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14th Conferring Ceremony

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the 14th conferring ceremony of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain witnessed the graduation of 155 medical graduates and 120 graduates from the undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programmes in the presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health; Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health, many officials, dignitaries, and esteemed guests.

Professor Laura Viani, President of RCSI in Dublin, congratulated the graduates on their achievements and dedication throughout the years and praised the ongoing relationship and strong ties between RCSI and the Kingdom of Bahrain. RCSI Medical University of Bahrain President, Professor Sameer Ootom; RCSI Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar, Professor Cathal Kelly; and a number of senior officials

from RCSI and the National University of Ireland also attended the ceremony.

Dr Ahmed Qaedi 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, and Dr Rebecca Bulmer was awarded the Professor John Murphy Prize in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

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 Rufeida Al-Aslamia Award in Nursing was awarded to Mr Omar Almulla.

Visit of Professor Cathal Kelly and Mr Roderick Ryan to Bahrain



During a visit to Bahrain in May, RCSI Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar, Professor Cathal Kelly, and Mr Roderick Ryan, RCSI Council Member, met with the newly appointed Brigadier (Prof) Fahad Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, Bahrain Defence Force to congratulate him on his appointment and to discuss areas of cooperation.

They also met with the Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals, Professor Ahmed Mohammed AlAnsari, to discuss the ongoing cooperation between Bahrain's Government Hospitals and RCSI with the objective of upgrading the delivered health services and train medical cadres on providing high-level services. They also discussed ways to enhance

cooperation and invest in the existing expertise and capabilities to contribute to developing the health system in the Kingdom, and build medical competencies in the fields of education, training and scientific research in alignment with the cooperation agreement signed earlier this year.

During a courtesy visit to RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's main partner hospital, the King Hamad University Hospital, a meeting was held with 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 some of their colleagues to discuss areas of cooperation specific to the Oncology Centre.

WHO EMRO "Healthy University" certification



On behalf of university, Professor Sameer Otoom, 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, at an event held in February in the presence of Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health, 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.

Welcoming two new members to Board of Governors



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

Both 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, healthcare services in Bahrain and the sustainable development of the university.

Participation at Isa Award for Service to Humanity

In February, several staff and students attended the Isa Award for Service to Humanity under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The Isa Award for Service to Humanity is an international award that recognises individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions to human welfare, development and progress. The award was established in 2009 by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in honour of his father, the late Emir Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Nepalese Ophthalmologist Dr Sanduk Ruit was awarded the prestigious Isa Award for Service to Humanity amid a programme held at the Isa Cultural Centre in Manama. Dr Ruit co-founded the Himalayan Cataract Project and pioneered delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa

and Latin America. He is fondly called "God of Sight", saving the eyesight of over 1 million patients who would have otherwise gone blind in the absence of treatment over the last three decades.



King Hamad American Mission Hospital Opening



In January, 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 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 between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and 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, the university students will be able to undertake clinical electives in the new hospital, which includes a medical innovation hub at which a highly skilled medical team will train local surgeons on the use of specialised technologies in healthcare. Located on the fifth floor, the 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 and 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 as a teaching hospital, which is an important international quality marker for the hospital. The staff and students of both organisations look forward to this mutual collaboration and joint engagement in the vital field of healthcare education for the benefit of patients in Bahrain.

WHO Healthy Cities recognition

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in February the recognition of Busaiteen and Al Sayah as 'Healthy Cities'. Dr Ahmed Salim Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, 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, 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 its efforts and initiatives.



Minister of Tourism Visit

Her Excellency Ms Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism, visited RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in the presence of Her Excellency Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Former Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees; Dr Nasser Qaedi, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Ms Maryam Toorani, Director of Marketing and Promotions at Bahrain Tourism and Mr Senan Al Jabri, Director at the Control and Licensing Department to meet with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Senior Management and discuss the role of the university in promoting educational tourism in Bahrain.

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain gave an introductory overview of the university establishment, the degrees it offers, its current and future academic plans as well as its developmental projects. The Minister lauded the university's commitment to helping the development of many sectors of Bahraini society and for its community work.



Meeting with German Ambassador



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain welcomed the recently appointed German Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Clemens Hach, to the university for a meeting and tour of the campus.

Led by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain President, Professor Sameer Otoom, in the presence of Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine; Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research; Dr Kathryn Strachan, Director of Quality and Academic Development; and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers and Alumni, the discussions focused on the different pathways for our alumni to register in Germany, as well as prospects for collaboration with hospitals and universities in Germany for electives and research opportunities for students.

Currently 17 medicine graduates are based in Germany and a number of students are already engaged with the German Embassy in Bahrain for German language courses through the University's Careers and Alumni Office.

Saudi Cultural Attaché Visit

In March, a meeting with His Excellency Dr Yousef Bin Mohamed AlThuwani, newly appointed Saudi Cultural Attaché, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Head of Recognition, Careers & Alumni was held to discuss the progress and achievements of Saudi students enrolled at the university, the recent recognition of the Nursing Programmes by the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia and new opportunities.



MoU Signing between Higher Education Institutions and BCCI

In January, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) invited higher education institutions in Bahrain to sign MoU agreements in the presence of the Higher Education Council Secretary General, to develop and encourage cooperation in enhancing collaboration in research with the Centre for Studies and Initiatives at the BCCI.

Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduates Studies and Research attended the meeting.

This initiative would be the first of its kind to build bridges of cooperation between the higher education and business sectors.



Inauguration of Bahrain Defence Force - Royal Medical Services Clinics building



In February, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain attended the inauguration 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, of the Bahrain Defence Force - Royal Medical Services clinics building.

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 BDF'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.

National Action Charter Day

The President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Otoom, and a delegation of the university's senior management paid a visit to 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.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was pleased to join the Muharraq Governorate in celebrating the National Action Charter of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a day of great importance in the history of the Kingdom. 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.



Visit to Bahraini Women's Monument "ATHAR"

In January, the Higher Education Council organised a visit to the Bahraini Women's commemorative monument "Athar", which was recently inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) marking Bahraini Women's Day. Professor Ghufraan Jassim, Head of the Family Medicine department, and Ms Fatema Frutan, Professional Development Unit Specialist, attended the visit on behalf of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

The monument inspired from the sea was built to reflect on the history of women's participation and role in achieving and sustaining national development. It is now an observatory to present women's accomplishments and

the impact of their participation in building the nation, a landmark to document the advancement of women and their contributions and a centre to embrace women's creativity and their pioneering role in exploring the future.



Professor Riyad Hamzah's Book Presentation and Speech

In June, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, hosted on campus Professor Riyad Hamzah, distinguished scholar, educator and leader, for the presentation of his book "Inside the Arab Mind: Selected Works of Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari" followed by a speech, in the presence of Professor Laura Viani, RCSI President; Professor Cathal Kelly, RCSI Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar; members of RCSI Council; members of the Executive Committee and professional colleagues.

Professor Hamzah shared his reflections on the importance of his book in an international context and presented a speech on the topic of "Why medical professionals are essential to the age of AI (Artificial Intelligence)". In his speech, Professor Hamzah provided insight into the advantages and limitations of AI within the medical sector, as well as the new possibilities AI will bring to the portfolio of tools available to medical professionals. In addition,

Professor Hamzah shared his thoughts on how that medical professionals will remain the guardians of critical aspects of patient care such as diagnosis, ethic and patient communications.



Dr Faisal Al Mousawi awarded at Arab Board for Health Specialisations Forum

His Excellency Dr Faisal Al-Mousawi, former President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, received an award at the Arab Board for Health Specialisations (ABHS) forum in recognition of his numerous contributions as former Chairman of the Board. The forum was held in Jordan in celebration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of ABHS and witnessed the graduation of 1,990 trainees who have completed their residency and fellowship programmes in different health specialities, including 55 graduates from the Kingdom of Bahrain, some of which are RCSI Medical University of Bahrain graduates.



Jordan Red Crescent Society Award



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was invited to attend the Jordan Red Crescent Society's 75th Anniversary held in May in Amman, Jordan. At the event, hosted by President of the Jordan Red Crescent Society, His Excellency Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid, and the Honorary President of the Jordan Red Crescent Society and Jordanian Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr Firas Al Hawari, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was recognised with an award for its contribution to supporting the healthcare needs of refugees in Jordan as part of our collaboration with the Jordan Red Crescent Society, Bahrain Red Crescent Society and Operation Childlife. Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, received the award on behalf of the university.

We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with JRCS and applaud them for all the humanitarian support extended to all communities in Jordan.

Dr Marc Garcia-Elias Visit



Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Bahrain, hosted world-renowned hand surgeon Dr Marc Garcia-Elias during his visit to the campus in March.

Dr Garcia-Elias is the Immediate Past-President of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) and co-founder of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH). He has authored three books and written 60 chapters on the topic of Hand Surgery and published over 150 articles. Accompanying Dr Garcia-Elias was his wife, Ms Josefina Boixader, a documentary filmmaker and Dr Mohamed Ali Abdulqader from the National Health Regulatory Authority, who was Dr Garcia-Elias' patient in 2016 whom he treated for a complex hand injury while playing polo.

Dr Garcia-Elias spoke about his work and current interest in philanthropic work in Africa, where he supports local surgeons in treating patients with common hand and foot deformities. Professor Ootom invited Dr Garcia-Elias to deliver a talk to our students and staff during his next visit to Bahrain and noted it will be an opportunity to hear of his inspiring journey from a magna cum laude graduate of medicine in Barcelona to his work in the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, his extensive experience in Hand Surgery, as well as his current charity work in Chad.

Bahrain Diabetes Society's Visit

In March, the President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Ootom, and senior executives from the university welcomed a delegation from the Bahrain Diabetes Society, led by Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al-Hajri, Vice President of Bahrain Diabetes Society.

Members from the Bahrain Diabetes Society, including Professor Dalal Al Romaihi, Consultant Endocrinologist and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, along with Professor Shabeen Naz Masood, Consultant Gynaecologist; Dr Muhammad Owais Fazal, Associate Professor of Medicine at Faisalabad Medical University; and Dr Hina Ayesha, Consultant Gynaecologist at Advanced International Hospital, Pakistan, presented Professor Ootom with a copy of their new book "Diabetes and Pregnancy: A journey into the past, present and future of care", which was

launched at the Maternal and Child Health Conference, 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. On this occasion, Professor Ootom congratulated the Bahrain Diabetes Society for their tremendous efforts in authoring and publishing their new book and providing important insights on the care and management of pregnant diabetic patients.



Arab Health Exhibition and Congress



In January, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, attended the 2023 edition of the Arab Health Exhibition and Congress in Dubai World Trade Centre and met with Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health of Bahrain, during the event.



In May, Professor Uwe Torsten, Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, attended a reception in celebration of "Europe Day" at the German Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Visit of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland – John Magnus and delegation



German-Saudi Arabian Liaison Office for Economic Affairs (GESALO) Delegation Visit



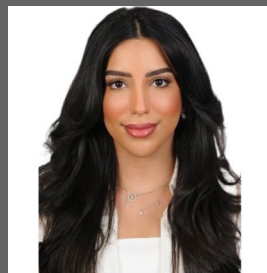
Swiss Honorary Consul General Visit



Dr Jameela Salman – Shura Council Member Visit

Dr HH Stewart Award Winners

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain would like to extend sincere congratulations to the winners of the Dr HH Stewart Awards, namely Dr Samaher Ali Ebrahim Albinali (Class of 2022) who was awarded 2nd prize Medical Scholarship in Clinical Radiology and Ms Baheya Ali Abdulla Yusuf Dawaishan (Senior Cycle 1 student) who was awarded the 1st prize Medical Scholarship in Ophthalmology.



RCSI International Education Forum 2023



Two RCSI Medical University of Bahrain staff members were recognised for contributing to commended initiatives under the 'RCSI Education Innovation Award' finalists.

Congratulations to Dr Shaista Salman 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 to Dr Helen Cooper for her contribution to the "Interprofessional Scrum: health promotion workshop for Nursing and medical students" with the support of Ms Ali-Rose Sisk and Dr Georsan Caruth who supported in the delivery of the project.

New Curriculum in Medicine Year 1



The month of June marked the completion of the first year of the new undergraduate medical curriculum, under THEP II, RCSI's transnational "Transforming Healthcare Education Project".

This milestone is 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 Najji Alamuddin, Deputy Head of School of Medicine, Dr Paul O'Farrell, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry and Med1 Year Director Dr Ebrahim Rajab, Senior Lecturer in Physiology and MED1 Year Co-Director, and the extensive collaboration and diligent efforts of many academic and operational staff members. Sincere thanks to the teams across the campuses of Bahrain and Dublin, who helped deliver the Medicine Year1 teaching and assessments throughout the academic year.

Resilience Training Academic Team

Resilience training is a vital aspect of the Personal and Professional Identity (PPIID) theme of the newly implemented THEP II 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.



Introduction of Student Choice Module

As part of the THEP II curriculum, the first iteration of the Student Choice module was held in April with great success. Supported by over 20 staff members, 221 Med1 students could select from 14 topics across five themes.

Congratulations and special thanks to Dr Edwina Brennan, Senior Lecturer and Director of Medical Commencement Programme, all our Student Choice Topic Leads and contributors and Ms Yoga Hassan, Academic Operations Senior Programme Manager, whose efforts made this all possible.



Nursing Field Visits

This semester, Nursing Year 1 students resumed field visits to geriatric hospitals, day-care centres, and industrial health clinics. These visits aim to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice and assist the students in applying the theory components of the "Human Growth and Development" module.

With special thanks to Ms Rachel Hughes, Nursing SARA Coordinator, Ms Danah Ahmed Smith, Lecturer in Nursing & N1 Year Director, Ms Zainat Ahmed, Clinical Educator in Nursing and Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing, for accompanying the students.



International Nurses Day 2023 Celebrations

In May, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated International Nurses Day with a joint two-day online conference under the theme of "Cultural Perspectives in Nursing and Midwifery 2023" with four international universities. From the School of Nursing and Midwifery, five participants presented their experiences with 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.

Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, commenced the round of presentations by providing his update on the "Internationalisation of Nursing Undergraduate

Curriculum: A Window for Cultural Awareness". Dr Nasaif highlighted several driving forces behind the internationalisation of the nursing undergraduate curriculum, 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.

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



International Nurses Day Seminar by Bahrain Nursing Society

In May, the Bahrain Nursing Society conducted a seminar to celebrate International Nurses Day 2023 with the theme "Our Nurses, Our Midwives, Our Future", in which a group of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain academics, students, and alumni participated.

Ms Nafeesa Najem Abdulla, Nursing Year 4 student, provided a talk titled "We are the Future Nurses, and this is how we see our future". Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, participated in an open forum to highlight the nursing and midwifery situation in Bahrain, current challenges and the way forward. A group of nursing students led by Mr Naser Alcash, Nursing Year 4 student, volunteered to help with organising the seminar and received very positive feedback on their commitment and professionalism.



Mental Health Campaign on campus



In support of the wellbeing of our students and staff, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain held a two-week Mental Health Awareness campaign on campus in March.

The first week-long campaign led by the Student Development & Wellbeing department promoted five essential steps to positive mental wellbeing. The campaign focused on mindfulness, which is the practice of focusing on the present moment and being aware of our thoughts, emotions and feelings. Mindfulness is particularly beneficial as a stress management technique and a driver of positive changes towards our mental and physical health. Other 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 under the guidance and supervision of Professor Charlotte Kamel, Head of Psychiatry department, was led by the students' Clubs and Societies. The campaign, aimed at raising awareness about mental health, included a lecture by Professor Kamel and featured an array of social, sports, arts, and fun 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.

Participation in 42nd Annual International Nursing & Midwifery Conference

In February, RCSI in Dublin held its 42nd Annual International Nursing & Midwifery Research & Education Conference under the theme 'Nursing and Midwifery – Leading the World to Better Health'.

The Professor Seamus Cowman Bursary funded three RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's academic staff and one Nursing Student to present at the conference. 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 & N2 Year Director, presented her works on "Academics use and adoption of technology in higher education in Bahrain". Ms Sarah Turner, Lecturer in Nursing and N3 Year 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".



Bahrain Society ADHD meeting



In May, Professor Kevin Dunne, Head of Paediatrics Department, attended the Bahrain Society ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) meeting organised with the Ministry of Health, in which Professor Ahmed Mohammed AlAnsari, Government Hospitals Chief Executive Officer, addressed the prevalence of ADHD in Bahraini schools based on a study conducted in Bahrain.

ABCD Project in Psychiatry

This academic year, the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) research project in Psychiatry for Senior Cycle 1 students has been rolled out by Professor Charlotte Kamel, Head of Psychiatry Department. This project, adopted from Dr Leona Moore, RCSI Clinical Tutor in Psychiatry in Dublin, aims at increasing the awareness of mental health conditions in general medicine and help students adopt a more rounded view of patients with mental diseases. This research project will conclude with a panel workshop during which the students supported by a panel of three academics will review their experiences and learnings.



Library launches PRIMO

In January, the Library achieved a significant milestone by launching PRIMO, a discovery platform and a 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. Congratulations and special thanks to Dr Bindhu Nair, Library & Learning Resource Centre Manager, Mr Asif Altaf, Librarian specialising in E-Resources & Systems, and the entire Library team.



Recognising Award Winning Bahraini High School Student

In May, under the patronage of Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, the Language and Culture Unit held a ceremony on campus to honour and celebrate Ms Zainab Al Hawraa Ali AlSaeed, student at Sitra Secondary Girls' School, who recently received the Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Outstanding Student Category under the Academic Category, Department of Linguistics, Arabic Language Section.

On this occasion, Dr Amal Al Qallaf, Head of Language & Culture Unit acknowledged the outstanding achievement of Ms AlSaeed, who has been an Ambassador of Bahrain in a number of local and international forums. The ceremony was attended by representatives from Sitra Secondary Girls' School, Ms AlSaeed's parents, faculty and staff members, and members of the Student Council.

The Language and Culture Unit at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain develops Arabic and English curricula specialised in medicine and healthcare for native and non-native speakers, to improve the communications skills of our students and to support the enhancement of patient care.



Participation at Derasat and King Hamad-AMH event

In May, Professor Ghufran Jassim, Head of Family Medicine Department, participated in a symposium organised by DERASAT titled 'Awareness of Genetic Disorders: Coping and Prevention Methods' held at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital. As part of the third Session on "Psychological Care for Patients and their Loved Ones Living with a Genetic Disorder", Professor Jassim presented her work on "Do I have Down Syndrome, or does it have me?".



Participation at Academic Consultation Workshop on Sustainable Development in Bahrain

In February, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was invited to participate in a Sustainable Development Advisory Seminar organised by the Ministry of Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Higher Education Council. The seminar brought together experts and professionals from various disciplines to discuss critical aspects of sustainable development.

As part of the Academic Consultation workshop, Mr Mohamed Abdulla, Head of Estates and Support Services, and Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery, participated in the "Raising the Bar of Innovation, Research and Development" session, where they

discussed various initiatives and commitments to promoting sustainable practices. We look forward to future participation in shaping sustainable initiatives for the future within the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Academic Update

Appointment of Academic Director of Artificial Intelligence



In June, Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery, was appointed as the Academic Director of Artificial Intelligence at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

This role entails leading the development and implementation of a strategy for AI research and education, as well as facilitating interdisciplinary research

collaborations in AI, both within the RCSI network and with external partners. An RCSI AI committee was established in Dublin and Dr Jamal already collaborates with colleagues in Dublin on outlining the strategy as well as planning AI training initiatives and AI integration in the curriculum.

Equal Opportunity Conference by Ahlia University

In February, Ahlia University in cooperation with the University of Business and Technology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Brunel University London, organised the sixth edition of their annual conference on equal opportunities under the slogan "Sustainable Leadership, Innovation and Technology Management" in February.

Professor Ghufran Jassim, Head of Family Medicine Department, attended the opening ceremony, alongside officials, scientists, researchers and specialists from the Supreme Council for Women, the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council and members of equal opportunities committees in ministries, institutions and companies in Bahrain.



Annual Research Conference 2023



In March, we hosted on campus our Annual Research Conference under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health. His Excellency was welcomed by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, and Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research.



The Research Conference started 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 Director of BSc Nursing Programme, on 'Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity among Nurses in Bahrain'.

Among the 75 research abstracts received, the top six shortlisted abstracts were presented orally, with the remainder exhibited as part of the poster presentation session. On this occasion, Professor Atkin highlighted that the level of participation from our medical students was high thanks to the unwavering support of our academics, alumni and external collaborators. The quality of research and the type of research, from laboratory based, clinical based, case studies, clinical audits, literature reviews to systematic reviews, led by students, have enhanced significantly



compared to previous years. More RCSI Medical University of Bahrain medical students have their research papers published in Q1 (ie first quartile) scientific journals, which is a global quality marker.

The top six abstract winners for oral presentation were 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'; Ms Prianna Menezes, Senior Cycle 1 student, on her research 'Prevalence of Computed Tomography Overuse for Mild Head Injury in Adults: A Single Center Experience'; Mr Mohamed ElHennawi, Senior Cycle 1 student, on his research 'Pain assessment and management after sleeve gastrectomy: A Comparison Study of Robotic Versus Laparoscopic Approaches'; Mr Mustafa Hammad, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain alumnus (Class of 2021),



on his research 'Polymorphisms of Metabolizing Enzymes with the Serum Concentration of Paracetamol and its Metabolites'; 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'; and Ms Renad Hesham AlAnsari, Med1 student, on her research 'Effect Of Bovine Serum Albumin Decorated Silver Nanoparticles on Breast Cancer Cells', who also won the Best Oral Presentation.

For the first time, three poster abstracts were extended the opportunity to participate in a soapbox, 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'.

The remaining soapbox participants were Ms Kawther Nemrsh and Ms Khadeja AlHoussani, both Senior Cycle 1 students, on 'A clinical audit on the application of cardiocography 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".



Research Update

Joint Research Agreement with Government Hospitals



In March, Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, led the signing of a joint research agreement with the Government Hospitals (including Salmaniya Medical Complex) to boost cooperation. The agreement was signed between His Excellency Professor Ahmed Mohammed AlAnsari, Chief Executive Officer of Government Hospitals and Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain 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. The agreement aims to avail of the expertise and capabilities of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain 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.

Student led Paediatric Hereditary and Genetic Disease Research Conference

The student led Paediatrics Society held on campus a Paediatric Hereditary and Genetic Disease Research Conference in April. Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, opened the conference with his thoughts on being a good paediatrician. The conference continued with a talk on genetics and genomics in the modern world, with a focus on paediatric genetic & hereditary diseases. Other topics included haematological hereditary diseases, genetic counselling & gene therapy, medico-ethics and jurisprudence of gene therapy research and future applications, approach to psychological care in paediatric hereditary disease patients as well as resilience-based interventions. Congratulations to the Research Officers, Mr Louai Al Tabaa, Senior Cycle 1 student, and Ms Dania Hammadi, Med2 student, and the Paediatrics Society.



Lesley Diack Award for Outstanding Research 2023

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain recently conducted a research project in collaboration with the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (USD-SSM) led by Dr Colin Greengrass, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Academic Director of Technology Enhanced Learning, Professor Valeriy Kozmenko, USD-SSM, and Ms Shahad Abdulkhaleq Mamalchi, Senior Cycle 1 student.

This project titled "Changes in Metacognitive Accuracy Post-IPE Simulation; An Interprofessional Perspective" won 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 in June.



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain joint research proves efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccination programme



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, published the results of a successful joint research proving the efficacy and safety of a particular combined COVID-19 (SARS-CoV2) vaccination programme, among key global studies. The research was published on January 23rd in the scientific journal "Vaccine", a peer-reviewed medical journal, published by Elsevier, for medical professionals interested in vaccinology, vaccines and vaccination.

Bahrain started its vaccination programme against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV2) in May 2021 with a "mix-and-match" strategy between different vaccines. After summarising the evidence from clinical trials in Bahrain and other countries using Sinopharm (BBIBP-CorV) and a few studies reporting tangible benefits, the feedback showed the weakening of immunity, increased infection and immune-evasive COVID-19 variants among Sinopharm-vaccinated patients. As a result, booster vaccine doses were widely advocated to address those concerns.

This joint research is the first to 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 research showed a more robust immune response in the patient group who received both Sinopharm and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations compared to the patient group who received Sinopharm vaccination only (both as vaccination and booster doses), with significantly greater levels of the spike (S) protein-specific antibodies. The spike protein is a structure of the SARS-COV-2 virus, recognisable by the immune system, which signals the neutralising antibodies as a tool for fighting a viral infection.

The study also showed that the patient group who received both Sinopharm and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations had a lower rate of serious adverse events compared to the patient group solely vaccinated with Sinopharm vaccination. Overall, the adverse events were all minor, indicating that the vaccination combination was a safe and well-tolerated option.

Congratulations to Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research; Professor Manaf Alqahtani, Head of Microbiology Department; Professor Alexandra Butler, Senior Research Fellow; Dr Nitya Kumar, Senior Lecturer in Public Health & Epidemiology; Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory Affairs Manager, and Mr Saad Mallah, Senior Cycle 2 student, who took part in the study.

Attendance at "Roadmap to Healthy Longevity"

In February, Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, attended the "The Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity: Enabling Longer, Healthier Lives in the Gulf" summit organised by the National Academy of Medicine, the Gulf Health Council (GHC), and King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Participation at Annual Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research

Dr Preeti Borde, Postdoctoral Researcher, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, participated in the 2023 Annual Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research held in Italy in June, where she presented a poster on "Targeting the Sigma-1 receptor increases the anti-proliferative effects of chemotherapeutic drugs and reduces motility in a triple-negative breast cancer cell line" featuring her works into the Sigma-1 receptor's potential for enhancing triple-negative breast cancer therapies in collaboration with Dr Ebrahim Rajab, Senior Lecturer in Physiology and Med1 Co-Director and Professor Stephen Safrany, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Med2 Year Director.



Fellowship and Appointment

In February, Professor Alexandra Butler, Senior Research Fellow at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, received her Fellowship from the Royal College of Pathologists in London.

In May, Professor Butler was appointed as Professor in Pathology as endorsed by the Academic Council of RCSI in Dublin. We wish Professor Butler continued success in her endeavours.



Participation at 5th Bahrain Diabetes and Endocrine Review Conference

In February, Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, participated in the 5th Bahrain Diabetes and Endocrine Review Conference and chaired the session on "PolyCystic Ovary Syndrome. State of the Art".

The two-day conference presented high-level scientific content through presentations, plenary sessions, and clinical symposia with learning opportunities in the growing and exciting field of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.



Participation at NHRA workshop "Unleash the potential of clinical research in the Kingdom of Bahrain"

In February, under the Patronage of Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Regulatory Authority, the National Authority for the Organisation of Health Professions and Services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, held a workshop titled "unleashed the potential of clinical research in the Kingdom of Bahrain". Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research and Chair of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Research Committee, Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory

Affairs Manager and Ms Sawsan Saeed, Clinical Research Coordinator, participated in this important workshop.



Research Update

Students' Participation at AUBH Research Competition

As part of the American University of Bahrain 2023 Research Conference, a competition for undergraduate students was held under the theme of sustainability where students were asked "If you were given executive power for a day, what would be the most important decision you take to make Bahrain a more sustainable country?".

A group of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students participated and the winners were declared as Ms Sahar Al Ghamdi, Senior Cycle 1, first place, Ms Salam Wael Elakkawi, Med 3, second place and Mr William Junior Khalil, Med 2, third place.



Launch of the 2023-27 Strategic Plan

In January, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain launched the 2023-27 Strategic plan during the Staff Awards Ceremony. The launch involved the dissemination to all staff of the internal version of the strategy with the detailed actions and tasks to achieve our strategic objectives.

The Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) adopted a new approach in the development of the 2023-27 Strategic Plan thanks to an innovating collaboration project with the Service Improvement Team addressing the challenges identified in several internal reviews, and the need for a convenient way to assign actions and issue reporting. To support operational departments in developing their short and long term operational plans in line with the University's Strategic Plan, an integrated platform was developed in cooperation with the Strategic Pillar Leads. The system provides a live overview of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan implementation and live tracking of various components at both Strategic and Annual Operational levels with an integration across all departments of the university.

In March, the new SPIS (Strategic Plan Improvement System) aimed at implementing and monitoring progress on our new strategic plan was launched by the Executive Committee and the QEO held group and individual induction meetings with Heads of Department.



Inauguration of 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 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. 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.

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

Scholarship Agreement with Kuwaiti 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 the university undergraduate medicine programme.

The agreement was signed at formal ceremonies held in Dublin and in Bahrain. Present at the signing

ceremony in Dublin was the Vice Chancellor & CEO/ Registrar of RCSI in Dublin, Professor Cathal Kelly who was joined by the Head of the Kuwait Cultural Office in Dublin and Cultural Counsellor, Professor Fahimah Alawadhi.

Present at the ceremony in Bahrain was the President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Otoom, and 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.

The new agreement mirrors an existing agreement which had been in place with RCSI in Dublin since 2011. This latest agreement represents a further strengthening of relations between the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education.

Green Week

Year on year, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's commitment toward environmental sustainability and the 2030 Bahrain Vision continues to grow and develop. In March, a week long 'Green' awareness campaign was hosted on campus in cooperation with the student Green Society.

The launching event of the 'Green Week' was led by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, who inaugurated 'St Patrick's Court', the university's new environmentally sustainable courtyard featuring an eco-friendly meeting pod equipped with solar panels.

To provide students with insights into the benefits of recycling, reducing energy consumption and managing litter, a quiz was held in person with prizes including reusable RCSI branded bottles and mugs.

In collaboration with Ms Aysha Matter, fashion stylist, a sustainable fashion workshop was hosted on campus to encourage participants to purchase less fast fashion and learn to upcycle and re-wear clothes already in their possession.

Staff members were invited to demonstrate their "green" contributions on campus for a chance to win a prize. Congratulations to the Centre for Student Success team declared winner thanks to their efforts in holding daily activities promoting eco-friendly products and initiatives.

The 'Green' week concluded with a beach clean-up held at the Dry Dock Beach in cooperation with the Muharrag Governorate organised by the Community Engagement office with the participation of students and staff.

Congratulations also to the Language and Cultural Unit who rewarded the landscaping team during Green Week with gifts to thank them for their continuous efforts.



Aspire: Developing Leaders in Higher Education

The Professional Development Unit led the AdvanceHE programme "Aspire: Developing Leaders in Higher Education" as part of its focus on developing leaders across the university, for both academic and professional services. Delivered over four days, the emphasis of the programme is on future leadership, reinforcing the AdvanceHE belief that leadership can be demonstrated at any level and is value-driven not hierarchical in nature.

The programme was highly interactive, discursive and led to practical outcomes including the development of very confident and competent leaders, with greater interest in values, such as teamwork, managing change and working with stakeholders.



Certificate in Learning & Teaching in Higher Education and Fellowship Project

Earlier this year, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated the third cohort of participants completing the Certificate of Learning & Teaching in Higher Education (CLTHE) from AdvanceHE. To date, 55 staff members have completed the CLTHE, 13 staff members have gained fellowship and 31 applicants are in the process of drafting their Fellowship applications, due for submission by August 2023.

At the event, the Professional Development team acknowledged the 14 staff members who became 'Train of the Trainers' for their efforts in co-delivering and facilitating the modules of the third cohort. Initiated and supported by the trainers, our ambition is to establish a community of practice in Learning & Teaching at the university.



Professional Development Seminars

This year, the Professional Development Unit successfully held a series of six informative seminars. These seminars were led by a mix of internal and external speakers with each contributor bringing a high level of expertise to their seminar with attendees made up of staff members.

Topics included in the series were research, career related health issues, women's health, accessibility of Arabic language research, mental health and social emotional learning. We would like to extend thanks to everyone who contributed to these seminars.

Participation in Bahrain-based Machine Learning Olympiad



In March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain participated in the Machine Learning Olympiad hosted by the Google Developers Group - Manama. The event offered the competing teams an opportunity to solve actual business problems via AI techniques.

Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery, managed the participation of the university by submitting a synthetic dataset and a challenge to predict whether prospective students are likely to graduate with honours based on the data provided in their applications. 11 teams participated in the challenge. Sincere thanks to Dr Jamal Hashem, and all contributors, namely Mr Simon Whitebridge, Service Improvement Lead, the Admissions team, the SARA team and PDU for their contributions.

Future Doctors Dubai

In February, the Student Recruitment team hosted a Future Doctors Roadshow event in Dubai led by Ms Andrea Triplow, Student Recruitment Specialist. The event was held over two days at the American School of Dubai and GEMS Wellington, with students taking part in workshops on topics such as ultrasound administration, IV cannulation, blood pressure and doctor patient communication skills, in a number of presentations and an alumni Q&A session. It was a wonderfully engaging event, with several attendees from the student recruitment and admissions teams, and academic staff from the School of Medicine.

Special thanks to Dr Declan Gaynor, Academic Director of Admissions, Dr Helen Cooper, Lecturer in Medicine, Dr Hani Malik, Lecturer in Family Medicine and RCSI alumni Dr Amrutha Venugopal (Class of 2021), Dr Zoya Shaikh (Class of 2022) and Dr Hana Fardan Ateya (Class of 2015), who made significant contributions on the day and in the planning process.



Annual Staff Awards

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was delighted to host the annual staff awards on January 25th.

Congratulations to the 2023 winners:

- **Professor Kevin Dunne**, Head of Paediatrics Department – Dean’s Award
- **Mr Omar Bureshaid**, Records & Regulations Manager – Dean’s Award
- **Dr Abu Saleh Moin**, Post Doctoral Researcher - Esteemed Research Practitioner
- **Dr Amal Al Qallaf**, Head of Language and Cultural Unit - Inspirational Leader Award
- **Ms Sowsan Hasan**, Student Recruitment Specialist - Rising Star Award
- **Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs, Academic Operations** - Team of The Year Award

Sincere thanks to everyone who nominated their colleagues in each category.



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Honours First StEP Award Winners

In May, we were pleased to honour the achievements of our staff and students who have made significant and tangible contributions toward the StEP (Student Engagement and Partnership) programme during the first StEP Awards and Showcase event.

Co-developed by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students and staff, the StEP programme aims to promote and implement a culture of partnership and inclusivity, where the expertise and perspectives of both staff and students are equally valued. The StEP projects enable students and staff to work together towards shared goals and aim at enriching the students' university journey by promoting guiding principles that RCSI consider to be best 'PRACTICE' (Professional, Reciprocal, Authentic, Community, Trust, Inclusive, Collaborative, Empowering).

At the event, several 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, final year medicine student, for his role in developing the Student Mentorship Programme and Ms Zarish Hussain, 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 department. Ms Ahmed and her team developed the Collegiate Networking Platform (CNP) between hospital clinical lecturers and students, to improve communication and the 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, namely the student professionalism campaign, the roll-out of the 'Headspace' application for students and staff, the first influenza vaccination and awareness campaign on campus and the planning of the 'Movement Project' to encourage students and staff to take short breaks throughout the day to improve their health, wellbeing and performance.

Congratulations to the four winners and the nearly 100 StEP Champions (students and staff) who made this programme successful.



Keele Nursing Exchange Programme

Thanks to our ongoing collaboration with Keele University, UK for an undergraduate nursing student exchange programme, six Nursing Year 3 students, namely 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 placement in the UK between June 10th and July 1st.



Dublin Exchange Programme

This academic year, six first-year medical students, namely Ms Sama Khazaal, Ms Marwa Almarzooqi, Mr Abdolaziz Zadeh, Ms Ayleen Aamir, Ms Naba Almukharraq, Mr Hasan Ruyan, went to RCSI in Dublin campus, while seven Dublin-based medical students exchanged to RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for the first semester of Med2.

In February, our exchange students presented their experiences of living and studying in RCSI in Dublin to current Med1 students. Next academic year, Med2 students will have the opportunity to spend a full academic year in Dublin instead of just one semester. We look forward to welcoming our Dublin exchange students to Bahrain in September.



Stress Management Workshop

External counsellor Mrs Melanie Sarginson presented a stress management workshop to support students preparing for end of year examinations. Students were informed of different stress management techniques, which enhance focus and academic performance, and were introduced to singing bowls meditation. Also known as Himalayan bowls, singing bowls are said to promote relaxation and offer powerful healing properties including stress relief.



Gergaon Event

Led by the Student Services and Events department, Gergaon was celebrated on campus on the fourteenth night of Ramadan.

This long-standing tradition marking the halfway point of Ramadan has been observed in various parts of the Gulf region for hundreds of years.

The event included many festive activities, including a live performance by a traditional Bahraini band, traditional live cooking stations and henna.



Buddy Programme

This academic year, the Centre for Student Success had over 70 participating Buddies in the Buddy Programme.

These volunteers agreed to act as a guide or 'Buddy' to our first-year students providing a knowledgeable soundboard and support for navigating University life.

In April, the Centre for Student Success hosted a thank you event for our wonderful Buddies.



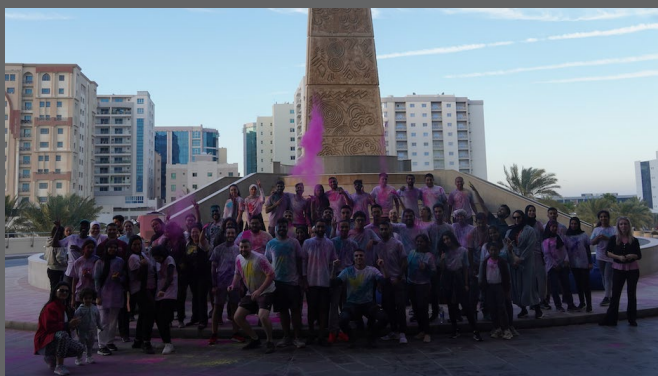
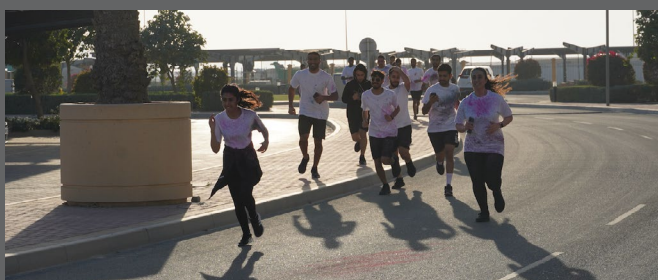
Health Challenge by the HUB

The weeklong series of events held in February during RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Health Week had a large cohort of participating staff and students.

This yearly event aims at encouraging staff and students to prioritise their health and wellness. All proceeds from the events were donated to support the victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

- **Steps Challenge:** individuals or teams counted their "workout" steps for the seven days of health week via an application for a chance to win prizes.
- **Paddle Blender Challenge:** Students and Staff cycled to make their own smoothies.
- **Free Health Check** by Kims Health Centre and free vision screening by Optica were offered on campus with the support of the Student Health and Wellbeing office.
- **Colour Run/Walk:** participants joined a fun run or walk around campus and get covered in various coloured powders along the way.
- **Old school games from your childhood.** Tic tac toe, sack race, egg and spoon and more.
- **Gym Mania:** Ms Alyce Sissey, Gym Instructor, led the fitness class with martial art techniques, such as kicks and punches combined with interval training that involves intense exercise with periods of rest. Mr Kazzafi Ansari, gym Instructor, led the fun high intense circuit using only bodyweight.
- **Basketball Event** was held in association with the basketball club, with fun games based around the sport of basketball.

The on-campus restaurant also promoted healthy choices.



CSS Student Engagement Award

Yearly, the Centre for Student Success (CSS) recognises the outstanding contributions of one final year medical student who has demonstrated dedication and commitment with the presentation of the 'Student Engagement Award'. This year's Award was presented to Senior Cycle 2 student Ms Rebecca Marshall, who achieved academic excellence with leadership and continuous engagement with the CSS and the student community.



No Smoking Day Event

In March, the Student Health and Wellbeing Unit partnered with the Ministry of Health's Smoking Cessation Team to highlight 'No Smoking Day' and build awareness of the negative health effects of smoking.

The Smoking Cessation team attended on campus and gave advice to those wishing to quit smoking, as well as guidance to future health care professionals regarding their role in educating patients and the broader community of the dangers of smoking.

International Citizenship Awards

In June, awards were presented to 35 students (34 Med3 students and 1 Nursing Year 4 student) who became International Citizens of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain after completing a two-year programme, guided by a Mentor, and having developed the skills of critical reflective practice, cultural competencies and leadership. Such skills will be of benefit to the awardees in support of patient care and their cultural competence as global healthcare practitioners. 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 as part of the ICA programme.

To date, a total of 102 International Citizens have been awarded since the programme started in 2018. Sincere thanks to our 22 staff Mentors who guided the students on their ICA journey, and our six ICA Board Members who supported the success of this prestigious programme.



Peer Assisted Learning Yearly Wrap-up

The Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) programme managed by the Centre for Student Success has been a successful co-curricular programme at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for many years now. Volunteer students are trained as PAL Tutors to peer-lead and near-peer lead the learning of other students in a friendly, collaborative, and inclusive learning environment.

The G-PAL (Graduate PAL) Programme was active this academic year; 20 alumni in their internship year (in Bahrain and overseas) held a total of 52 G-PAL sessions for Senior Cycle 2 students. G-PALs supported Senior Cycle 2 students' preparations for final examinations and held three successful mock exams: a long case, a data interpretation exam, and an OSCE. Our thanks go to the G-PAL Leads: Dr Yusuf Yusuf, Dr Ali Alaysereen and Dr Taiba Aladraj. 41 Senior Cycle 2 students were trained as PAL Tutors

in support of Med3 students, focusing on the development of clinical skills and history taking. Senior Cycle 2 PAL Tutors held 80 PAL sessions for Med3 students, including a mock long case with 10 simulated patients, and a mock OSCE. Sincere thanks to the Senior Cycle 2 PAL Tutor Leads Mr Ahmed Mohamed and Ms Manar Al Mansoor. PAL Tutor Ms Fatima Hussain was commended with the highest number of 11 PAL sessions delivered.

During the graduation dinner, the Senior Cycle 2 PAL Leadership Award was presented to Mr Ahmed Mohamed. As a PAL Tutor, Ahmed has reflected outstanding leadership qualities and contributions to the PAL Programme and received excellent feedback from Med3 tutees. He was intricately involved in the set up and management of an OSCE and long case exam for Med3 students.



White Coat and White Uniform Ceremonies

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 and 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. 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.



Student Travel and Conference Awards

This academic year, eleven students have been awarded Travel and Conference Awards. Mr Faris Almadi (Senior Cycle 2), Mr William Khalil (Med2) and Ms Lana Aljabery (Med2) attended the online 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 Omaima 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.



Winter Ball



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Health Awareness Awards 2023



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.

Organised by the Community Engagement department at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain 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.

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 Dr Mohammed Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council 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.

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, extended his appreciation to His Excellency Dr Muhammad bin Mubarak Juma, for his patronage of this competition and his commitment to building important partnerships between all educational institutions in Bahrain for the benefit of students. Congratulations were also extended to the winners of the Health Awards competition for their great artwork which reflect the important role of nurses.

Sincere thanks to the judging panel with representatives from the Ministry of Education, Dr Farzana Abdullah Al-Maraghi, Higher Education Research Advisor and Ms Alaa Al-Qahtani, Head of Centre for Educational Supervision, and from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Ms Amna Al-Muhandes, Community Outreach Specialist, Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 4 Year Director; Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing; Ms Celine Durand, Communications Manager; and Ms Hanan Al-Houti, Nursing Year 4 student.

Students' Participation at International Diabetes Federation Congress

Following their attendance at the International Diabetes Federation Congress in Lisbon, Ms Chlea Trinidad and Ms Thajba Al-Aamer, both Nursing Year 4 students and 'Diabetes Mobile Unit' volunteers, presented on campus in January their experience and learnings on a wide range of diabetic-related research projects conducted by multidisciplinary professionals (scientists, professors, healthcare and academic professionals) from around the world. The students were accompanied on this trip by Dr Maryam Al Aradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing. We would like to thank Dr Maryam al Hajri, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health and Vice President of Bahrain Diabetes Society for her esteemed presence at the event.



Royal Life Saving Bahrain Introductory Workshop and Training Sessions

The Community Engagement office organised in February, an introductory workshop on campus to engage students with the opportunity to volunteer for the Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB), the aquatic authority in drowning prevention and water safety in Bahrain. Mr Sam Rahman, a Royal Life Saving Bahrain's expert with more than 20 years of experience in the Leisure and Lifesaving industry, gave a presentation on the steps to become certified in beach lifesaving and learn about drowning prevention and First Aid techniques.

Following a great turnout in the workshop, the first Royal Life Saving Bahrain's training session was held in March with Mr Sam Rahman. 50 medical and nursing students joined the course to learn basic life support techniques for adults and children and first aid services. The course aimed at preparing the students to engage in beach and other aquatic events as first aid response volunteer.

The second training session was also held in March with the aim of training the students on real scenarios

of medical emergencies and incidents related to beach activities and crowded settings. After being assessed in four different real-life events, the volunteers will get a certificate of licensure and officially become a member of the RLSB network.



MCP 'Culture and Community Context' Programme

As part of the Medical Commencement Programme, 'Culture and Community Context' programme, in association with the Community Engagement Office, the MCP students engaged in a number of volunteering, fundraising and awareness activities on campus and around Bahrain. As part of the programme, students had to identify a charity of interest registered with the Ministry of Labour & Social Development in Bahrain. The students, guided by Mr Anthony Friel, Lecturer in Communications - MCP, and Ms Amna Al-Muhandes, Community Outreach Specialist, went through a review and selection process including researching, identifying volunteering opportunities, and planning fundraising and awareness campaigns in support of several charities. Over four weeks, the 60 students volunteered with ten charitable organisations. Congratulations to all MCP students for their great achievements including raising over BD2,000 for the charities.



Turkey and Syria Donation Appeal

Congratulations to all staff and students who contributed to the Turkey and Syria donation appeal organised by the Community Engagement Office in February following a devastating earthquake occurred in southern Turkey near the northern border of Syria. Two sets of donations were delivered to the Turkish and Syrian Embassies in Manama with items received by representatives from both embassies. The donations collected by the embassies were shipped in the following weeks.



Participation at 21st Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp

In early February, the Community Engagement Office and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at RCSI Medical University Bahrain in collaboration with the Bahrain Diabetes Society hosted a training workshop on campus for volunteering healthcare providers and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students volunteering with the Diabetes Mobile Unit to participate in the 21st annual Al-Shurooq camp for children with Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM).



Dr Maryam Al Hajri, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health and Vice President of Bahrain Diabetes Society addressed the attendees with an opening speech, while Mr Mahdi Ahmed, Bahrain Diabetes Society member, discussed the roles and responsibilities of the healthcare team during the camp. Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing, Ms Danah Ahmed Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 1 Year Director, and Ms Fathiya Rajab from Salmaniya Medical Complex, delivered training sessions on the self-care management of T1DM. The session concluded by inspirational talks from members of supporting individuals and families with T1DM, Ms Fawzia Al Zaman, ICT Manager RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Ms Lamees Almugahwi, MSc Alumna (Class of 2012), and Ms Fatima Khunji, Nursing Year 4 student.

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, the 21st Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp for children organised by the Bahrain Diabetes Society in collaboration with local healthcare facilities and community organisations, including our Diabetes Mobile Unit, was held later on in February in the Hamad Town Youth Centre.

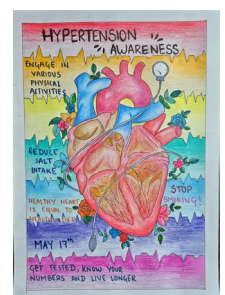
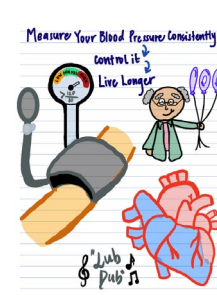
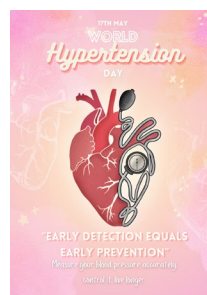
The Al-Shurooq Diabetes two-day Camp is an annual event held in support of children diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes to develop their self-care management skills through educational activities. A group of students supervised by qualified nurses, joined the group of volunteers made up of healthcare practitioners from various hospitals in Bahrain. Over the course of the event, the volunteers delivered a fun interactive programme to a group of 80 children about blood glucose monitoring, preparing and administering insulin, injection site rotation, carbohydrate count, and managing hypo/ hyper-glycemia through songs, games, and activities.



Each academic year, the university longstanding partnership with the Bahrain Diabetes Society and our commitment towards the national health programme of Bahrain, enable our volunteers from the Diabetes Mobile Unit to actively contribute and participate in educating young people about the health risks and management of diabetes. Congratulations to Ms Danah Smith for developing a training programme for the Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp volunteers and leading the DMU, faculty members of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Nursing Year 4 students volunteering with DMU and everyone involved in making the 21st Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp a success.

Student Art Competition

In May, the Community Engagement Office in collaboration with the Cardiology Student Club Society and the School of Nursing & Midwifery invited students to take part in a drawing competition in support of the World Hypertension Day. The first-place winner was Ms Zahra Akbar Asseri, Nursing Year 1 student, the second-place winner Ms Reem Rajeev, Med1 student, and the third-place winner was Ms Tabarak Qassim, Senior Cycle 2 student. Congratulations to the three winners and sincere thanks to all the students who took part in the competition.



Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Screening Campaign



In March, the King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH) in collaboration with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Community Engagement Office organised a three-day Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Screening Campaign under the label "A Chance for Cure" in a popular shopping mall in Bahrain. Staff members and students of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain were invited to volunteer to help spread awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screening and early detection and invite visitors to register for screening. A few alumni including Ms Eman Fateel (Class of 2013, MSc in Nursing) and Ms Sakina Yaser (Class of 2016, BSc in Nursing) also participated in this campaign.

The campaign was a great success, receiving many visitors interested in the campaign and registering for screening. Congratulations to all volunteering students who did an outstanding job, showing their true passion and commitment to volunteer work, and our Alumni doctors and nurses who participated as part of the KHUH team.

Special thanks to Ms Eman Ebrahim Fateel, Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 2 Year Director, Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme and Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing for supervising our students.

Teddy Bear Hospital Initiative

In March, the student Paediatrics Society in collaboration with the Community Engagement Office and the Students Services & Events office organised on campus an RCSI Teddy Bear Hospital event.

The aim of such an event is to introduce children to the concept of healthcare and to educate them on the importance of taking care of their health. The children took a teddy bear for a visit at the hospital, experiencing different services such as x-ray, anatomy, healthy lifestyle education and dentistry.

The hosted children were from the Bahrain Trust Foundation and the British International School of Bahrain. Congratulations to the many nursing and medical students involved.



Ramadan Campaign and Donation to Tree of Life Society

During the Holy month of Ramadan, students and staff members were able to raise BD1,234 to support the work carried out by the Tree of Life Charity Society in supporting Bahraini families in need.

The donation was handed over to Mrs Shafiqah 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 Medical University of Bahrain and Mr Nawaf Suoor, Med2 student.



International Community Engagement Trip to Jordan

In May, Mr Usama AlDallal and Ms Norhan Shaykhon, both Senior Cycle 1 students, and Ms Maria Solida and Ms Yosra AlJowder, both Nursing Year 3 students, 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 came from the Zaatari Refugee Camp.

Upon their return, the students 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 Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and members of the university's Executive Committee.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain would like to extend sincere thanks to the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Jordan Red Crescent Society, Operation Childlife, Professor Martin Corbally, Head of Surgery Department at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Director of Operation Childlife, the participating students and everyone who supported this initiative.



'Future Nurses Bahrain' Yearly Wrap-up



'Future Nurses Bahrain' is a national Initiative led by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain with a mission to promote nursing as a positive career choice among secondary school students and the local communities. By raising awareness about the nursing profession, various professional opportunities in nursing, and how to enter this field, we hope to contribute to the future development of nursing in Bahrain. Dr Eman Al Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and N4 Year Director, spearheads this initiative with the support of the Community Engagement Office.

A total of eight school visits and eight community visits were conducted by our Nursing Ambassadors, who



are participating nursing students and alumni, with the support of the enthusiastic nursing coordinators who scheduled and assigned the visits. The Nursing Ambassadors also partook in several events such as the World Health Day, Nurses International Day, the Health Award Ceremony and the Future Nurses Art Competition.

In line with the mission of 'Future Nurses Bahrain', a new Podcast initiative was launched with the interview of Mr Husain Al Asfoor, nurse Alumnus (Class of 2021), who is currently working as an occupational nurse in Bahrain National Gas Company.

Reopening of Paediatric Oncology Unit



In February, under the patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, the reopening event of the Abdullah Kanoo Unit for Paediatric Oncology in Salmaniya Medical Complex was held on the occasion of the International Children's Cancer Day.

The event was led by the 'SMILE' Initiative (part of the Future Youth Society), a charity providing psychological and social support for children with cancer and their parents in Bahrain. The opening ceremony was attended by His Excellency Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Government Hospitals Professor Ahmed Mohammed Alansari, Chief Executive Officer for Government Hospitals, Mr Subah Abdulrahman Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Youth Society, a number of officials in the healthcare sector, guests and members of the Future Youth Society.

Earlier this year, thanks to the initiative of the Language and Cultural Unit (LCU), RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was able to make a donation to 'SMILE'. Sincere thanks to Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of Language and Cultural Unit, Ms Christina Strachan, Lecturer in English and all LCU team members for all efforts.

Public Health Awareness Campaigns

The Community Engagement Office in collaboration with the Communications office produced three videos to create awareness among the general public about critical information on prevalent health conditions or diseases in Bahrain.

Sincere thanks to Professor Naji Alamuddin, Deputy Head of School of Medicine and Consultant Endocrinologist, and Ms Danah Ahmed Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and Nursing Year 1 Year Director, for their contribution with the World Obesity Day video.

Sincere thanks to Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of Language and Cultural Unit, Mr Hazem Tariq, CSS Communications Coordinator, Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing, and Ms Loreen Bahour, Alumni Relations Specialist, for sharing their experiences of Ramadan.

Sincere thanks to Ms Maryam Yaqoob, Lecturer in Nursing, Mr Ebrahim Luthfi, Senior Cycle 2 student, Ms Fatima Khunji, nursing student, for their contribution with the raising awareness about hypertension, its consequences, and preventive measures on the occasion of the World Hypertension Day.

Nursing Careers Day



In January, under the Patronage of Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted an array of guests on the occasion of Nursing Careers Day. The event was attended by Dr Zubaida Al Shaikh, Medical Consultant and Chief Health Profession Regulation, NHRA, on behalf of Her Excellency Dr Al-Jalahma. This annual event is a collaboration between the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Careers and Alumni Office, to prepare final year nursing students for immediate employment, information about career progression in the fields of nursing and midwifery and future educational opportunities.

The day started with an opening speech by Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, in which he addressed over 120 senior nursing students highlighting the importance of the Nursing Careers Day as an opportunity to gain insights from experts in the nursing field and better prepare themselves for a specialist career in nursing.

Dr Fariba Al-Darazi, Nursing and Health Workforce Development Consultant, delivered the keynote speech during which she discussed major milestones of her career and emphasised the importance of lifelong learning and professional development, work-life balance and the importance of interprofessional collaborative practice and care.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, on advice and strategies for students to develop their nursing careers. The event also

featured 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.

To discuss the postgraduate learning opportunities, 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 on 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, focused on CV writing, networking and how students can utilise LinkedIn to advance their careers.



BDF Internship presentation



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 to present to Senior Cycle 2 students the hospital's internship programme, requirements and application process.

'Hazelden Betty Ford' Presentation



In January, Dr Yusuf Mohamed (Class of 2022) presented his intensive 5-day immersion experience participating in the 'Hazelden Betty Ford' 2023 Summer Institute for Medical Students (SIMS). He spoke about shadowing clinicians to learn about recovery and addiction.

Match Parties (US, Canada and UK)



On 2nd April, we were thrilled to celebrate both in person and virtually the achievements of our students and alumni, who successfully matched into residency programmes across US and Canada. The Careers & Alumni Office, along with senior executives, academic staff and clinical lecturers took the opportunity to wish all applicants the best of luck in the US and Canada.

- **US match** – 27 of 40 matched successfully (six are 2023 graduates)
- **Canadian match** – 6 of 12 matched successfully (two are 2023 graduates)
- **UK FY matching** – 123 matched (107 are 2023 graduates)

On 10th May, the Careers & Alumni Office held a UK match party with senior executives and staff members to congratulate our students and graduates who have matched into the UK Foundation Programme 2023. We wish them the best of luck as they start this exciting new chapter.

Special thanks to the School of Medicine staff and clinical lecturers for the support provided to all applicants.

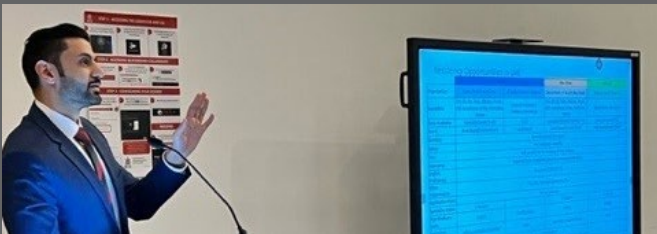
Alumni Talks

The Careers & Alumni office coordinated several Careers and Specialty talks during Semester 2 as follows:



Nursing Specialty Talks

In February, Ms Nazia Alamri (Class of 2014) presented to N3 students about her journey from student to Nurse-Midwife Manager in the Emergency Obstetrics Assessment Unit at King Hamad University Hospital.



US Pathway and Neurology Pathway

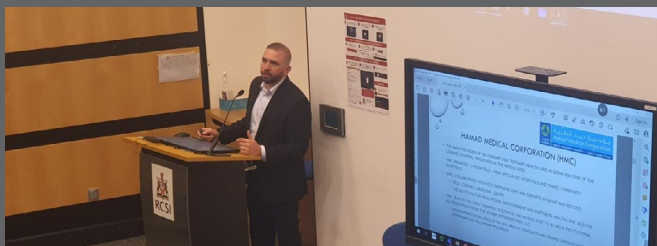
In March, we welcomed back Dr Muhammad Bhatti (Class of 2022) on campus. Dr Bhatti is currently a PGY-1 Neurology Resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, USA. His interests include Vascular Neurology, Neurodegenerative disease, and Neuro-Immunology. He currently plans to pursue a fellowship in Vascular Neurology and Interventional Neurology. He also shares a passion for medical education and is actively involved in teaching and mentoring medical students. He discussed the US match application and timelines, USMLE advice, Pathway into Neurology and provided a brief overview of novel advances and therapeutics that make it a particularly exciting time to be a Neurologist.

Careers Beyond Clinical

In March, Dr Sohaib Siddiqui (Class of 2014) spoke with our students about his very unique career pathway as a doctor and clinical researcher who has focused his career on improving clinical outcomes and healthcare access for patients. More recently, he transitioned to venture capital advising. He has experience in managing investments and works alongside clinicians, scientists, hospitals and strategists to identify, build and invest in new innovative technology in digital health and medical devices.



Dr Siddiqui wears many hats: he is an Executive in Residence at Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners, and an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He also sits on the board of General Electric Healthcare to advise on their digital health portfolio and is an Innovation Fellow at Women's College Hospital in Toronto. Most recently, he was advising the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support the development of the digital health strategy for the NEOM smart city.



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.



Nursing Careers Day – Session 2

In May, in collaboration with the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the university welcomed Dr Jameela Mukhaimer, President of Bahrain Nursing Society along with Ms Zahra Bader, Senior Consultant at Supreme

Council of Health, who presented on Bahrain Nursing Society and the latest healthcare system reform. Professor Maura Pidgeon, Associate Professor in Nursing and Director for Masters in Nursing, presented information on the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Masters in Nursing programme. Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme and Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, presented on NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse), a nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

UKFP Preparation Course

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



USMLE Sessions

From January to May, as part of the USMLE Step 1 Preparation Programme, the Peer Led Tutorials (PLT) prepared candidates on the main topics of the Step 1 examination. We called upon students and Alumni who have already passed the Step 1, to assist our Med3 students in their studies. The sessions held were on Genetics, GIT, Haematology-Oncology, Ethics, Endocrinology, Pathology, Biochemistry, Behavioural Sciences, Neurology, Psychology, Microbiology, Respiration, Dermatology, Reproductive Systems, Cardiology, Immunology, OB/GYN and Renal.

MSc Presentation by Alumna

In June, Ms Myrna Traboulssi (MSc Class of 2018) spoke to RCSI Medical University of Bahrain MSc Nursing students to discuss her career pathway, fellowship and future career prospects.

A Day in Life: UKFPO

On 26th April, Dr Husain Alqari (Class of 2022) delivered a talk about the pathway to the United Kingdom, focusing on the Foundation Programme - specifically Foundation Year 1, the work-life balance and managing finances, and further career options. Dr Jayaditya Patil (Class of 2022) also joined Dr Alqari to discuss the transition from the UK to the US.

Dr Dana Al-Omran (Class of 2011) and Dr Aysha Albastaki (Class of 2020) both participated in the Speed Mentoring event with the Association of Women Surgeons RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Chapter, which took place on 28th April. Dr Al-Omran shared her experience as an orthopaedic surgeon in Bahrain Defence Force Hospital and a Fellow in paediatric orthopaedic surgery at McMaster Children's Hospital in a Q&A session. Similarly, Dr Albastaki shared her experience of being a Senior House Officer at King Hamad University Hospital in the Department of Radiology. On 4th May, Dr Sehiban Diab (Class of 2011) spoke about 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, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Canada Presentation

On 15th March, we welcomed back Dr Ankit Kapur (Class of 2013), emergency and family doctor and Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Dr Julia Fox-Kapur (Class of 2014), Director for Addiction Medicine in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Dr Ankit Kapur has a special interest in addiction



medicine and resource-limited care environments and serves also as the Managing Director for The Nest Health Centre, a multidisciplinary collaborative care facility. He is also Medical Director for the Regina's Urgent Care Centre, and Medical Director for Prairie POCUS (Canada's largest point-of-care ultrasound training institute). Dr Kapur is a faculty advisor for the emergency department residency program. He serves on numerous committees related to resident selection and training.

We also hosted Dr Puneet Kapur, Emergency Physician in Saskatoon, Canada. He is a graduate of the FRCPC Emergency Medicine Program at the University of Saskatchewan and an alumnus of the ultrasound Fellowship at the University of Toronto. He is an instructor for numerous national ultrasound courses (e.g., EDE1, EDE2, EDE3, EGLS) and is a CEUS / CPOCUS certified Master Instructor.

All three speakers discussed their experiences, pathways to Canada, while providing advice and guidance on student's postgraduate journeys.

Alumni Reception in Dubai, UAE



In January, the Careers & Alumni office organised a reception in Dubai, UAE, where we were delighted to host alumni from various graduating classes working across the UAE and the GCC. Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, addressed the graduates congratulating

them on their career progression and success, followed by a presentation by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director, on campus developments.

Special thanks to Dr Sabrina Berdouk (Class of 2013), and 2019 Inspiring Excellence Award recipient, for her attendance.

Alumni Ramadan Ghabga in Bahrain



On 29th March, 75 Alumni attended the Ghabga held during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The event started with a welcome speech by Professor Alfred Nicholson,

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, followed by updates from the Careers & Alumni Office on new initiatives and events.

Alumni Reception in Toronto



On 29th April, the Careers & Alumni office welcomed our alumni based in Canada for a reception in Toronto. The reception commenced with a speech by keynote speaker, Dr Doug Sider, MD MSc FRCPC, titled "Can my past(s) inform your future?...A physician's musings...".

Dr Sider spoke about his experience in the public health sector over the past half century and focused on issues such as care and treatment advances, health system and healthcare developments, understanding the social determinants of health, connectedness in healthcare, the internet and social media, and finally artificial intelligence and genomic medicine. The keynote speech was followed by a presentation by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain on campus developments and updates on new initiatives from the Careers & Alumni Office.

Activation of Bahraini Family Medicine Physicians Association



The Bahrain Medical Society recently approved the activation of the Bahraini Family Medicine Physicians Association. This initiative is led by the Board of Directors which is headed by Professor Faisal Abdul Latif Al-Nasser. The association's goals have been identified as the consolidation of the concept of family medicine in the community, the promotion of family medicine services in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the position of family doctors in the society and supporting

family doctors with the latest methods and medical discoveries to improve patient care by organising educational courses, conferences, and scientific seminars.

Congratulations to Dr Amal Dawood (Class of 2010) on his appointment as the Vice President for the Association and to the Board. Dr Dawood is currently a family physician and Chief of Production, Research and Studies in the Health Promotion Directorate at the Ministry of Health.

Bahrain was one of the first Arab countries to adopt family medicine, when the Family Medicine Training Programme was established 43 years ago.

World Asthma Day – Alumnus video

Dr Majid Altunaiji (Class of 2011) spoke about asthma in children and confirmed that all children with asthma can enjoy a normal life if they adhere to the controller therapy as prescribed by their physician.

Dr Altunaiji is a paediatric pulmonologist and sleep physician at Tawam Hospital in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Dr Altunaiji completed his paediatric residency at Tawam Hospital where he was a Chief Resident. Later, he graduated with commendations from the Global Clinical Scholars Research Training (GCSRT) programme at Harvard Medical School with a partial scholarship from Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research (DHFMR) scholarship. Dr Altunaiji went on to pursue a fellowship at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Canada in paediatric

pulmonology while working as a co-chief fellow and completing a fellowship in paediatric sleep medicine. His interests include quality improvement, chronic ventilation, respiratory neuromuscular disease, and sleep medicine.



Intern Award Winner 2023

Congratulations to Dr Danya Alaseeri (Class of 2022) on being the recipient of the 2023 Intern Award. Dr Alaseeri was on campus on May 28th to receive her trophy in recognition of her outstanding efforts as an Intern over the past year at the King Hamad University Hospital and shared her experience: "During my one-year internship at KHUH, I have grown tremendously as a medical professional. With the help of all my colleagues, including doctors, nurses, PCA staff, research staff and fellow interns, I have learned how to be a compassionate and hardworking physician who listens to the needs of each individual patient. KHUH has given me the opportunity to apply all the knowledge that I have learned as a medical student in RCSI and build further on it. I was given the opportunity to be an active participant in procedures in various different specialties, which made me appreciate the responsibility and enhance my skills for the future."

The selection of the Intern Award winner is based on information received by consultants, residents, co-workers, colleagues, and fellow peers through a Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) evaluation. The feedback focuses on clinical skills, communication, collaboration with other healthcare professionals, professionalism, and patient management which is then collated and analysed by the Quality Enhancement Office.



Conferring Ceremony 2023

