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain staff and students took part in a Colorectal Cancer Awareness & Screening Campaign under the label of "A Chance for Cure," organised by King Hamad University Hospital in collaboration with RCSI Bahrain Community Engagement. The event which took place in Seef Mall, attracted many visitors who were interested in learning more about the condition and registering for the campaign. The King Hamad University Hospital team spoke highly of their experience working with the student participants who showcased their collaboration, communication and teamwork skills at the event.

Royal Life Saving Bahrain Training Sessions

In March, a group of students completed an in depth first aid course with Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB). The course, led by Mr Sam Rahman, General Manager of RLSB, comprised several interactive sessions focusing on teaching basic life saving techniques and focusing on possible real life medical emergency scenarios. Upon successfully completing the course, the students were awarded a Certificate of Licensure and officially became members of the RLSB network.



Royal Life Saving Bahrain Training



LLRC hosts Breast Cancer Awareness activities

Breast Cancer Awareness Activities

In October, the Community Engagement office held a series of activities in collaboration with departments at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

Professor Nuha Birido, Associate Professor of Surgery and Academic Director of Clinical Simulation, hosted a workshop and talk for students and staff on campus on the prevalence and stages of breast cancer and steps to follow for self-assessment.

The Library & Learning Resources Centre (LLRC) also contributed to the campaign by creating a display of books and theses on breast cancer, hosting a charity book sale and a Tree of Hope where students and staff tied positive messages to patients and survivors on the tree's branches.

On the 14th October, staff and students volunteered to join a Walk-A-Thon organised by the Bahrain Cancer Society to encourage people to participate in various awareness activities for a healthier, cancer-free society.



Professor Birido's Breast Cancer Awareness workshop

American Mission Hospital Charity Golf Tournament

On the 27th October, several RCSI Medical University of Bahrain representatives attended the 23rd American Mission Hospital's Island Classic Charity Golf Tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa at his private golf course in Saffriya. Several RCSI Bahrain staff members participated in the Golf tournament in three different teams over a three-day period.

On the 30th October, six RCSI Bahrain staff members were invited to attend the AMH Golf Classic Gala Dinner. The evening began with a speech by Mrs Julia Tuvey, CEO of Groups at American Mission Hospital, followed by a presentation of gifts to the winning golfers and tournament sponsors.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was proud to sponsor the event, which raises money to contribute to the local Bahrain community, providing free medical treatment to those who cannot afford private healthcare. With the support of our Community Engagement team, the University continues to expand its community service footprint in the country.

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Trip

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was pleased to support Nursing Year 4 students Ms Chlea Trinidad and Ms Thajba Al-Aamer in attending the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), held in Lisbon, Portugal. The students, accompanied by Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, embraced the experience as an educational and cultural learning opportunity. Upon their return, the students presented their experiences and learnings from the IDF event to RCSI Bahrain and Dublin senior executives, Bahrain Diabetes Vice President, Dr Mariam Al-Hajiri, and staff members.

The presentation covered a wide range of diabetic related research projects, which were conducted by multidisciplinary professionals from around the world who were showcasing their research at the event. The students, who are also keen Diabetes Mobile Unit volunteers, felt that the event gave them a remarkable insight into the area's latest research.



American Mission Hospital's Island Classic Charity Golf Tournament



Students share their experience at the International Diabetes Federation

Shurooq Diabetes Camp

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain nursing students were invited to support the 21st Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp for Children, held under the Patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health and President of the Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS). The Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp supports children diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes, by developing their self-care management skills through educational activities. The event, held on the 10th and 11th February at the Hamad Town Youth Centre, was organised by the Bahrain Diabetes Society in collaboration with local healthcare facilities and community organisations, including the University's Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU).

The nursing students who are also DMU volunteers, and RCSI Bahrain staff, participated in the camp, engaging with around 80 children. The DMU volunteers were supervised by qualified nurses from various hospitals in Bahrain and delivered a fun interactive programme to the children covering blood glucose monitoring, preparing and administering insulin, injection site rotation, carbohydrate count, and managing hypo/hyperglycemia through songs, games and activities.



Students at the Shurooq Diabetes Camp



Teddy Bear Hospital

Teddy Bear Hospital

On Friday 4th March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students hosted their annual Teddy Bear Hospital event. This year, we invited a group of students from the British School of Bahrain to participate on campus. This event was led by the student Paediatric Society and supported by our Community Engagement and Students Services teams. This was held in collaboration with the Bahraini Trust Foundation, with the aim of reducing childhood anxiety associated with visiting the doctor.

The student volunteers attended a training session prior to the event where they learnt how to engage with children through a teddy bear's journey in the hospital, using child appropriate language to explain to them the different services hospitals provide, such as X-rays, anatomy, healthy lifestyle education and dentistry.

Ramadan Campaign and Donation to Tree of Life Society

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Community Engagement Office collaborated with the Tree of Life Society during the holy month of Ramadan. The on-campus campaign supported by students and staff, raised 1,234 Bahraini Dinars, which will support the work carried out by the Tree of Life Charity Society in providing social welfare to families, support for orphans and social and educational aid for children. The donation was presented to Mrs Shafiq Al Moalem, Deputy Executive Director and Events Manager at the Tree of Life Social Charity Society, in the presence of Mrs Celine Durand, Communications Manager at RCSI Bahrain, and Mr Nawaf Suroor (MED2 student).



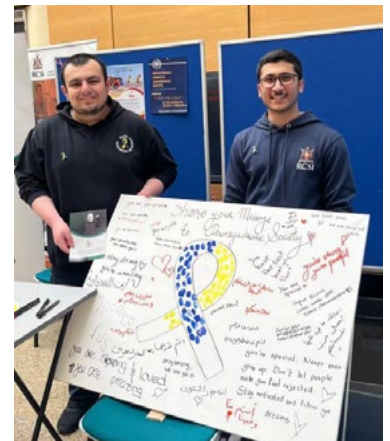
Ramadan Campaign



Donation handover to Tree of Life Society

Medical Commencement Programme Students' Charity Fundraiser

As part of the Medical Commencement Programme (MCP) and in collaboration with the Community Engagement Office, 60 students engaged in several volunteering, fundraising and social awareness activities around Bahrain and on campus. As part of the programme, students identified a charity in Bahrain that is of interest to them to work with, and with the support of Mr Anthony Friel, Lecturer in Communications and Ms Amna Al-Muhandes, Community Outreach Specialist, then conducted research on the charity's internal structure, created a fundraising and awareness campaign for the charity and undertook volunteering hours. As a result, students who volunteered with 10 different charitable organisations raised over 2,030 Bahraini Dinars for the charities.





Supporting Paediatric Cancer Awareness

Supporting Paediatric Cancer Awareness



In September, the Community Engagement Office, with the support of student and staff volunteers, held several fundraising activities in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in collaboration with The Smile Initiative. This local charity provides psychological and social support for children with cancer, and their parents in Bahrain.

In October, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed Mr Sabah Abdul Rahman Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Society for Youth, several Board members from The Smile Initiative, and Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of Language and Cultural Unit, to formally receive the cheque of the fundraiser proceeds. The event was also attended by Professor Rebecca Jester, former Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers and Alumni.

In February, Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of Language and Cultural Unit and Ms Christina Strachan, Lecturer in English, attended the reopening event of the Abdullah Kanoo Unit for Paediatric Oncology in Salmaniya Medical Complex, held under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, which coincided with International Children's Cancer Day.

Future Nurses Bahrain Campaign

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is proud to extend its support to the Future Nurses Bahrain (FNB) initiative, which aims to promote nursing as a positive career choice to young Bahrainis with a longer-term vision to contribute to the development of the nursing profession in the country. For academic year 2022-2023, the FNB volunteer team completed visits to eight schools and eight visits to the community.

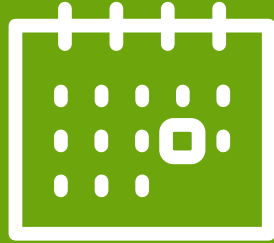
The campaign volunteers, comprised of RCSI Bahrain nursing students and alumni who are active in the community, also participated in several events, including World Health Day, International Nurses Day and the RCSI Bahrain 2023 Health Awareness Awards, which featured artwork created by talented Bahraini secondary school students, under the theme of "Who is a Nurse". We look forward to the continued growth and success of this campaign.

The group also launched a podcast hosted by Mr Husain Al Asfoor (Class of 2021 Nursing graduate), focusing on the nursing student journey and the transition of working as a graduate nurse in Bahrain.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

ACADEMIC YEAR 22-23



57

EVENTS



340+

STAFF AND
STUDENT
VOLUNTEERS



4,400+

HOURS
VOLUNTEERED



96 hours

ON INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENTS TRIPS



DIABETES MOBILE UNIT

AY 2022-23

16

SCHOOL
VISITS



596

PRIMARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS EDUCATED ON
DIABETES PREVENTION

over 5,400

STUDENTS SINCE 2012



“ Participating in the Bahrain Nursing Society’s 1st International Nursing & Midwifery Conference is an investment and positive step towards contributing to the sustainability and development of nursing and midwifery in Bahrain. ”

Dr Khadija Matrook
Lecturer in Nursing



08

Collaboration
with our
Partners

Collaboration with our Partners

In line with the RCSI Values of Respect, Collaboration, Scholarship and Innovation, we nurture a collaborative environment of benefit to our partners, students, researchers, colleagues and communities to thrive. We regularly engage in new partnerships nationally and internationally to foster the University's sustainable development.



Collaboration with Private Hospitals

Collaboration in support of the employment of Bahraini Nurses in Private Hospitals

In December 2022, representatives from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Tamkeen and a group of executives from Private Hospitals, met to discuss renewing the tri-party collaboration in support of training and employing Bahraini nationals as nurses. The University would like to express sincere thanks to our partners in attendance at the meeting, namely Mr Sayed Mohamed Alqassab, Associate Director of Business Development, Education and Healthcare Sector, Tamkeen; Dr Amer Al Derazi, President of Bahrain Medical Society; His Excellency Dr Mohamad Abdul Wahab, Chairman of the Society of Private Hospitals; Dr Kasim Ardati, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Specialist Hospital; Her Excellency Dr Ebtisam Al Dalal, Chief Executive Officer, Al Kindi Specialist Hospital; Mr Rohit Srivastava, Chief

Executive Officer, AlMalaki Specialist Hospital; r Saira Alexander, Chief Nursing Officer, Royal Bahrain Hospital; and Ms Mithu Cherian, Deputy Director of Nursing, American Mission Hospital, and their colleagues.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the first batch of 33 RCSI Bahrain nursing students supported by Tamkeen, is expected to graduate in June 2023 and pursue their careers in private hospitals. The University will continue with the clinical placement of nursing students in private hospitals as per the existing agreements. These placements are an opportunity to introduce our students to future employers in the private sector, while also affording the private hospitals the opportunity to develop their staff pipeline with highly trained and competent Bahraini nurses.



Inauguration of Bahrain Defence Force – Royal Medical Services New Clinics building

Inauguration of Bahrain Defence Force – Royal Medical Services New Clinics building

In February 2023, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain attended the inauguration of the Bahrain Defence Force - Royal Medical Services new clinics building by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, along with His Highness Lieutenant Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad al Khalifa and many officials.

His Royal Highness highlighted the Kingdom's commitment to advancing the quality of medical services provided to citizens and residents, in line with Bahrain's comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. His Royal Highness also commended the Bahrain Defence Force's ongoing development, and its wide-ranging efforts in safeguarding the Kingdom and its citizens and noted the important role public-private partnerships play in strengthening the sustainability of healthcare services delivered to citizens.

World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) recognition of Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA)

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain would like to extend congratulations and thanks to the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) for its recognition as a World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) quality agency. In March 2022, the University was pleased to work with the BQA to host WFME observers on our campus to perform an extensive evaluation of the BQA's review of our undergraduate medicine programme. In November 2022, the BQA received recognition on the WFME list of accredited agencies for a period of ten years. With a globally recognised degree awarded by the National University of Ireland (NUI) and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, our medical graduates have access to career opportunities worldwide, and this WFME recognition supports their career pathway to sit the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).



Professor Otoom attends the Inauguration of BDF – Royal Medical Services New Clinics building



Professor Alawadhi and Professor Kelly sign the agreement in Dublin



Professor Ootom and Professor AlDughaim sign the agreement

Scholarship Agreement with Kuwait's Ministry of Higher Education

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain signed an inaugural agreement with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education, which places the University in the Ministry's yearly scholarship plan for its students. Under the terms of the agreement, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education will guarantee a set number of placements for Kuwaiti students to attend our undergraduate medicine programme.

The agreement was signed at formal ceremonies held both in Dublin and Bahrain. At the signing ceremony in Dublin, Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor & CEO/Registrar of RCSI in Dublin, was present and was joined by Professor Fahimah Alawadhi, the Head of the Kuwait Cultural Office in Dublin and Cultural Counsellor.

Present at the ceremony in Bahrain was Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Mohamed AlDughaim, Head of Kuwait Cultural Office of the Kuwait Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, former Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees in the

Kingdom of Bahrain. The new agreement mirrors an existing agreement which has been in place with RCSI in Dublin since 2011. This agreement further strengthens relations between the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education.

Strategic Partnership with Muharraq Governorate for 'Healthy Cities' initiative

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in February 2023 the recognition of Busaiteen and Al Sayah as 'Healthy Cities' for multisectoral empowerment and innovation to improve health and well-being for all communities. Dr Ahmed Salim Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Office, awarded the 'Healthy Cities' certification to His Excellency Mr Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, Governor of Muharraq, in the attendance of Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health; Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, along with senior ministry and governorate officials. As a long-standing strategic partner, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain extends its sincere congratulations to the Muharraq Governorate for its recognition and will continue to support various efforts and initiatives of benefit to public health.



Strategic Partnership with Muharraq Governorate for 'Healthy Cities' initiative



Collaboration with Royal Society of Medicine

Collaboration with the Royal Society of Medicine

In September 2022, the Careers & Alumni office hosted a reunion event at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, UK. More than 90 graduates attended the event alongside officials from RCSI in Dublin and Bahrain, who helped deliver the programme for the evening. Representing the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM), Mr Gavin Berkerey, Head of Membership and Marketing, and Professor Nik Patel, Chair of Academic Board and Trustee, attended the reunion to commemorate the occasion and achievements of our graduates.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has been collaborating with the RSM to support our first-year graduates in their career development, leading to opportunities for engagement and networking. As an RSM member, students have access to a wider range of healthcare communities and networks, as well as educational, research and networking resources and events.

National Action Charter Day

The President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Ootom, and a delegation of the University's senior management was pleased to join His Excellency Mr Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Governor of Muharraq Governorate, and His Excellency Brigadier General Abdullah Khalifa Al-Jaryan, Deputy Governor of Muharraq, on the occasion of the 22nd Anniversary of the National Action Charter of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain has become a modern country with a prospering economy.



National Action Charter Day Celebration at the Muharraq Governorate

Appointment as a member of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (NQF) Advisory Committee

The President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Ootom, is honoured to have been nominated as a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (NQF), established by the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 52 of 2013. The Advisory Committee is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA). It includes representatives from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education Council, Civil Service Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Government Universities, Private Universities, Private Institutes and the Private Sector.

Participation in the 1st International Nursing & Midwifery Conference in Bahrain

In December 2022, faculty members and students from the School of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, attended Bahrain's 1st International Nursing and Midwifery Conference themed 'Investing in Nursing and Midwifery for Health Security'. This was organised by the Bahrain Nursing Society and held under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health.

Experts from the United States of America, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, South Africa and the Kingdom of Bahrain attended the conference.

Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Year 4 Director, and Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, both from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, were invited to participate in the Scientific Committee Conference.

Two of the University's lecturers in Nursing, Ms Sumaya Faraj and Ms Maryam Yaqoob evaluated the posters session, during which four nursing students presented their research posters. Additionally, Dr Eman Tawash, Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, with Dr Maryam AlAradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing, moderated several sessions and presented their research findings.

Participation in the Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference and Exhibition

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was delighted to participate in the first edition of the Manama Health Conference and EXPO. This was hosted by the National Health Regulatory Authority, under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, from 10th to 13th December 2022. The conference was held in cooperation with Spine Medical, Egypt. It included a number of scientific lectures by speakers from both countries to present the latest developments in internal medicine, regenerative medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, sports medicine and rehabilitation, pathology and blood banking, as well as biomedical engineering. Members of the RCSI Bahrain Clinical and Biomolecular Research



Clinical and Biomolecular Research Centre staff at the EXPO



Participation in Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference and Exhibition



Al Kindi Hospital Visit

Centre were present in the University booth at the EXPO to network with industry experts and professionals.

Meeting with Al Kindi Hospital

In October 2022, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine; and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers & Alumni, visited Al-Kindi Hospital, where they met with His Excellency Dr Faisal Al-Mousawi and Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal, Consultant Periodontist, and a number of Al-Kindi Hospital senior management representatives.

During the meeting, potential partnership opportunities between the two organisations were discussed, with a focus on clinical electives and research. The University representatives congratulated their hosts on the opening of their Cancer Diagnostic and Surgical Unit on 24th October 2022, which was attended by Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain. With cancer research and treatment being a key area of the University's research, we look forward to further developing our shared visions in the search for better health outcomes for the people of Bahrain.

Bahrain Specialist Hospital 20th Anniversary

In October 2022, Professor Naji Alamuddin, Deputy Head of School of Medicine, and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers & Alumni, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, attended the Bahrain Specialist Hospital's 20th Anniversary and congratulated Dr Kasim Ardati, Managing Director of Bahrain Specialist Hospital, as well as the Board of Directors and management team, on this momentous occasion.

Acknowledgment

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain would like to extend sincere congratulations to Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Regulatory Authority, for receiving the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion from the World Health Organization (WHO) for her continuous efforts in promoting health in Bahrain.

This award was presented in acknowledgement of Her Excellency's professional role in promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health, combatting smoking, chronic and communicable diseases, and for her efforts in voluntary work in health education. Her Excellency has played a major role in the development of Bahrain's National Health Plan, the Primary Healthcare Strategy, the Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Health, the National Plan for Childhood and the National Plan for the Empowerment of Women in Bahrain. We wish Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al Jalahma continued success.

Bahrain Specialist Hospital 20th Anniversary

Her Excellency Dr Mariam al Jalahma receiving the award

Contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- Seven Partner Hospitals in Bahrain
- Cooperation Agreement with Bahrain's Ministry of Health to bolster cooperation to achieve common goals, support health services and keep abreast of future medical studies and clinical research.
- Joint Research Agreement with Government Hospitals to avail of the expertise and capabilities of the university to further develop the knowledge and know-how of government hospitals' executives in education, training and academic research in support of developing the quality of healthcare in Bahrain.
- Collaboration Agreement with the new King Hamad American Mission Hospital for staff and students to access world-class clinical and teaching facilities in pursuit of their professional advancement.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** policy across campus
- **Lighting and Temperature controls** in place, paperless drive, reduction in single use plastic with solar panels on campus

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- **Health Education:** over 5,400 children were tutored on Type II diabetes prevention since 2012 through our Diabetes Mobile Unit initiative
- **Five Agreements** to support Community Service nationally and internationally during academic year 2022-23; of which a new Joint Collaboration Agreement signed with **Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Jordan Red Crescent Society, and Operation Childlife** to provide free health services and health educational activities to disadvantaged communities internationally.
- **Scholarship Agreement with Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education** to guarantee a set number of placements for Kuwaiti students to attend the university undergraduate medicine programme.
- **Partnership Agreement with BMMI Group** to sponsor two Bahraini nursing undergraduate students with full scholarships.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- **Technology Enhanced Learning incubator:** our research project on "interprofessional education within a clinical simulation setting" in collaboration with the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota won the Lesley Diack Award for Outstanding Research at the 2023 INHWE/ AOME Conference.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- Biomolecular and Clinical **Research Centre with a clinical trial unit** led by seven Doctors of Philosophy (PhD holders) and six Postdoctoral Researchers **dedicated to Diabetes**, the most prevalent disease nationally
- **Fast-growing Health Research**: 358 publications, 69% open access, 7,802 citations and 76% international collaboration (Source: SciVal 2018-2023)
- **Health and Wellbeing in the community**: 219 events and circa 21,000 volunteering hours contributed to supporting local and international communities since 2012
- Received **WHO "Healthy University" certification** in February 2023
- **Smoke-free policy** since the campus opening in 2009

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- **459 Doctors and 1,321 Nursing Alumni** working in Bahrain
- **407 students starting an undergraduate or postgraduate degree** at the university in academic year 2022-23
- 14 graduate recipients of the **Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Scholarships and Prizes** since 2014
- Collaboration with the **Bahrain Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA)** for its recognition as a World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) quality agency (obtained in November 2022)

5 GENDER EQUALITY



- **64% of full-time personnel are female**
- **53% of female personnel pursued higher education** Level 9 Masters/Postgraduate Diploma, Level 10 Doctoral/Higher Doctorate and Professional/Membership/Fellowship.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



- **Solar Farm on campus** (completed in May 2023) representing an electricity **saving of circa 65% of our current consumption** and an Annual CO2 savings of 2,247 metric tonnes/year
- Launch of the **first eco-friendly meeting pod** equipped with solar panels on campus



RCSI Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Medical University of Bahrain
P.O. Box 15503, Adliya
Kingdom of Bahrain



RCSI

MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
OF BAHRAIN

Leading the world to better health