

ConnectED



Under the patronage of His Royal Highness **Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa** the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, attended the 15th Conferring of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, which witnessed the graduation of 131 medical graduates and 111 graduates from the undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programmes, on 12th June.

Celebrating RCSI Bahrain's 15th Conferring Ceremony

During the ceremony, His Excellency Brigadier (Professor) Fahad Khalifa Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Defence Force, was conferred with a Fellowship Ad Eundem from RCSI. This prestigious honour recognises His Excellency's significant contributions in the field of Orthopaedic surgery, his dedication to education as an Associate Professor at the University and his long-standing dedication to advancing healthcare services in the Kingdom of Bahrain throughout his career.

The occasion was particularly significant for the class valedictorian, Dr Baheya Ali Dawaishan, who was honoured with the Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa Scholarship upon her admission to RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and received the Medicine overall gold medal and the Professor Charlotte Kamel prize in psychiatry. Dr Jannat Akram Tanweer M. Ahmed Din was awarded the Degree Award for Medicine overall gold medal, the Professor Niall O'Higgins Prize in Surgery, and the Professor John Murphy Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Dr Maryam Sadiq Alrabeeah won the Professor James Finucane Prize in Medicine, Dr Omar Abdulhakeem

Abdulmalek was awarded the Professor Joe McMenamin Prize in Paediatrics and Dr Mohamed Bakr Elnagar was awarded the Professor David Whitford Prize in General Practice.

During the School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Postgraduate Studies and Research ceremony, the valedictorian Nurse Aysha Hamad Alrowaiee was awarded the BSc Nursing Bronze Medal. The BSc Nursing Silver Medal was awarded to Nurse Ayah Abdulredha Hasan, and the Rifaida Al-Aslamia Award in Nursing was awarded to Nurse Sharefa Alqasimi. The MSc in Nursing Overall Gold Medal was awarded to Nurse Malak Hasan Danar.



Laying the Foundation Stone of our New Academic Building



On 11th June, under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, laid the foundation stone for the new academic building of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

On this occasion, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, affirmed the unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to continue strengthening and enriching the educational process and developing its outcomes. Professor Sameer Ootom expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his patronage of the ceremony and expressed his appreciation to the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, for attending the ceremony.

The ceremony proceedings brought together Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and Mr Ghazi Abdulla Nass, Executive Director, Nass Corporation B.S.C., for the signing of the contract between Nass Contracting Company W.L.L and the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, as well as the commissioning of the University's campus expansion project, cementing the commitment of both parties to advancing a sustainable future under the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.



Artistic Impressions of the new academic building



RCSI Senior Management Team hosted by Bahraini Officials

During their visit in June to Bahrain, Professor Deborah McNamara, RCSI President, Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar of RCSI, and Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, were received by His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Advisor to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister; His Excellency

Dr Mohamed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council; and His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, to discuss the latest University's achievements as well as upcoming plans and projects.



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain congratulates the Royal Medical Services for the Kidney Transplant Milestone at KHUH



In May, Brigadier (Professor) Fahad Khalifa Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, announced the success of three kidney transplant operations recently performed at King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH). The three patients were Bahraini citizens suffering from renal failure and are currently under monitoring after their successful transplants. Since the launch of KHUH's organ transplantation programme in November, a total of ten transplants (nine kidney, one liver) have been performed. Brigadier (Professor) Fahad Khalifa Al Khalifa emphasised the programme's significance in improving healthcare outcomes and quality of life, encouraging greater societal awareness of kidney donation. Colonel Dr Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Commander of King Hamad University Hospital, expressed satisfaction with the results of these transplants, marking progress towards Bahrain's goal of providing world-class medical care. We extend our congratulations to the Royal Medical Services and wish them continued success of their programme.

Meeting with the Minister of Health

Professor Sameer Otoom met with Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health, on 8th February, to discuss ongoing projects between the university and the Ministry of Health. The Minister commended the outstanding relationship with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and extended congratulations on the university's 20th Anniversary. Discussions also explored a collaboration opportunity in postgraduate clinical residency training and the launch of the RCSI internship programme at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital in June.



Annual Board of Private Hospitals Meeting - Joint Board Meeting

In January, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted on campus its annual Board of Private Hospitals meeting bringing together executive members of seven main private hospitals in Bahrain, executive members of Tamkeen, the Chairman of the Private Hospitals Association, the President of Bahrain Medical Society and executive members of the university. The meeting was also attended by Her Excellency Professor Jameela Al-Salman, Shura Council Member, and senior staff from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI in Dublin.

During the meeting, the Private Hospital Leaders acknowledged Tamkeen's support and initiative in training of nurses at the Private Hospitals and discussed the role of Private Hospitals in Post Graduate training. The members also discussed student participation in observerships electives and research opportunities at private hospitals alongside opportunities for the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for General Practitioners and for professional nursing qualifications proposed by the university.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is committed to fostering its relations with the private hospitals in Bahrain, where some of the nursing student cohorts do their clinical placements and gain invaluable experience to apply their theoretical learning to real-world situations, enhancing their skills and competencies in a world-class healthcare setting.



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain attended the inauguration of Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa Centre for Renal Disease

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the new state-of-the-art medical Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid Al Khalifa Centre for Renal Disease was inaugurated in East Riffa on 8th February, by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, marking the 56th anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force.

Professor Sameer Ootom, who attended the inauguration ceremony, congratulated the Commander of the Royal Medical Service (RMS), Brigadier (Professor) Fahad Khalifa Al Khalifa, for this major development and the addition of a quality health service to the people of Bahrain, which will also increase the opportunities for clinical training for medical students and residents.

The centre consists of two storeys with a capacity for 500 patients and features six clinics and 70 beds, besides treatment rooms, a specialised lab, a pharmacy, a radiology department and dialysis wards.



Visiting the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government

A delegation from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain led by Professor Sameer Ootom, visited His Excellency Mr Aram Mohammad Qadir, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government, on 27th February to explore collaboration and extend the University's support with medical undergraduate education.

On this occasion, Professor Ootom commented: "I wish to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government for discussing our shared commitment to advancing healthcare education and research throughout the Middle East. With such collaboration, we aim to provide various opportunities for our students and contribute to developing the region's future healthcare professionals."



New British Ambassador Visit

On 29th February, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and Professor Laura Viani, former President of RCSI, hosted on campus the new British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr Alastair Long, for an introductory meeting in the presence of Senior Management Team and Executive Committee members.

Following a presentation by Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, His Excellency commended all efforts made by the University to facilitate access to the UK for students and graduates and congratulated the University on its 20th anniversary.



Pakistan Ambassador Visit

On the 25th January, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain welcomed His Excellency Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr Saqib Rauf and Ms Tahira Saleem, Community Welfare Attache, in the attendance of Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery and Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of School of Medicine, to discuss the Embassy's willingness to establish relations with Pakistani students and alumni.

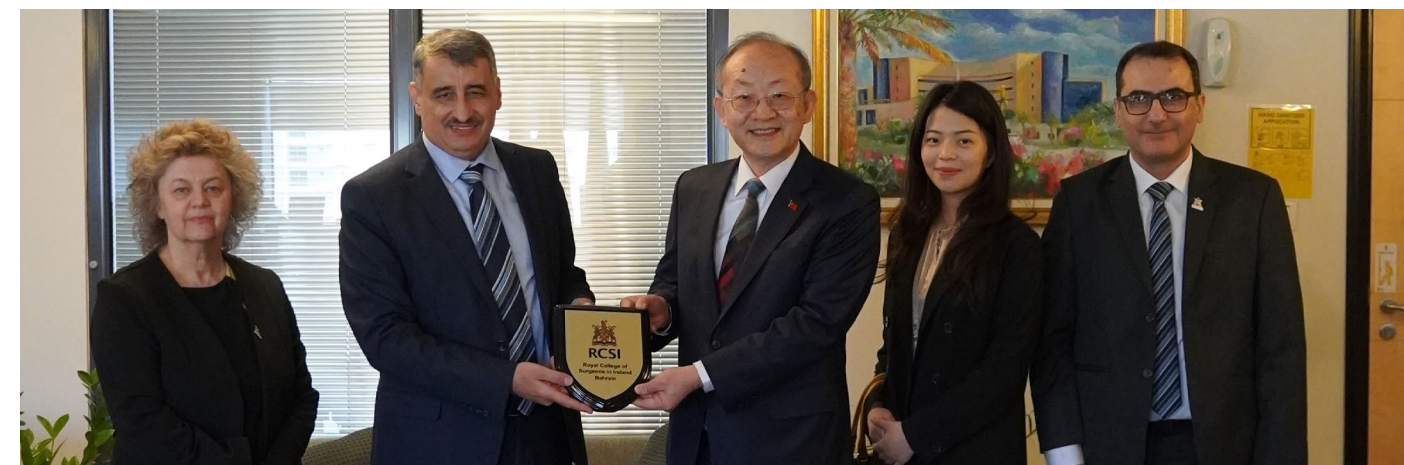
During the meeting, collaboration opportunities with Aga Khan University on clinical electives and research opportunities were discussed. His Excellency Mr Rauf commended the quality of the graduates from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and expressed his support to assist in building academic bridges with universities in Pakistan.



Taiwan Consul Visit

On 2nd April, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed Ambassador Bob L.J. Chen and Vice Consul Shadin Lu from the Taipei Trade Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain. During their visit, Professor Kathryn Strachan provided a comprehensive briefing on the School of Nursing and Midwifery, encompassing a wide range of international and local community engagement initiatives.

The visit focused on exploring avenues for future collaboration between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the universities in Taipei - Taiwan, fostering discussions on mutual interests and opportunities for collaboration.



Meeting with HEC Assistant Secretary-General

On 6th February, a meeting was held at the office of Her Excellency Dr Farzana Al-Maraghi, Assistant Secretary-General, Higher Education Council, to discuss further collaboration between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Higher Education Council, Ministry of Education (MOE) and Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS) to promote the implementation of the re-launched Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU) programme. Attendees from the MOE also included Ms Dalal AlHajj, Senior Quality Management Specialist, Mrs Maram Langawi, Quality Management Specialist, and Ms Omayma Abdulghaffar, Educational Specialist.

Dr Mariam Alhajiri, the Vice-President of BDS, highlighted the importance of the ongoing partnership between governmental and non-governmental organisations to empower children and their families to adopt a health-conscious mindset and lead a healthy, balanced lifestyle to minimise the risk of developing obesity and type 2 diabetes (T2DM).

Ms Danah Smith, DMU Learning and Teaching Pillar Lead presented the proposed plans for further developing the DMU educational materials and integrating the programme within primary schools' curriculum in collaboration with the MOE.



Dr Maryam Alaradi, DMU Research Pillar Lead, presented a brief about the proposed interventional research study to evaluate school children's knowledge of preventative strategies for obesity and T2DM before and after participating in the DMU programme.

Her Excellency Dr Farzana Al-Maraghi commended RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's outstanding relationship with MOE. Both projects received the HEC and MOE approval and support. We look forward to further developing this programme in collaboration with our stakeholders.

Chief Executive of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) Visits RCSI Medical University of Bahrain



In January, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain welcomed Her Excellency Ms Maha Abdul Hameed Mufeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), for Her Excellency's first visit to the University.

During the visit, Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Dr Nichola McLarnon, Head of Quality and Academic Development and Ms Fatema Frutan, HR Partner for Learning and Development (L and D), discussed with Her Excellency avenues of collaboration regarding university programmes, joint projects and the Human Capital Management of Bahraini Talent. The University is keen on further supporting the labour market by equipping students with future-oriented skills and knowledge to ensure that our graduates remain competitive, supporting our staff in upskilling, reskilling or pursuing continuous professional development and also integrating more females into the workforce, with the ultimate goal of thriving Bahraini talent taking up leadership roles. Her Excellency emphasised Tamkeen's commitment to support the University's upcoming projects and the continuous support available through various programmes for Bahraini talent.

Her Excellency also thanked RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for contributing to the national economy and acknowledged the synergy between the institutions to achieve higher economic impact.

In April, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain extended its agreement with Tamkeen (Bahrain's Labour Fund) to train 79 Bahraini nationals as adult nurses in the next five years. The agreement, initially signed in May 2019 for a period of four years, was successful in graduating 33 Bahraini nationals as adult nurses at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain with the support of Tamkeen's funding, followed by guaranteed employment opportunities for a limited period in private hospitals. At RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, we understand the criticality of having a vocational focus that integrates future-oriented skills and knowledge into our nursing curriculum to ensure that our graduates remain competitive in the labour market, whether locally or internationally.

Director of Christian Medical College Vellore visits RCSI Medical University of Bahrain



On 12th May, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed Dr Vikram Mathews, Director and Professor of Haematology at the Christian Medical College Vellore, India, to discuss potential collaborations between the two universities. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for student clinical electives, joint research initiatives and the development of community engagement programmes.

Present in the meeting were Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine; Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery; Dr George Cheriyan, Corporate CEO and the Chief Medical Officer, American Mission Hospital; and Dr Deepak Abraham, Chief of Medical Staff, American Mission Hospital.

Established in 1900, the Christian Medical College is a leading private medical institution in India, renowned for its comprehensive healthcare services, medical education and research. Its extensive network of hospitals and consistent ranking among the top medical colleges in India, present an opportunity for a fruitful collaboration with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

Cooperation Meeting with Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority



On 21st May, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted on campus a delegation from the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) led by Her Excellency Dr Maryam Mustafa, Chief Executive. Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed Her Excellency Dr Maryam Mustafa, Chief Executive, accompanied by Dr Shaikha Lobna Al Khalifa, Director of Higher Education Institutional Reviews and Ms Gayle Gorman, CBE Advisor to the BQA, for a discussion with senior faculty members to explore avenues of cooperation. By sharing their respective updates, both parties engaged in a conversation focused on quality assurance and enhancement activities.

The BQA delegation briefed the faculty members on updates about the general framework for institutional review and capacity-building programmes, while Mr Gary Brady, Head of Human Resources, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, presented an overview of the University's key developments, including the planned construction of a new academic building.

Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society Visit

On 21st January, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery and senior faculty members met with Dr Jameela Jasim Mukhaimer, President of Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society, and discussed Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society Objectives and Development Plans and Programmes for 2024.

The Bahrain Nursing Society (BNS) highlighted the critical national need for an 18-month shortened midwifery programme that meets international standards, citing a shortage of qualified midwives in the Kingdom. As a result, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was informed of BNS's intention to develop specialist short professional development courses for nurses' courses with support from Tamkeen, adhering to NHRA guidelines.

The meeting commended the success of Future Nurses Bahrain campaign to promote nursing as a career. Additionally, Professor Maura Pidgeon, Director MSc Nursing Programmes, provided an overview of the MSc Nursing programme and the available scholarships, which members agreed present excellent opportunities for the professional development of graduates.



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain met former WHO representative of Egypt

On 21st May, a meeting was held between faculty members of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Dr Naeema Al-Gasseer, the former WHO representative of Egypt. The attendees from the University included Professor Sameer Ootom, President, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Maura Pidgeon, Associate Professor of Nursing, Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Deputy Head of School, and Dr Husain Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme.

The discussions covered a broad range of topics, including current global health challenges, the state of nursing education, and potential opportunities for future collaboration. Dr Al-Gasseer shared her valuable insights into the global health landscape, focusing on the effects of pandemics and the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases. She also stressed the importance of robust health systems and equitable healthcare access worldwide.

The meeting addressed the challenges in nursing education, with a focus on the need for curriculum modernisation to align with current health trends. The meeting also explored the incorporation of advanced technology in teaching methods and the importance of practical, hands-on training.



AdvanceHE Official Visit

On 12th February, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and members of Senior Management, welcomed Ms Ciara Brown, International Partnerships Manager at AdvanceHE, on campus, where they discussed the ongoing AdvanceHE partnership and potential collaborations between the two institutions.

Contributing to the University's focus on developing learning and teaching in higher education, the Professional Development has been leading the Certificate in Learning and Teaching CLTHE and Fellowship project in collaboration with AdvanceHE since 2019.



Visit to BIBF

Dr Ahmed Abdul Hamid Al Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) welcomed Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and a University delegation on 21st February, to explore collaboration opportunities and potential projects for staff and students. During the visit, the BIBF team showcased the history, initiatives, and academic achievements of the Institute.

Professor Ootom highlighted the valuable contribution of the Institute to the higher education sector, emphasising the benefits of establishing a robust partnership between both institutions and providing programmes for the educational and professional development of employees based in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr Al Shaikh expressed gratitude for the visit and commended RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's efforts in investing in its human capital, equipping the students and alumni with emerging skills in alignment with the Higher Education Council's strategy, as well as contributing to the development of the higher education sector.



UNESCO Workshop

On 21st February, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was invited to speak at a regional educational workshop "Developing University Education Programs in the Arab Countries in the Light of Future Skills and Professions" presented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Six faculty members, including Professor Ghufra Jassim, Head of Department and Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Dr Colin Greengrass, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Academic Director of Technology Enhanced Learning; Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery and Academic Director of Artificial Intelligence; Ms Salwa Akbar, Lecturer in English, Professor; Ms Aisling Fahey, Clinical Educator in Nursing; and Ms Zainat Ahmed, Clinical Educator in Nursing, virtually attended the workshop. The event saw over 550 participants from 150 international organisations.



Participation in Bahrain C3 Davos of Healthcare and Business Summit

On 21st April, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain participated in the Bahrain-C3 Davos of Healthcare™ and Business Summit held under the theme of “The Evolution of Global Healthcare”, in association with the American Mission Hospital and the local government authorities and in the attendance 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 Hassan, Minister of Health; and Mr Ransel Potter, Founder and Managing Partner of C3 Summit.

Professor Ootom participated in a panel discussion titled ‘A New Paradigm for Healthcare in Bahrain’ alongside Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, CEO of Government Hospitals; Dr Samia Ali Bahram, Ministry of Health Assistant Under-Secretary of Public Health; and Dr Ejlal Faisal Al Alawi, CEO of Primary Healthcare Centres and moderated by Dr George Cheriyan, Corporate CEO and the Chief Medical Officer of AMH.

The Summit featured a variety of talks from prominent speakers from public and private institutions on topics such as the evolution of government policies, cybersecurity in healthcare, smart hospitals, women in global healthcare, the role of artificial intelligence and more.



Meeting with NHRA CEO

The CEO of the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), His Excellency Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Ansari, welcomed Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Dr George Cheriyan, Corporate CEO and the Chief Medical Officer of AMH and Professor Vikram Matthews, Professor of Haematology and Director of the Christian Medical College Vellore, India, for a meeting on 23rd May.

His Excellency stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships with academic and medical institutions and enhancing cooperation and development to support the quality and efficiency of medical services in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The successful role played by these partnerships in enhancing the dissemination of health knowledge and the provision of medical services, as well as supporting and developing cooperation with additional parties, will help strengthen and advance the health sector in the interest of the health and safety of the community.

For its part, the visiting delegation appreciated the prominent role played by the National Health Regulatory Authority in regulating the medical professions and services and the continuous review of health and medical services to support the delivery of an outstanding quality of health services in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Exploring Collaboration with Roche

On 4th June, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, met with Mr Sherif Gad, Site Head of Roche Bahrain, to discuss potential collaborations in clinical research.

During the meeting, Professor Atkin outlined the respective areas of expertise of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Roche, highlighting potential synergies and brainstorming collaborative project ideas. With its proven track record in clinical trials, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain emphasised its capacity to conduct research that adheres to both international and local standards and requirements. This meeting marks an important step towards potential partnerships between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and pharmaceutical companies with the shared goal of advancing clinical research and improving patient outcomes in the region.



Graduation of First Rayaat Scholarship Programme Recipients

AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation honoured the first medical graduates from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain under the Rayaat Scholarship programme, namely Dr Heba Khalid Al Kooheji, who graduated with honours, and Dr Isa Ahmed Al Shamsan.

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain congratulated Her Highness Shaikha Zain bint Khalid Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation on the exceptional achievement of the first group of medical graduates from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain that demonstrated outstanding academic excellence.

Professor Sameer Ootom addressed Her Highness's dedication to supporting education and healthcare professionals through the programme, which has played a crucial role in shaping the future of our graduates.

The scholarship is open to Bahraini students who meet the required entry criteria set out by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation and covers full tuition fees as well as other benefits pertaining to the Rayaat Scholarship programme. We extend our sincere gongratulations to the graduates and wish them continued success.



2024 MSc Nursing Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Mr Fahad Altailasan (Class of 2017) and Mr Mohamed Restam (Class of 2015) who were awarded the MSc Nursing Scholarship and started the programme in January.

The scholarship programme, launched in 2021, is exclusive to alumni of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's undergraduate nursing programme and recognises significant contributions to the healthcare sector. Recipients were selected through a formal application process, including a personal statement on how the MSc Nursing would enhance their clinical leadership skills.

Commenting on receiving the scholarship, Mr Altailasan said: "I joined King Hamad University Hospital in 2017 as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit. I was selected in 2021 to coordinate the American Nursing Credentialing Centre (ANCC) MAGNET recognition programme. The MSc Nursing scholarship I was offered to study for a master's in nursing at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is a lifetime opportunity to prepare me well to launch a new journey toward excellence and professionalism and pursue my ultimate goal of attaining a Doctoral degree in the science of nursing."

Mr Restam also commented: "Over the years, I have advanced to roles with increasing responsibility, such as charge nurse and clinical educator. I have also pursued additional certifications and attended professional development programmes to enhance my knowledge and expertise in specialised areas of nursing."

Receiving this scholarship is an incredible honour and validation of my dedication to the nursing profession. With my MSc in Nursing, I plan to specialise in nursing leadership and management. I aspire to take on managerial roles and contribute to improving healthcare systems and patient outcomes. This scholarship enables me to pursue my career goals and make a meaningful impact in the field of nursing."



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Students Offered Elective Scholarships at University of Alabama

In February, two medical students were selected to receive the prestigious International Visiting Medical Student (IVMS) elective scholarships from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Heersink School of Medicine. These generous scholarships, valued at \$5,150 each, will cover a range of expenses associated with the students' chosen electives during the 2024-2025 academic year.

This remarkable opportunity is a testament to the longstanding collaboration between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and UAB and the consistently high calibre of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students who have previously participated in electives at UAB. We extend our congratulations to the scholarship recipients and wish them every success in their upcoming electives.



Launch of Community of Practice for Learning and Teaching

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain launched the Community of Practice for Learning and Teaching, which focused on expertise exchange and fostering discussions amongst RCSI faculty about the challenges and solutions in Higher Education across academic departments in the University.

The launch event provided an overview of the Community's objectives, structure, organisation, benefits and priorities to the 45 members who joined this initiative. The Community of Practice was initiated by Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Dr Amal Jassim Al-Qallaf, Head of the Language and Culture Unit / Senior Lecturer in English, and Dr Ebrahim Rajab, Senior Lecturer in Physiology and Med 2 Co-Director.



Student Exchange Programme with Dublin Information Session

In February, the Centre for Student Success (CSS) hosted an informative session for first-year Medicine (Med 1) students interested in the Exchange Programme with RCSI in Dublin.

The session was led by two second-year (Med 2) RCSI Bahrain students who had recently returned from their semester abroad in Dublin, offering valuable insights into their experiences. Additionally, a (Med 2) student who opted to extend their exchange for the full academic year joined the discussion remotely, providing a unique perspective on the benefits of a longer-term immersion in the Dublin campus.

The Student Exchange Programme, established in 2012, fosters academic, personal, and professional growth by enabling (Med 2) students to spend either one semester or a full academic year at the RCSI Dublin campus. This exchange promotes cross-campus collaboration and allows students to broaden their horizons through exposure to a different learning environment.



PDU x HPEC Interactive Session

On 4th March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Professional Development Unit, in partnership with the Health Profession Education Centre (HPEC) at RCSI in Dublin, hosted an engaging session exploring the future of healthcare education. Professor Jan Illing, Director of HPEC, led a discussion on the evolving landscape of health professions education. Dr Geraldine Regan and Dr Jenny Moffett, both Educationalists/ Faculty Developers at RCSI Dublin, shared insights on optimising large and small group teaching and implementing universal design for learning principles, respectively. This collaborative event fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas to enhance teaching and learning practices within the healthcare field.



43rd Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research and Education Conference

The RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery recently hosted its 43rd Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research and Education Conference in Dublin on the 21st and 22nd of February. The conference, themed “Changing Landscapes of Health,” aligned with the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences Strategic Plan for 2023-2027. It explored crucial sub-themes such as integrating sustainable development goals into practice, health and wellbeing within the healthcare system, innovation and digitalisation, and the transformation of nursing and midwifery practice, research, and education.

This year, thanks to the Professor Seamus Cowman Bursary, two academics and two students from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain had the opportunity to present their research at this prestigious event. Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Deputy Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, shared insights on new graduate nurses’ readiness for practice, while Dr Maryam AlAradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and N4 Director, presented on nursing students’ experiences in a diabetes mobile unit.

Nursing Year 4 student Ms Sara Abdulqader Sultan Shah Haji presented a poster on reducing hospital-acquired infections, and Nursing Year 3 student Mr Tarek Ziyad Assaf Mousa Albutain explored the effects of occupational toluene exposure on workers’ health.

Student Ms Sara Haji’s poster on “Reducing the Incidence of Hospital-Acquired Catheter-Related Urinary Tract Infections: A Change Plan” was recognised with the “Best International Poster Presentation” award. This accolade is a testament to the exceptional research quality at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the unwavering commitment of our students and faculty to the advancement of nursing and midwifery practice.



Basic Principles of Trauma Care Workshop

On 2nd May, the RCSI Nursing Society Bahrain organised a comprehensive workshop on the Basic Principles of Trauma Care, aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of nursing students. The workshop was overseen by Dr Khadija Ahmed Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing, with invaluable support from Ms Manar Alnahham, President of the RCSI Nursing Society.

The workshop was expertly led by a team of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain alumni, including Mr Husain Al Asfour, Industrial Nurse at Bapco Gas Company; Ms Salwa Abdulmalek, certified PALS Instructor; and Ms Asma AlNajjar, a Basic Life Support Coordinator.

Thirty-two participants, including alumni and senior nursing students, actively engaged in this valuable training during which they gained practical insights and learned new strategies in understanding and managing trauma situations.



PDU LRC Training Programme

The Professional Development Unit at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, in partnership with the Library and Learning Resource Centre, organised a comprehensive and customised training programme aimed at upskilling, reskilling and enhancing team dynamics.

This training programme included formal training courses, individual training sessions, and in-house team sessions. It is a key component of the operational plan for 2023-24, designed with the vision of upskilling the Library and Learning Resource Centre Department.



Participating at the RUW Inaugural Intercollegiate Debate Event

On 7th May, a group of students participated in the inaugural Intercollegiate Debate Event organised by the Centre for General Studies at the Royal University for Women (RUW).

Mentored by Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of the Culture and Language Unit, and Dr Sireen Al Aradi, Lecturer in English and History of Bahrain Coordinator, our students engaged in debates with students from the participating universities and network with other language communities on a national level.



First On-Campus Aptis Test run by LCU

The Language and Culture Unit (LCU) successfully administered its first on-campus Aptis test to 113 N2 students on 11th May. Led by Ms Marwa Alnajjar, Lecturer in English and Aptis Project Lead and Dr Amal Al-Qallaf, Head of LCU, this step was made possible through the collaborative efforts of various departments within the University.



N1 Students Complete Industrial and Elderly Day Care Visits

In a series of visits to different industrial companies, including Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), UCO Elderly Day Care and Ebrahim K. Kanoo Social Club for Parents our Nursing Year One students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of health and safety measures beyond the clinical setting and gain insights from professionals.



AI Tools Workshops

In June, the Professional Development Unit at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, led by Ms Fatema Frutan, HR Partner for Learning and Development, in collaboration with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee Lead Dr Jamal Hashem conducted two “AI Tools Interactive Workshops”, one intended for academics and one for operational staff members, with a combined attendance of almost 100 staff. The workshop for academics covered AI tools for Lecture Creation by Dr Jamal Hashem, AI tools for Assessment by Dr Colin Greengrass, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, and AI tools for Research by Professor Ray O’Sullivan, Associate Professor, RCSI in Dublin, who joined virtually.

The workshop for operational staff members led by Dr Jamal Hashem, Ms Fawzia Al Zaman, Head of ICT, and Ms Fatema Shaji, ICT Systems Administrator, focused on sharing practical tools and advice to enhance productivity and efficiency as well as departmental practical examples.



New Internship Programme with American Mission Hospital

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, in collaboration with American Mission Hospital and Government Hospitals, launched a new internship programme set to start in July. RCSI Medical University of Bahrain oversees the programme and ensures its alignment with local and international standards. This collaboration falls within the framework of developing RCSI Medical University of Bahrain’s strategic partnership with healthcare institutions and hospitals and training medical personnel.



George Washington University Student Exchange

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in collaboration with King Hamad University Hospital - Bahrain welcomed Mr Issa Ali, a final-year medical student from The George Washington University, USA, visiting for an Ophthalmology elective.

Reflecting on his experience, Mr Ali shared: “During my elective period at KHUH, I learned key skills and knowledge about ophthalmology, particularly the focus on preventative care. I was introduced to innovative methods that allow patients to receive ophthalmology screening exams through their primary care with remote specialist consultations. This approach has led to very high screening rates and highlighted the importance of public health programs and screening campaigns that consider patient preferences and ease of access.

I come away having learned much about healthcare and about Bahrain and its wonderful people. I hope the vibrant culture and path of excellence at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and KHUH continue to thrive.” We wish Mr Ali the best in his future career in medicine!



Clinical Lecturer Award and Clinical Faculty Promotions

In June, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated the winner of the 2024 Clinical Lecturer Award and announced the promotion of six clinical faculty, as a testament to their ongoing excellence in delivering world-class clinical medical teaching at the University’s partner hospitals.

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, presented the 2024 Clinical Lecturer Award to Dr Aysha Husain, Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University and Consultant in Interventional Cardiology at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) in recognition of her valuable teaching contributions and dedication to providing a rewarding learning environment for students. Based on feedback received from her students, Dr Aysha Husain exhibited exceptional skills in fostering student success through her clear and engaging communication style, professionalism, ability to provide constructive feedback that motivates students and empowering them to take ownership of their learning journey through self-directed learning strategies.

Professor Ootom also announced the promotion of Professor Haya Al Khayyat, as Clinical Professor in Paediatrics, Professor Isam Juma and Professor Martin Maresch, as Clinical Associate Professors in Surgery, Professor Leena Sulaibeeh and Professor Mohammad Amin, as Clinical Associate Professors in Medicine, and Professor Nermin Saeed as Clinical Associate Professor in Microbiology.



Academics Contribute to Nine Medical Textbooks



Congratulations to nine senior academics at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain who have contributed to five medical textbooks issued by reputable international publishers and presented signed copies for donation to the University’s

Library and Learning Resource Centre: Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine; Professor Kevin Dunne, Professor and Head of Department of Paediatrics; Professor Martin Corbally, Professor and Head of Department of Surgery; Professor Paul Murray, Professor and Head of Department of Pathology; Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology; Dr Eman Tawash, Deputy Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery; Professor Ghufan Jassim, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Family Medicine; Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research; and Dr Wendy Maddison, Head of Student Development and Well-being.

Teaching Innovation Award 2024



Congratulations to Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing, for winning the “RCSI Education Innovation Award”, presented by Professor Hannah McGee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, RCSI in Dublin, at the RCSI International Education Forum 2024. The winning initiative was led by Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer of Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, in collaboration with colleagues Aisling Fahey, Amna Al-Muhandes and Doaa Magdy.

The project involved piloting an Interprofessional Learning (IPL) event for undergraduate nursing and medical students, developed using the VERA (Validation, Emotion, Reassurance, Activity) framework for therapeutic dementia communication.

This novel intervention included an interactive workshop aimed at introducing students to the VERA framework, supported by role-play exercises to demonstrate effective communication strategies for people living with dementia.

Annual Research Conference 2024

On 5th March, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted its Annual Research Conference, in the presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health and Her Excellency Dr Diana Abdulkarim Al Jahrami, Secretary General of the Higher Education Council (HEC) and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees.

With over 100 students and more than 30 faculty and researchers participating from the University, the Annual Research Conference provides a forum for disseminating current research, exchanging new perspectives and facilitating new collaborations between our students and faculty for future projects.

The Research Conference commenced with a presentation by the keynote speaker Professor Eric Kilpatrick, Division Chief in Clinical Biochemistry, Sidra Medicine in Qatar, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and Honorary Professor in Clinical Biochemistry at Hull York Medical School, UK.

This was followed by presentations from the University’s main speakers of the conference: Dr Edwina Brennan, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Medical Commencement Programme, on ‘Relationship between endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and vitamin D in female subjects’; Professor Uwe Torsten, Professor and Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, on ‘The initiation, promotion and progress to VIN and beyond’; Dr Manjula Nandakumar, Postdoctoral Research Supervisor on ‘Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Based Technology in Diabetes Therapy and disease modelling’; and Ms Maryam Yaqoob, Lecturer in Nursing, on ‘Enablers and barriers for a successful transition to Higher Education as perceived by First-year Undergraduate nursing students’.Over 110 abstracts were submitted by healthcare professionals, faculty, researchers and students and were presented at the conference via Oral, Soapbox and Poster presentations.

Three University researchers, two clinicians and one nurse participated in oral presentations, which featured mainly clinical research results. Five university students, Ms Sara Anjum Niinuma, Ms Khulood Al Zakwani, and Mr Taim Akhal, all in Medicine Year 3, Ms Margherita Gabra, Medicine Year 2 and Ms Malak Dinar, MSc in Nursing, participated in soapbox presentations demonstrating their growing skills and knowledge in conducting research.



Undergraduate Publication Award Winners

On 28th February, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain recognised the recipients of the 2023 Undergraduate Student Publication Award, a university recognition for the most notable research papers published by undergraduate students. A total of 48 undergraduate publications were submitted by students for consideration, showcasing the commitment of the student body to healthcare research and the vibrant research culture fostered by the university. The 2023 Undergraduate Student Publication Award recipients were Final Year medical student Mr Ahmed Al-Hindawi, for his research titled “Exploring changes in levels and patterns of physical activity in undergraduate medical and nursing students during the COVID-19 pandemic”, published in Frontiers in Public Health, supported by Dr Nitya Kumar, Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Epidemiology and Dr Declan Gaynor, Senior Lecturer and Academic Director of Admissions.

Medicine Year 3 students Ms Sara Anjum Niinuma, Ms Laila Lubbad Mohamed, and Ms Walaa I.M. Lubbad, were awarded for their research titled “The Role of Heat Shock Proteins in the Pathogenesis of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: A Review of the Literature”, published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences under the mentorship of Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology and Dr Abu Saleh Moin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Senior Cycle 1 students, Mr Khaled Hameed Ahmed Abdulla Husain, Mr Saud Faisal Sarhan, Ms Shaikha Haya Khaled Ali Abdulla Alkhalifa and Ms Asal Ebrahim Abdali Khalil Ebrahim Buhasan were awarded for their research titled “Dementia in Diabetes: The Role of Hypoglycaemia”, published in International Journal of Molecular Sciences under the mentorship of Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology and Dr Abu Saleh Moin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.



Study shows 1 in 3 people living with T2DM in Bahrain has Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)

In March, Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of the School of Medicine at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, led a study, PACT MEA, which aimed to understand the prevalence of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) in people with Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) across seven countries in the Middle East and Africa region. The study revealed that 38% of the people with T2DM have ASCVD, and almost 100% of them were at high risk of developing ASCVD.

Congratulations to Professor Alamuddin, and Professor Husam Noor, Associate Professor at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain on their achievement.



PDU x Undergraduate Research Sessions

The Professional Development Unit hosted two Undergraduate Research Sessions showcasing the students-staff joint efforts in the field of research and providing a platform for the students to present their research projects. This initiative is led by Dr Maikki Cullen, Lecturer in Science - MCP and Academic Director of Undergraduate Research, in collaboration with the School of Postgraduate Studies and Research.

On 18th February, the first session was hosted discussing Dementia in Diabetes: The Role of Hypoglycemia presented by Mr Khaled Husain, Med 4, who presented an overview of his research experience and showcased research outcomes. During the second session, Ms Sara Anjum Niinuma, Ms Laila Lubbad Mohamed, and Ms Walaa I.M. Lubbad, Med 3 students presented their joint research initiative: The Role of Heat Shock Proteins in the Pathogenesis of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: A Review of the Literature.



Students Present at the First Ibn Nafees Hospital Conference

Congratulations to our Med 2 students Ms Bushra Hasan and Ms Renad AlAnsari and their mentor Dr Roshan Deen, Lecturer in Chemistry, for making an oral presentation of their research work titled "Towards Innovation in Healthcare Practice: Non-Antibiotic Based Formulations for the Treatment of Recurrent Vaginal Infections: Present and Future" at the first Ibn Al Nafees Hospital Conference themed "Innovative Medical Practice" held on the 9th May.



Participation in 14th Workshop in Bioinformatics: "From Gene to Protein Analysis"

A delegation from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain led by Professor Michael B. Keogh, Associate Professor in Human Biology and Director of Research Laboratories, Ms Fatima Al Hannan, Manager of Laboratories, Dr Rawaa Alsayegh, Clinical Educator in Medicine, and Dr Najla Shamsi, Clinical Educator in Medicine, participated in 14th Workshop in Bioinformatics: "From Gene to Protein Analysis", held from 4th to 14th of May, in collaboration with the Department of Life Sciences at the College of Graduate Studies at Arabian Gulf University, an intense course covering genomics and proteomics-based sequence analyses.



Winning the First Place Manuscript of the Year at KHUH Research Award Ceremony

Congratulations to Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research, Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of School of Medicine, Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory Affairs Manager, Dr Jenan Obaid, Dr Jean V. Varghese, Dr Rawan Abdulrahman, Dr Dalal Alromaihi, for winning first place in the Manuscript of the Year category at the Research Award Ceremony by King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH).

The collaborative study published in Nutrients conducted by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Research Department and the Department of Internal Medicine, King Hamad University Hospital, entitled "Effect of Date Fruit Consumption on the Glycaemic Control of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: A Randomized Clinical Trial," demonstrated that consuming 60g of date fruit daily has no negative impact on glycaemic control over a 12-week period, indicating its safety for individuals with Type 2 Diabetes.



Paediatric Society Holds its Annual Research Conference

Our Paediatrics Society held its 4th Annual National Research Conference under the theme "Paediatrics in the Digital Age: Adapting to Technological and Environmental Shifts", focused on tackling the challenges paediatric healthcare faces in the modern world.

The conference welcomed nearly 200 attendees in person and virtually as the keynote speakers Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, RCSI Bahrain; Professor Jonathan Hourihane, Head of Paediatrics at RCSI in Dublin; Dr Jamal Hashem, Lecturer in Surgery and Academic Director of Artificial Intelligence, RCSI Bahrain; Dr Conor Malone, Ophthalmologist and Registrar in Informatics at St James Hospital Dublin; Dr Subathra Jeyaram, Psychologist at Bahrain Oncology Centre; discussed the current state and prospects of paediatric healthcare, highlighting the potential of leveraging AI to close global healthcare gaps and examining the impact of quarantine and indoor living on the development of infant allergies



PUBLICATIONS

Research Confirms HbA1c Threshold for Diabetes-Related Kidney Disease



A research study led by Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, in collaboration with international colleagues, titled ‘Using nephropathy as an outcome to determine the HbA1c diagnostic threshold for type 2 diabetes’, was published in PubMed.

Diabetes is a significant health problem in the Middle East, and diabetic nephropathy (severe kidney disease), is a major cause of poor health and can result in death. The study aimed to determine if a lower HbA1c threshold - the average blood glucose (sugar) used in diagnosing diabetes- would better predict diabetic nephropathy in a high-risk Middle Eastern population.

After analysing the data from 2,920 participants, the findings indicate that no HbA1c threshold below 7.0% could be found to predict an increased prevalence of nephropathy. Therefore, there is no need to change the existing retinopathy based HbA1c threshold of 6.5% to also accommodate diabetes nephropathy risk. These results are consistent with a similar study conducted in the United States employing the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) population.

The results of the study suggest that there is no need for routine urine screening for diabetic nephropathy at HbA1c levels below 6.5%, even in a high-risk, Middle Eastern population without diabetes. This information is important for the purpose of health screening policies and can help guide resource allocation for diabetes prevention and management efforts in the Middle East.

Student-Led Review Explores Therapeutic Potential of Stem Cell-Derived Exosomes

Senior Cycle 1 students Mr Omar Abdulmalek, Mr Khaled Husain, Ms Haya Khaled AlKhalifa and Ms Mariam Alturani led a research review titled: “Therapeutic Applications of Stem Cell-Derived Exosomes”, published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences MDPI (Quartile 1, Impact factor 5.6), under the supervision of Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology and Dr Abu Saleh Moin, Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences.



In the review article, the students examined the recent advancements in exosomes derived from stem cells (Sc-Exos) and their potential therapeutic applications for various diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and neurodegenerative disorders. Sc-Exos are nanoscale structures that facilitate intercellular communication and drug delivery. They offer advantages like lower tumorigenicity and improved tissue penetration compared to stem cells themselves. However, challenges remain in standardising isolation methods, ensuring stability, and understanding their uptake mechanisms. The students also discussed the progress of clinical trials using exosomes and the future directions of Sc-Exo research.



A Student-Driven Review of Lycopodium’s Medicinal Properties



Medical students Ms Sara Anjum Niinuma, Mr Aiman D. Khudair, Ms Haniya Habib and Mr Ahmed D. Khudair, under the guidance of Professor Stephen Atkin, Head of School of Postgraduate Studies and Research and Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, successfully published a review entitled: “Unearthing nature’s remedy: An exploration into Lycopodium’s medicinal and therapeutic potential” in Applied Materials Today Qurtaile 1 Journal with an Impact Factor of 8.3.

This review aims to highlight the medicinal and therapeutic potential of Lycopodium species by firstly discussing the extracts of Lycopodium and their use medicinally, followed by a discussion on the preparation and treatment of Lycopodium and the associated potential medicinal uses.



Study Explores Virus-Induced Diabetes Mellitus

Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, Dr Sundararaj Stanleyraj Jeremiah, Postdoctoral Researcher, and Dr Abu Saleh Md Moin, Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences, conducted a research study titled “Virus-induced Diabetes Mellitus: Revisiting Infection Aetiology in Light of SARS-CoV-2.” which examined the role viruses play in causing diabetes mellitus, published in the journal Metabolism: Clinical and Experimental.

Diabetes mellitus is a condition characterised by elevated blood glucose levels resulting from impaired glucose metabolism. The condition is classified into two main types: Type 1, which primarily affects children, and Type 2, which typically develops in adults. Primarily, genetic and environmental factors were considered the main influences on the development of diabetes mellitus.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed numerous cases where individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2 experienced impaired glucose metabolism, high blood sugar levels, and new-onset diabetes mellitus. This phenomenon has highlighted the potential of viruses to induce diabetes, particularly in individuals with predisposing factors. A dditionally, other viruses such as Cytomegalovirus, Hepatitis C virus, and Cocksackie B virus have also been implicated in the development of diabetes.

The investigation of the literature assessed the extent of this issue and provided an overview of current knowledge regarding viral mechanisms contributing to diabetes mellitus.

This research underscores the importance of understanding the broader etiological factors behind diabetes, especially considering recent viral pandemics.



Future Doctors Event

In January, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted students from various schools across Bahrain at the annual Future Doctors Event. Our student recruitment team welcomed numerous high school students, providing them with an insightful glimpse into the life of a medical student and the diverse career pathways available to medical professionals.

The event commenced with an information session led by Dr Declan Gaynor, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry and Academic Director of Admissions. Following the session, the students were presented with a series of hands-on workshops conducted in the Anatomy Lab, General Skills Lab, and Simulation Centre, gaining insights into medical techniques.

The Future Doctors event concluded with a dynamic question and answer session featuring contributions from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain faculty, current students, and distinguished alumni, including Dr Samah Almoosawi (Class of 2021), Dr Yusuf Altaf (Class of 2018), and Dr Jamal Hashem (Class of 2011).



Participation at the Bahrain Primary Healthcare Centres Conference and Exhibition

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain faculty attended the first Primary Healthcare Centres Conference and Exhibition under the theme: “From Theory to Excellence”, organised by the Supreme Council of Health, which brought together healthcare experts to discuss advancements and challenges in primary healthcare.

During the conference, our faculty shared their expertise through panel discussions and presentations, covering various topics, including women’s health, men’s health, diabetes, the interaction between glucose and lipid metabolism, and dentistry.

The conference attracted 800 specialist doctors, academics, consultants, experts, students and those interested in primary health care, in addition to 76 speakers from Bahrain and abroad, which provided an opportunity to highlight the kingdom’s initiatives to develop the health sector.



Opening of the Second Self-Sustainable Study Pod

In February, the Estates and Support Services Department announced the opening of the second Self-Sustainable study pod on campus. This workspace is equipped with solar panels and access to a television screen, providing an increased meeting space for our students to work productively.

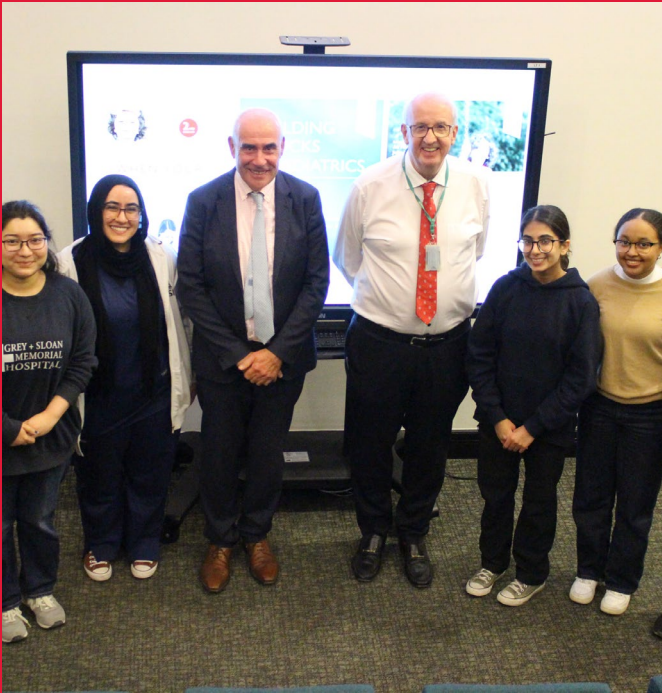


Meet the Author Event

On 5th February, the Paediatrics Society, in collaboration with the Book Club, organised a ‘Meet the Author’ event, which featured both Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine and Professor Kevin Dunne, Head of Department and Professor of Paediatrics.

During the event, Professor Alfred Nicholson and Professor Kevin Dunne shared insights into the world of writing and publishing based on their joint experience in co-authoring the book “Building Blocks in Paediatrics”, which provides a vital guide for those dedicated to caring for children and adolescents.

Additionally, Professor Nicholson and Professor Dunne penned other impactful publications, including their upcoming book titled “Safe Care for Paediatrics”, which promotes the quality and safe care of children through shared first-hand experiences.



White Coat and White Uniform Ceremonies

In February, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain held the annual White Coat and Nursing Uniform Ceremonies celebrating the transition of 328 students (209 from the School of Medicine and 119 from the School of Nursing and Midwifery) into clinical training.

The ceremonies featured addresses by RCSI Medical University of Bahrain faculty, alumni and healthcare professionals, stressing the significance of this seminal moment during the students’ training years and future careers. The ceremonies concluded with the students’ recital of the professional declaration, through which they vow to maintain professional attitudes in the community as future healthcare professionals.



Staff Awards - 20th Anniversary Edition

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted the Annual Staff Awards on 29th February with over 150 attendees, which was marked by the celebration of the Universitys’ 20th Anniversary with speeches delivered by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Laura Viani former President of RCSI, reflecting on our journey from a humble start to our current campus with a cohort of over 1,600 students and acknowledging the support of our local stakeholders and our colleagues.

Congratulations to the winners of the 20th edition of the Staff Awards:

- Professor Charlotte Kamel, Associate Professor and Head of Psychiatry Department - Dean’s Award
- Ms Fatima Ahmed, Student Services Specialist - Dean’s Award
- Ms Sawsan Saeed, Clinical Research Coordinator - Research Award
- Dr Sara Mohammed, Clinical Educator - Exceptional Bahraini Youth Award
- Dr Bindhu Nair, Head of Library Services - Inspirational Leader Award
- Ms Nadia Al-Shehab, Careers Specialist - Rising Star Award
- Community Outreach won Team of the Year Award



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Awards Dr Sara Mohamed under the Exceptional Youth Initiative

Under the auspice of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain presented the 2024 Exceptional Bahraini Youth Award to Dr Sara Mohamed, Clinical Educator in Medicine, in the presence of Professor Laura Viani, former President of RCSI in Dublin, Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine during the Annual Staff Awards.

Dr Mohamed has been nominated for her dedication and significant contribution to Clinical Learning and Teaching in medicine over the past three years. In alignment with the University’s latest medical undergraduate curriculum framework, Dr Mohamed has integrated innovative technological and evidence-based education into clinical teaching in medicine, greatly benefiting medical students. Additionally, she played an important role in standardising clinical teaching and grading practices by contributing to the development of examiner training workshops and peer review sessions.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain adopted the Exceptional Bahraini Youth Award as part of its commitment to recognising Bahraini talents and contributing to their professional development in alignment with our equal opportunity framework. This award also contributes to the University’s strategic plan of developing our ‘people’ as enablers to fulfil the University’s vision and mission.



The Bookery Inauguration

On 7th March, marking World Book Day, our Library and Learning Resource Centre in collaboration with the Book Club and the Green Society, inaugurated The Bookery which aims to serve as a vibrant community library space for our students.



2024 Bahrain Smart Cities Summit Award

On 5th March, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurated the seventh Bahrain Smart Cities Summit organised by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture in cooperation with Smart Way Consulting, under the theme “Smart Cities: The AI Frontier”.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was awarded the “Renewable Energy and Sustainability Initiatives” for our Solar Farm project. Mr Mohammed Abdulla, Head of Estates and Support Services, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, collected the award on behalf of the University. Mr Abdulla played a major role in the planning and execution of the Solar Farm project of the University, and the University is grateful for his dedication and commitment, which ensured the success of this project.



Power List Middle East Awards 2024

In recognition of our environmental sustainability initiatives, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was awarded the “Best Practices in Sustainability” Award at the Power List Awards Middle East Gala held on 4th June, 2024.

The award was presented by His Excellency Ali bin Saleh al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council, who was the Patron of the Gala.



2024 GHEDEX Award

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was awarded the Career Counselling and Research Projects Awards at the Global Higher Education Exhibition (GHEDEX) 2024 from His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council and Her Excellency Dr Diana Abdulkarim Al Jahrami, Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Education Council Board of Trustees.

Professor Charlotte Kamel, Head of the Psychiatry Department, Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory Affairs Manager and Mr Jack Sale, Student Recruitment Manager, received the awards on behalf of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, in the presence of officials and dignitaries at Exhibition World Bahrain.



Participation in the Health Wellness Expo

Ms Pearl Wasif, Research Regulatory Affairs Manager at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, participated in the Health and Wellness Expo, the first health and wellness exhibition in the Gulf. The exhibition, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), brought together the public and the health and wellness communities.

Ms Wasif was one of the first Bahraini women to be licensed as a Specialized Physiotherapist by the NHRA and is an Advanced Physiotherapy Specialist in Musculoskeletal and Women’s Health Conditions, with extensive experience working in both Bahrain and the United Kingdom’s NHS (National Health Service) hospitals. Based on her expertise in physiotherapy, Ms Wasif delivered a presentation on women’s health and physiotherapy.



Participation at the Keele University International Nurses Day Conference 2024

On the occasion of International Nurses Day 2024, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain participated in a two-day online conference under the theme ‘A Voice to Lead – Influencing Global Health’, organised in collaboration with the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Keele University, UK, and featuring 20 distinguished speakers from global esteemed universities.

Among the participants, two nursing academics and two nursing students from the University delivered outstanding oral presentations on the themes of nursing leadership, AI in global health and global nursing competence. The conference served as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and inspiration, recognising the invaluable contributions of nurses to global healthcare and fostering the pivotal role that nurses play in shaping the future of healthcare systems worldwide.

Building on the noble purpose of RCSI’s mission, the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been working in close partnership with communities nationally and globally to prepare our future nurses to care for patients with diverse cultural backgrounds and health conditions.



Appointment as a member of the National Committee for the Accreditation of the healthcare institutions in Bahrain

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain extends its congratulations to Dr Husain Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of BSc Nursing Programme, who has been appointed by His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, as a member of the National Committee for the Accreditation of the healthcare institutions in Bahrain.

The committee, engages with defining the accreditation operational process and the successful implementation of the accreditation standards across the healthcare sector.



Health Week

During the annual Health Week, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted a variety of activities on campus for staff and students, emphasising the importance of health and wellness.

The week commenced with The HUB Activity Booth, featuring a series of fitness challenges such as the Plank Challenge, Fitness Trivia, Balance and Coordination Games, Swiss Ball Challenge, and Ladder Challenge. Additionally, students and staff participated in the Movement Challenge, forming teams to track their steps, with the highest step-count team receiving an award. Capture the Flag event was also held at the football field, adding to the week's interactive activities.

KIMS Health Centre provided free health checks to approximately 120 staff and students. The health checks included cosmetology, blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose tests, body mass index assessments, dermatology, dental checks, and general health advice.

As part of the Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme, the "Ignite a Nutritional Transformation" campaign contributed to Health Week by hosting several events. These included the Make Your Own Salad and Meal Prep Event, Green Smoothie Tasting Event and Embrace Your Best Self in 2024 Talk that discussed healthy eating habits by Ms Budoor Adel, Registered Nutritionist.

The Student Health and Wellbeing Unit organised the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Awareness workshop, presented by RCSI alumna Dr Amal Dawood (Class 2010), Vice Chair of the Family Medicine Association in Bahrain. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the importance of the HPV vaccine in protecting against the Human Papillomavirus, a leading cause of cervical cancer in women.



StEP Programme Highlights

The Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme aims to promote and implement a culture of partnership and inclusivity through expertise exchange between staff and students. In this academic year, approximately 100 staff and student StEP Champions and Supporters worked on 21 different projects in the four different StEP domains: Institutional Management, Academic Research Community, Teaching and Assessment and Local Community and Social Environment.



Being one of the key StEP projects, A StEP Abroad is the first cross-campus StEP project between Bahrain and Dublin, aiming to foster enhanced communications and awareness between students and staff on each campus, led by StEP Student Champion Shada Kodumayil (Med 2). In April, 'A StEP Abroad' held the first online intercampus research networking meeting with over 230 staff and students from Bahrain and Dublin campuses joining an online research networking meeting with the objective of raising awareness of cross-campus research opportunities and fostering undergraduate research collaboration, supported by the StEP Staff Champion in the Research Community domain, Dr Nitya Kumar. During the meeting, faculty members and alumni showcased their ongoing and future research projects and explored areas and ideas for cooperation and collaboration.

Green Week

In February, the annual Green Week, aimed at promoting environmentally conscious practices to our staff and students, was hosted on campus in collaboration with Student Services and Events, Community Engagement Office, Estates and Support Services, Green Initiative Society, and ICT.

As part of our collaboration with STC's 'Trees for Life' campaign, 300 plants were distributed to staff and students, in contribution to the national afforestation campaign.

Over 40 participants, including staff and students, participated in the annual Beach Clean at Busaiteen Beach, organised by the Community Engagement Office in collaboration with the Muharraq Governorate and Estates and Support Services.

The grow Your Greens event, held as part of the Ignite a Nutritional Transformation campaign, demonstrated tree planting techniques with almost 50 student participants. A trip was also organised, for our staff and students to tour the Farmers Market, meet local farmers, and explored fresh produce stalls.

To avoid harmful landfill waste and protect the environment, an E-Waste Drive was hosted on campus where staff and students donated unused electronics to be refurbished or recycled.



Pathway to Dermatology Event

The Derma Society, in collaboration with the Surgical Society, organised the Pathway to Dermatology Event, welcoming RCSI Medical University of Bahrain alumnus Dr Ameen Al Awadhi to campus. Dr Al Awadhi, a Consultant Dermatologist and Dermatopathologist, holds the Arab Board and European Board of Dermatology and Venereology and has completed a Fellowship in Advanced Medical Dermatology at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. Dr Al Awadhi serves as the Head of Dermatology at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

During the event, Dr Al Awadhi delivered an informative talk on the pathway to dermatology residency, providing valuable insights into the career pathway for aspiring dermatologists. Following the talk, he conducted a hands-on suturing workshop for the students, offering them practical experience and guidance.

This event highlights RCSI Medical University of Bahrain’s commitment to offering its students opportunities to learn from distinguished alumni and gain practical skills essential for their future medical careers.



Buddy Programme

In April, the Centre for Student Success hosted a Buddy Appreciation Event to recognise the dedication and support of the 74 Buddies who volunteered during this academic year. The Buddies played a crucial role in successfully transitioning and engaging first-year medical and nursing students.

We extend our congratulations to Ms Maryam Abdali (N2), who was the first School of Nursing and Midwifery student to be awarded the Buddy Star Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities, proactive engagement in university activities, and a strong commitment to supporting fellow students.



Peer Assisted Learning Programme

The Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) programme led by the Centre for Student Success is an extra-curricular student-led programme for medical students at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain that provides academic, personal and clinical learning development for students. Through the programme, high-performing students are invited to volunteer to be trained as PAL tutors to facilitate the learning of fellow peers.

During the first semester, Med 2 students were trained as PAL Tutors to support Med 1 students with academic topics in the new curriculum. In the second semester, 20 Senior Cycle 2 students were trained as PAL Tutors, focusing on enhancing the clinical and history-taking skills of Med 3 students. A total of 44 PAL sessions were organised for Med 3 students, including two successful mock exams, a Long Case and an OSCE with 36 simulated patients to prepare students for their examinations.

RCSI Alumni returned to campus to support our SC2 students preparing for their final examinations as Graduate Peer Assisted Learning Tutors (G-PALs). In the second semester, 27 G-PALs delivered 53 PAL sessions for Senior Cycle 2 students, including a mock long case with simulated patients.

In May, the PAL Awards event took place to recognise the contributions of our Senior Cycle 2 PAL Tutors. The Senior Cycle 2 PAL Leadership Award was presented to Senior Cycle 2 PAL Lead Sanad Kamal for his exceptional leadership of the PAL programme.



Centre for Student Success Engagement Award

In this academic year, the Centre for Student Success Engagement Award was presented to Dr Tariq Aujan (Class of 2024) by Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine and Dr Wendy Maddison, Head of Student Development and Wellbeing.

The award recognised Dr Aujan’s leadership, engagement, and collaboration with the CSS during his years of study at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in support of the student community and the CSS initiatives.



International Citizenship Awards

On 2nd June, the International Citizenship Award (ICA) ceremony celebrated 49 Med 3 students who completed the two-year programme aimed at developing critical reflective practice, cultural competencies, and leadership skills, guided by mentors to equip our students to engage in culturally diverse healthcare environments. The ceremony featured a guest speaker from the Dream Big charity organisation, where several ICA students volunteered and reflected on their enriching experiences as part of the ICA programme.

Special thanks to the 45 faculty and staff mentors who guided the students throughout their ICA journey and the 11 ICA Board Members who validated the students’ portfolios.



Student Conference and Travel Awards

This year, the Student Conference and Travel Award Programme funded five students to present their research initiatives at international conferences and supported a total of 25 students to attend local conferences.



Three of our students, Ms Manar Alnaham (N4), Ms Zahra Alzainuddin (N4) and Ms Asmahan Mohammed (SC1), presented at the 43rd Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research and Education Conference at RCSI in Dublin. Mr Adnan Gassan (SC1) shared his research project at The European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) and the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) Joint Conference in Milan, Italy. Additionally, Mr Heet Seth (Med 3) attended the T-CAIREM AI in Medicine Conference: Ideas to Impact in Toronto, Canada.



The local conferences that our students attended include the first Bahrain Psychiatry Conference, Bahrain's first Gulf Healthcare and Sports Congress and the second Symposium in Paediatrics.



Diabetes Mobile Unit Spreads Awareness about Diabetes Mellitus

On 27th April, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted a training workshop in collaboration with the Bahrain Diabetes Society, designed to educate Bahraini nurses, physicians and Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU) student volunteers participating in the 22nd annual Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp supporting children with Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM).

The workshop commenced with Dr Samya Al Gattan, Head of Bahrain Diabetes Society, giving an opening speech, while Dr Maryam Al Hajrie, Vice President of Bahrain Diabetes Society, delivered a lecture series. Mr Mahdi Ahmed and Ms Lamees Almuqahwi, Bahrain Diabetes Society members, showcased the roles and responsibilities of the healthcare team during the camp, reflecting on their experience through real case-based scenarios of children diagnosed with Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM). The workshop concluded with Ms Danah Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and N1 Director, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Dr Khadija Matrook, Lecturer in Nursing, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Ms Fathiya Rajab, Bahrain Diabetes Society member, delivering training sessions on self-care management of T1DM.

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health and President of the Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS), the 22nd Al-Shurooq Diabetes Camp for Children took place in May, which was organised by the Bahrain Diabetes Society at the Hamad Town Youth Centre and sponsored by the AIMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation.

Our student volunteers, under the supervision of qualified nurses across Bahrain, engaged children diagnosed with T1DM in fun educational activities to help manage their medical condition. Congratulations to our RCSI Medical University of Bahrain faculty, Dr Khadija Matrook, Dr Najla Shamsi, Dr Rawa'a Al Sayegh and Ms Danah Smith, for contributing to the success of the two-day annual camp.

Throughout the semester, the Diabetes Mobile Unit volunteers visited various primary schools in Bahrain and delivered educational sessions on early signs and symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus that highlighted preventive measures like adopting healthier lifestyle habits such as nutrition and physical activity.



Shamsaha Presentation

As part of a Mental Health Awareness Campaign, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted Shamsaha, where Ms Fatima Al-Haddad, Regional Client and Service Manager and Ms Sylvia Marcus, Partnership and Business Development Manager presented Shamsaha's various women's advocacy initiatives.

The presentation highlighted Shamsaha's significant role within the community, mentioning its mission, volunteer advocacy efforts, and case coordination. Additionally, the session included discussions on trauma and self-care.

Concluding the presentation, Shamsaha invited our students and staff to become certified crisis advocates, offering an opportunity to support women victims of domestic abuse through their comprehensive training course.



Blood Donation Drive

On 6th February, we welcomed the Blood Bank (Ministry of Health) at Ibn Al Baitar Simulation Lab on campus for a Blood Donation Drive, which collected the blood of approximately 60 staff and students, totalling approximately 33 litres of blood donations.

This initiative was organised by the Community Engagement Office in collaboration with Bahrain's Blood Bank (Ministry of Health), two Student Societies, the Student Services Office and the Ibn Al Baitar Clinical Simulation team.



Teddy Bear Hospital Initiative

A Teddy Bear Hospital event was held at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital last February in collaboration with the Paediatrics Society, the Community Engagement Office and Student Services with the purpose of educating diabetic paediatric patients about healthcare and the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.

During the event, the children and their teddy bears explored various interactive stations, from triage to X-ray, anatomy, injury awareness, insulin education, exercise, nutrition, dentistry and mental health.

Congratulations to our volunteering students for participating in this valuable community initiative.



MCP Students Support Charities Across Bahrain

Our Medical Commencement Programme students, in collaboration with the Community Engagement Office, engaged with multiple charitable organisations in Bahrain during the last semester as part of the curriculum, contributing to community welfare.

Led by Dr Anthony Friel, Lecturer in Communications - MCP, and Ms Amna Al-Muhandes, Community Outreach Specialist, the students volunteered onsite at the charities and hosted fundraising and awareness activities on campus that supported a total of 11 charities across Bahrain. Through the fundraising activities, our students contributed to various causes ranging from cancer patient care, down syndrome patient care, autism patient care, animal welfare, orphan care and elderly care.



Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society Visit

In March, Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society members Ms Nahla Abulfateh, Chairman, Dr Yusuf Altahoo (Class of 2018), Vice Chairman, Ms Reem Hejazi, Secretary, and Mr Ali Tulefat, Board Member, visited RCSI Medical University of Bahrain to meet with Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Ms Amna Al-Muhandes, Community Outreach Specialist, to discuss possible collaboration under community outreach and engagement.



Ramadan Campaign and Donation to Tree of Life Society

During the Holy month of Ramadan, the Community Engagement Office collaborated with the Tree of Life Society, to support needy families and orphans in a donation campaign. The proceeds from staff and students went to iftar meals, food, and Eid clothes.

Concluding the donation campaign, we welcomed on campus Ms Shafeeka AlMoalem, the Deputy Executive Director and Events Manager, along with Ms Seddeqa Rabea, the Financial Resources and Social Research Officer, to accept the donation handover for the campaign.



International Community Engagement Trips

Last semester, the Community Engagement Office presented two volunteering opportunities abroad as part of the International Community Engagement programme in partnership with Operation Childlife (OCL) in Vietnam and Tanzania, supporting paediatric surgeries.

In the presence of Professor Cathal Kelly, Vice Chancellor and CEO/Registrar, Col (Dr) Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Commander of King Hamad University Hospital and Professor Martin Corbally, Professor and Head of Department of Surgery and Director of Operation Childlife (OCL), our students, Dr Sumaiya Asif (Class of 2024) and Ms Maram Yusuf (Class of 2024), showcased their volunteering experience at the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

In the presentation, Professor Martin Corbally addressed the audience on behalf of the OCL team, highlighting their mission throughout the years. During their stay, the OCL team, including Professor Martin Corbally, Professor Gabriel Fox, Consultant Paediatrician, and Dr Dhafir Al Khudhairi, Consultant Anaesthetist, delivered vital training and expertise to our students and completed nine paediatric surgical cases and two endoscopies. Our students reflected on their experience in Tanzania and provided the audience with insights into the various paediatric surgical cases and exposure to prevalent medical conditions in Africa that are less common locally.

In Vietnam, our students, Dr Jessica Wright and Dr Nader Khawaja, Ms Sharefa AlQasimi and Mr Alejandro Canales, all Class of 2024, flew overseas under the guidance of Professor Martin Corbally, where they actively participated in complex paediatric surgical cases, gaining invaluable insights into diverse medical scenarios in Children's Hospital 2 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Reflecting on their experience, our students delivered a presentation where they showcased their journey and involvement in the paediatric surgeries and impactful moments they encountered as future healthcare professionals.



Participation in Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Screening Campaign

The Royal Medical Services launched Bahrain's National Colorectal Cancer Screening Campaign under the 'Pursuing Health' slogan, with Colorectal Cancer being the second most prevalent disease in Bahrain after breast cancer. RCSI Medical University of Bahrain delegation participated by organising various awareness activities and information sessions.

As part of the National Colorectal Cancer Screening Campaign, an exhibition was held in a mall to raise awareness of the causes and health conditions associated with colorectal cancer, where our medical and nursing students volunteered to promote early detection and prevention strategies for Colorectal Cancer.

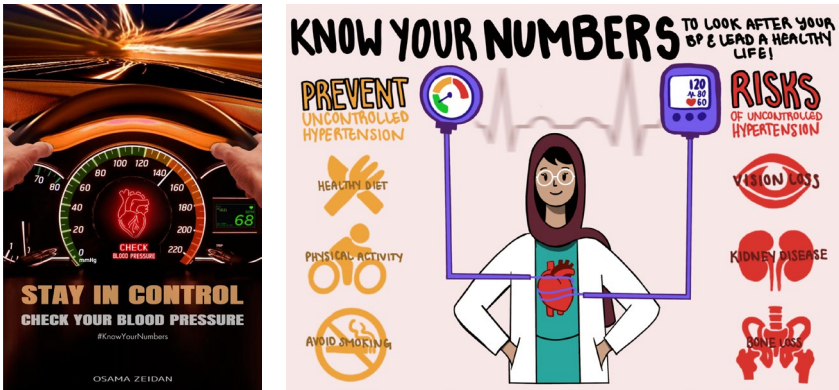
Additionally, Dr Husain Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Director of the BSc Nursing Programme, led the Colorectal Colon Inflatable Campaign, which included various site visits displaying the Colorectal Colon inflatable device across Bahrain to raise awareness and provide insights to the public into various colon-related medical conditions and diseases.



Hypertension Awareness Art Competition Winners

Congratulations to our Med 2 students, Mr Osama Zeidan and Ms Haniya Habib, for winning this year's Hypertension Awareness Art Competition held marking the World Hypertension Awareness Day on May 17th under the theme 'Know Your Numbers'.

We extend our thanks to the Cardiology Club, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and the Community Engagement Office for partnering to organise this initiative.



Hypertension Awareness Campaign in Collaboration with American Mission Hospital

As part of Hypertension Awareness Month in May, our Community Engagement Office and the School of Nursing and Midwifery joined forces with American Mission Hospital and organised the Hypertension Awareness Campaign to provide health check-ups and screenings to patients across all the hospital's branches.

Supervised by consultant doctors and nutritionists, our student volunteers referred patients with uncontrolled blood pressure readings to further counselling and care. We sincerely thank the nursing academic staff, Ms Sumaya Faraj, Ms Maryam Yaqoob, Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, and Ms Eman Fateel, for dedicating their time to visiting the sites and overseeing the students' activities.



Future Nurses Ambassadors Celebrate International Nurses Day 2024 with Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society

Future Nurses Bahrain ambassadors participated at the Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society's (BNMS) celebration of International Nurses Day 2024 under the theme, 'Our Nurses, Our Future, The Economic Power of Care'.

During the event, our alumni, staff and students shared insights about nursing as a career path with the visitors, aligning with the Future Nurses Campaign's mission to promote nursing as a positive career choice and contribute to the future development of the nursing workforce in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Royal Life Saving Bahrain 2023 Annual Awards Ceremony

On the 25th of February, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director, Professor Kathryn Strachan, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery and several of our volunteering students attended the 2023 Annual Awards Ceremony for rescue teams held by the Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB) under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), with His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, attending as deputy of the patron.

Her Highness Shaikha Nayla bint Hamad bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chairperson and Founder of RLSB, addressed the attendees and awarded the volunteers to recognise and celebrate the efforts and achievements of the lifeguards and volunteer lifesavers.

Throughout the academic year, RLSB introduced our students to essential training in drowning prevention and life-saving techniques with the purpose of involving our students in spreading awareness about water safety and preventing drowning-related deaths in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

We extend our sincere congratulations to our participating students.



Annual Nursing Careers Day

On 18th January, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, in collaboration with the Careers and Alumni Office, hosted the Annual Nursing Careers Day for all N4 students. The event featured an array of distinguished guest speakers from external organisations as well as Nursing Alumni and esteemed academics from the University and RCSI in Dublin. Among the notable speakers were:

- Dr Fatima Al Refaei, PhD, RN, Board of Directors, International Council of Nurses
- Dr Jameela Mukhaimer, President of Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society
- Ms Fatima Ebrahim, (Class of 2015), Ministry of Health, Hidd Health Centre
- Mr Ahmed Faraj, Allied Medical Profession Registrar
- Mr Hamed Albalooshi (Class of 2023), Oncology Department, King Hamad University Hospital
- Ms Aysha Albuarki (Class of 2010), 2023 Inspiring Excellence Award Winner, Nurse
- Professor Mary Rose Sweeney, Executive Vice Dean for Education, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI Dublin
- Mr Paul Mahon, Operational Lead, Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Advancement, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI in Dublin
- Ms Rita Feghali, Senior Customer Success Manager, LinkedIn

On 21st January, Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing, and Professor Maura Pidgeon, Director of the MSc Nursing Programme and Associate Professor of Nursing, presented information to students on how to develop their nursing careers. The event was a significant success, providing invaluable insights and opportunities for our N4 students. We extend our gratitude to all who participated and contributed to this enriching experience.



Alumni Ambassadors Programme

Launched at the beginning of the academic year, the Alumni Ambassadors programme has facilitated numerous sessions and workshops, providing valuable insights and support to current students and alumni residing in the top five destinations for RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Alumni.



Bahrain Nursing Alumni Ambassador

Ms Hawra Saeed (Class of 2020), Alumni Ambassador for Bahrain (Nursing), initiated the ‘Kick-start your Nursing Career’ booklet project with the support of fellow Alumni and students. The booklet was distributed to nursing graduates and served as a guide to support a seamless transition to their nursing careers by including information on NHRA licensure examinations, CV preparation, and job interview tips.

Additionally, Ms Hawra Saeed (Class of 2020) partnered with Bahrain Specialist Hospital to host an ‘Ambulance Tour’ on campus, where paramedics gave our students an ambulance tour, educating them about ambulance emergency procedures and logistics and working with a multidisciplinary team in a healthcare setting.

Bahrain Medicine Alumni Ambassador

The Bahrain Medicine Alumni Ambassador, Dr Zainab Toorani (Class of 2016), started a series of medical speciality talks and workshops to educate students and alumni in Bahrain about various medical specialities and their career pathways. Conducted by fellow Alumni, the sessions included insights about pathology, paediatrics dermatology and family medicine pathways. Supporting the University’s research initiatives, Dr Toorani held an introductory session on research opportunities in March, securing placements for over 60 students and Alumni with the support of more than 20 supervisors.

UK Alumni Ambassador

Dr Ali Abdulnabi (Class of 2013), the Alumni Ambassador for the UK, hosted an Alumni gathering in London for the official introduction of the Alumni Ambassador Programme. The event provided a platform for fellow Alumni from various graduating years to reconnect and discuss ideas for the programme. Our UK Alumni Ambassador organised several ‘Specialty Talk Series’, delivered by fellow Alumni, that discussed general practice, orthopaedic surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and core surgical training practices in the UK.

Kuwait Alumni Ambassador

Our Kuwait Alumni Ambassador, Dr Nazha AlFaraj (Class of 2022), highlighted the pathway to Kuwait for fellow students and Alumni through informational video creation and career guidance documents. In collaboration with Dr Adnan Ahmad (Class of 2021) and Dr Mohammad Al Ansari (Class of 2022), the video discussed internship and residency in Kuwait, while the career guidance documents outlined internship, residency, and research opportunities for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti nationals in Kuwait.

Canada Alumni Ambassador

Dr Tharmegan Tharmaratnam (Class of 2021), Canada Alumni Ambassador, initiated the ‘Canada Coffee Chats’ series during this academic year. The ‘Canada Coffee Chats’ series informed fellow Alumni about the Canadian match process, with support from NAMSAs and research in Canada.

USA Alumni Ambassador

On 19th January, Dr Bassam Al Hamer (Class of 2020) led a session for our US residency applicants on completing a Rank Order List for ERAS. Dr Bassam, our USA Alumni Ambassador, conducted this session as part of the 2023-24 Alumni Ambassador Programme.

Alumni Talks

Every year, the Careers and Alumni Office welcomes back RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Alumni to provide insights to our students about various career pathways in a series of alumni talks.

Postgraduate US and UK Pathway Talks

On 20th January, Dr Joanna Thomas (Class of 2023) and Dr Zoya Shaikh (Class of 2022) initiated the first session for the Prescribing Safety Assessment course. This course is supported by the School of Medicine and guided by Dr Khawla Ali, Clinical Senior Lecturer, focusing on preparing our SC2 students for their prescribing exams and our UKFPO applicants for their upcoming PSA exams.

Dr Rana Al-Najjar, Dr Mostafa Elsayed, Dr Mustafa Hammad, and Dr Masa AlAdwan, all (Class of 2022), launched the first of eleven interactive sessions for the UK Foundation Programme Preparation Course on 21st February. Following the success of last year’s programme, the course is running for a second year to help students and alumni gain insights into life as a foundation doctor and to prepare for their future careers in the UK. The Careers and Alumni Office remains committed to providing comprehensive support and guidance for our students and alumni in their pursuit of postgraduate opportunities.

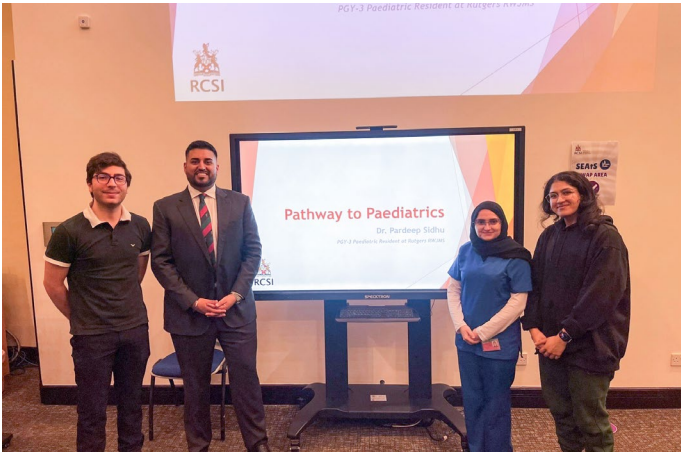
Middle East Talks Series



In March, Dr Ali Al-Fraihat (Class of 2018) presented to our students on postgraduate opportunities in the UAE. Dr Al-Fraihat discussed the new Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) internship programme, the EMREE exam, and various residency opportunities available in the UAE. Dr Zainab Dhaif (Class of 2015) also presented at the event, providing an overview of the Saudi Board Training Programme. Her presentation covered essential aspects such as requirements, timelines, professional registration, and the SMLE. Additionally, the University was honoured to host Maj. Amina Juma, BDF Internship Programme Coordinator, where she presented to students about the 2024 BDF internship programme.

In another informative session, AMBOSS representatives Mr Michel Morcos and Dr Mostafa Nasser visited the campus where they presented to faculty members how they can benefit from ‘Educator Tools’ and explained to students how AMBOSS resources can optimise their learning experience.

Alumni North American Sessions



The University welcomed back Dr Pardeep Sidhu and Dr Tharmegan Tharmaratnam (Class of 2021) for a series of North American residency sessions. Dr Pardeep, currently a PGY-3 Paediatric Resident at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University, NJ, and Dr Tharmegan, a PGY-2 Family Medicine Resident at St. Paul’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada, engaged with students to provide valuable insights and guidance.

These sessions, organised in collaboration with NAMSA and the Paediatrics Society, provided our students with one-on-one opportunities to gain advice on navigating the US and Canadian residency pathways and were well received by our students.



US and Canada Match Party

In March, the Careers and Alumni Office celebrated our students and alumni who successfully matched into USA and Canadian residency programmes for 2024.

This academic year, a total of 39 students and Alumni among which 29 who matched successfully in the USA, while 10 secured matches in Canada, reaching the highest match rate for the Canadian residency programme at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.



Presenting at the Middle East Advancement Conference 2024

Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers, and Alumni at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, presented on Careers and Alumni at the Middle East Advancement Conference 2024 which was held at the Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Artificial Intelligence on 28th - 29th February, organised by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The conference brought together 50 advancement professionals from over 25 top universities across the Middle East.

In his presentation, Mr Fadi Ghosn highlighted RCSI Medical University of Bahrain’s excellence in careers and alumni relations. He provided valuable insights into best practices in development, marketing and communications, fundraising, and philanthropic engagement.

Over the two-day conference, speakers covered essential topics, sharing their experiences in careers, alumni relations, and fundraising. The sessions focused on creating effective campaigns, communicating with and motivating donors, designing campaigns and appeals, leveraging alumni volunteerism, learning lessons and best practices in times of crisis, harnessing the power of data for effective fundraising strategies, and embracing AI for advancement in education.



Alumni Reception in Kuwait

On 2nd February, the Careers and Alumni Office formally inaugurated the Alumni Ambassador programme and celebrated the University's 20th Anniversary at the Kuwait Alumni Reception.

The event commenced with an address by Dr Nazha AlFaraj (Class of 2022), Kuwait Alumni Ambassador, and featured the guest speaker, Dr Abdullah Rajab, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon and Head of the Postgraduate Education Office at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations, Ministry of Health, Kuwait.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Mohammad J Albanna, Division Chief of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery and Consultant in Minimal Invasive and Robotic Cardiac Surgery at Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Hospital.

Concluding the speeches, Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers and Alumni, presented the latest campus developments and made the announcement of the University's 20th Anniversary to the Alumni community. The Careers and Alumni Office was honoured to reconnect with distinguished Alumni from Kuwait, as well as those who attended from Bahrain and Qatar.



New York Alumni Reception

In May, the Careers and Alumni Office hosted the New York Alumni reception at State Grill in New York, USA, where our alumni reconnected with the University's faculty and networked with fellow graduates.

The reception provided a platform for our USA Alumni Ambassador, Dr Bassam Alhamer (Class of 2020), to introduce the Alumni Ambassadors programme, which aims to foster the creation of mutually beneficial initiatives for the community.

During the reception, the keynote speech was delivered by Dr Graham McMahon, President and Chief Executive Officer of Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Medical Education at Northwestern University, USA and an RCSI in Dublin graduate. The event also hosted notable guests: Professor Susan Moffatt-Bruce, President of Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre (LHMC) and Dr Wael Al-Husami, Medical Director of International Health and International Medical Education at LHMC.

The reception concluded with Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, leading the celebration of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's 20th Anniversary and announcing the campus expansion plans and upcoming University initiatives.



2024 Intern Award Winners

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain celebrated the 2024 recipients of the annual Intern Award Dr Heba AlKoheji, intern at Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force and Dr Ammar Alalawi, intern at Salmaniya Medical Complex (both Class of 2023), who demonstrated excellent professionalism and competence as well as dedication to patient-centred care to their mentors and colleagues.

Reflecting on their internship year, Dr Alkoheji shared, "My internship at Royal Medical Services - Bahrain Defence Force has been the most informative and encouraging experience, which has brought me closer to my goals, thanks to the empathy and support of my mentors. I was treated as part of the team; my clinical judgments were valued, and I received guidance throughout my rotations. My advice to upcoming doctors is never to stop learning. With the right mindset and leveraging the available support and guidance, you will successfully overcome your challenges."

While Dr Alalawi shared, "My internship experience at Salmaniya Medical Complex was truly transformative and allowed me to immerse myself in the dynamic world of medicine, where every day presented new challenges and opportunities for growth. Through hands-on learning and mentorship, I gained invaluable insights that have shaped my professional trajectory and personal development. Currently, I am interested in specialising in orthopaedics, and I aspire to continue my medical journey with a dedication to lifelong learning and patient-centred care."

The selection of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Intern Award winner is based on information received by consultants, residents and colleagues through a Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) evaluation, which is analysed by the University's Quality Enhancement Office.



Alumna Presents New Book on Infection Control



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain welcomed alumna Ms Fatema Alaradi (Class of 2014) and her co-author Ms Maha Al-Maarej to campus, where they presented executive committee members a copy of their newly published book focusing on infection control and prevention.

The book provides comprehensive information on understanding infections, their types, modes of transmission, and preventative measures. This publication embodies the authors' dedication to advancing the nursing profession and spreading knowledge about infection control.

Ms Alaradi currently serves as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner at Salmaniya Medical Complex and is pursuing a Certificate in Clinical Research from Arabian Gulf University. She holds a master's degree in Adult Health from the University of Bahrain and a Certificate in Infection Control and Prevention from Riyadh, KSA.

2024 Medicine Conferring



2024 Nursing Conferring



Conferring
June 2024

