

ConnectED



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Visit

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, visited RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's campus on 29th November, and was welcomed by Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Brigadier-General Dr Shaikh Fahd bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, Colonel Dr Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Commander of King Hamad University Hospital and members of the University's Executive Committee and the Student Council.

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, addressed the students, stressing the importance of the medical and nursing professions in serving all communities, and encouraged students to support different communities by engaging in humanitarian activities, in light of the prominent role of Bahraini youth who enjoy the support and attention of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Highness also emphasised the role of Bahraini youth in shaping the future of Bahrain with their innovations and creative ideas and strive for excellence in their chosen field.

During his visit, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa also acknowledged the recipients of the 2023 Inspiring Excellence Award, an award established by the University to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the University's alumni in areas of leadership, innovation, and community engagement and to inspire current students.

On this occasion, His Highness congratulated Captain (Dr) Fares Noor Uddin, (Class of 2013) Upper Limb & Sports Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Guards - Bahrain Defence Force and a member of the Bahrain Royal Medical Team and Ms Aysha Albuarki (Class of 2010 and 2021) Nurse Educator at King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH). Dr Talal Hilal (Class of 2012), Senior Associate Consultant, Mayo Clinic, USA, received the third 2023 Inspiring Excellence Award in absentia.



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Visit





Bahrain National Rugby Team



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Adam Wallace



Embassy of UAE Event



German National Day



Taiwanese Trade Office event



National Day of the Republic of Korea



Omani National Day event



Opening of Vietnamese Film Week

Relaunch of the Diabetes Mobile Unit and MOU Signing Ceremony

In the presence 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, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted on November 21st a ceremony for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bahrain Diabetes Society and the Rotary Club of Manama to bolster its community partnership and relaunch its Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU).



The Diabetes Mobile Unit was created in 2012 as a collaboration between the university, the Bahrain Diabetes Society and the Rotary Club of Manama.

The unit visits primary schools in Bahrain to teach third and fourth grade students about diabetes, healthy eating, and the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle by using interactive games and activities. To date, the Mobile Diabetes Unit has educated over 5,400 children in Bahrain.

Ms Danah Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and Academic Lead for the Diabetes Mobile Unit, gave a presentation on the development of the unit, its relaunch in 2023 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, and the presentation of the new Diabetes Mobile Unit's children story book 'Learn with us... Move with us.', an interactive and engaging educational resource for school students to learn about diabetes.

The MoU was signed by 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; Ms Renuka Nambiar Ravindran, President of Rotary Club of Manama; and Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

The ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint Alsayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health; 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; Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, Chief Executive Officer of National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA); Col (Dr) Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Commander of King Hamad University Hospital; His Excellency Dr Mohamad Abdul Wahab, Chairman of the Society of Private Hospitals; Her Excellency Dr Tasnim Atatrah, WHO Representative, Head of Office in Bahrain; members of Bahrain Diabetes Society and Rotary Club of Manama; and stakeholders.



RCSI Delegation Meets Chairman of Supreme Council of Health

On 20th September, Professor Cathal Kelly, RCSI Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer/Registrar, and Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, met with His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health to discuss and share progress on current projects led by the University as well as identify new avenues for collaboration. Professor Kelly extended his gratitude to His Excellency for the ongoing support of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's goals and reaffirmed the University's commitment to working with the Supreme Council of Health in support of developing the quality of healthcare in Bahrain.



Meeting with the Royal Academy of Police

Brigadier General Fawaz Hassan Al-Hassan, Commander of the Royal Academy of Police, received on 19th November Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain in the presence of Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of School of Medicine, and Dr Latifa Mohammed Al-Jamea, Director of the Health and Social Affairs Department at the Ministry of Interior.

During the meeting, joint cooperation in the academic, medical, training and research fields was discussed, as well as the exchange of expertise and scientific research in line with modern scientific and medical developments.



Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield awarded Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal for Medical Merit



In December, Mr Stephen Harrison Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was presented with Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal for Medical Merit by Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, a significant recognition of Stephen's outstanding contributions.

This award, bestowed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, serves as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and resilience shown by every member of our staff during those challenging times.



Meeting with US Ambassador

On 22nd of October, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain met with the US Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Steven Bondy and Professor George Cheriyan, Corporate Chief Executive Officer of American Mission Hospital, to discuss collaboration between the University and King Hamad American Mission Hospital in respect of clinical trial research and postgraduate clinical training opportunities.

The Ambassador congratulated the two organisations on this excellent work and its importance on the quality of healthcare service in Bahrain.



Visit of Kuwait and Oman Ambassadors

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed on campus His Excellency Shaikh Thamer Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain, to review the standing of the Kuwaiti medical students enrolled under the agreement signed with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education and the progress of the Kuwaiti medical graduates currently in training around the world.

Professor Ootom also hosted His Excellency Mr Faisal Bin Harib Al Busaidi, newly appointed Ambassador of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain, to discuss the standing of the currently enrolled Omani medical students, including those sponsored by the Omani Ministry of Higher Education.

Every year the University welcomes undergraduate students from Kuwait and Oman who are interested in the university's high-quality transnational medical and health sciences education combined with a great student experience.



Meeting with Minister of Health

On Thursday 3rd November, Professor Sameer Ootom, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Professor Alfred Nicholson and Professor Naji Alamuddin met with Her Excellency Dr Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health.

Professor Ootom thanked Her Excellency for the continued support and avenues of collaboration provided by the Ministry, and highlighted RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's future initiatives, including the new academic building.

Her Excellency praised RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for its efforts in providing the health sector with competent and highly qualified national medical and nursing cadres that contribute to improving Bahrain's healthcare services.



Visit of Italy-Bahrain Business Council Representative

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine and Deputy Head of School of Medicine, and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers & Alumni, welcomed on campus Professor Maria Monica Annibaldis, representative of the Italy-Bahrain Business Council on 14th November.

Professor Annibaldis is an advisor of LUISS University for Entrepreneurial Training, Business Opportunities, Cooperation, and Institutional Relations in the Balkans, African & Mediterranean areas with a prominent career in advocacy, diplomatic and international economic affairs in Italy.

The discussion held focused on exploring collaboration opportunities with Italian universities and hospitals in relation to clinical placements and research. It is planned that Professor Annibaldis will visit the university next year, accompanied by a senior Italian delegation of clinicians, educationists, and administrators to pave the way forward.



Mayo Clinic Visit

On 16th November the King Hamad American Mission Hospital (KHAMH) and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted representatives of the Mayo Clinic, US for a visit aimed at assessing the collaboration between Mayo Clinic and KHAMH in improving healthcare delivery in Bahrain as part of a year-long engagement.

Mr Ben Langholz, Principal Analyst of Mayo Clinic International Consulting, met with Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor George Cheriyan, Chief Medical Officer/CEO of American Mission Hospital, to share positive feedback and discuss the existing partnership for student rotations, internship programmes and the future establishment of residency programmes.

The university shared an update regarding establishing a Clinical Trials Unit at KHAMH to bring cutting-edge multicentric Phase II and Phase III clinical trials to Bahrain.



Bahrain Medical Society Visit

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, hosted a meeting with Dr Amer Alderazi, President of Bahrain Medical Society (BMS), and Dr Amal Al-Ghanem, Vice President of BMS, on campus on 20th November.

Dr Alderazi introduced the new BMS Board of Directors and shared updates on the society's activities and services offered to doctors and members in Bahrain. Areas of collaboration were discussed, specifically opportunities for medical students such as clinical electives and volunteering, pathway talks, research opportunities and internship courses.

Dr Alderazi also mentioned that BMS plans to reinstate a medical student membership and explore ways to support medical graduates.

Participation in Bahrain Diabetes Society's Workshop

Early September, in the attendance of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health and President of Bahrain Diabetes Society, the Bahrain Diabetes Society held a workshop highlighting to healthcare workers the latest developments in treating Type 2 diabetes.

Dr Mariam Al-Hajiri, Vice President of the Bahrain Diabetes Society, explained that the prevalence of diabetes in Bahrain and globally is considered one of the biggest health challenges threatening the quality of life of those affected, as well as increasing the healthcare cost. medical directives and continue to gain knowledge to ensure that the best treatments are provided to diabetic patients in Bahrain.

The speakers included Professor Dalal Alromaihi, Consultant Endocrinologist and Clinical Associate Professor at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Professor Naji Alamuddin, Consultant Endocrinologist and Deputy Head of School of Medicine at the University.



Expanding collaboration with Saudi Cultural Attache

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed on campus His Excellency Dr Mubarak bin Khalaf Aldosari, Saudi Cultural Attache of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Kingdom of Bahrain to discuss collaboration opportunities.

His Excellency toured the university facilities and commented: "We witness a growing number of Saudi nationals studying the undergraduate medicine programme at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and graduate as global healthcare practitioners contributing to the enhancement of healthcare services in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and internationally."



Primary Healthcare Centres receive Diamond level accreditation



On behalf of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Ghufraan Jassim, Head of Department and Associate Professor of Family Medicine attended an event organised by the Primary Healthcare Centres, in the attendance of His Excellency Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, for receiving the Diamond level accreditation from the Canadian Accreditation Organisation for the second time in a row.



Chairman of Supreme Council of Health meets with Scholarship Winners

His Excellency Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health hosted the recipients of the Dr Shaikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa Scholarship.

The meeting was held with four Bahraini students in the undergraduate medicine programme Ms Baheya AlDawaishan (Senior Cycle 2), Ms Maryam Alshehabi (Senior Cycle 1), Ms Bushra Hasan (MED 2) and Mr Ahmed Alaraibi (MED 1), who shared their academic progress and journey at RCSI Medical University in

Bahrain in addition to their future aspirations and career plans after graduation.

Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director, Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine and Dr Declan Gaynor, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry and Academic Director of Admissions were also in attendance.



Meeting with new President of Arabian Gulf University (AGU)

On Tuesday 31st October, Professor Sameer Ootom, met with Dr Saad bin Saud Al Faheed, the new President of Arabian Gulf University (AGU), to congratulate him on his recent appointment and to continue the collaboration between the two universities.

Professor Ootom and Dr Al Faheed discussed research opportunities between the two universities, emphasising the continuation and strengthening of the activities run by the AGU/RCSI Bahrain Steering Committee.

KHAMH Launches Hi-Tech IVF Clinic



The Fertility and ART Centre was inaugurated on 30th November in a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Her Excellency Dr Jalila Al Sayyed, Minister of Health, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, Her Excellency Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, Former National Health Regulatory Authority CEO, Professor George Cheriyan, Chief Medical Officer/CEO of American Mission Hospital and KHAMH Corporate Chief Executive, officials and other members of the hospital staff.

The attendees were taken on a tour of the centre by embryologist Dr Mariam Dashti. The new centre will provide everything patients need ahead of the procedure, plus a comfortable waiting room, including a private area. Patients will first talk to a well-qualified doctor in private consultation rooms, who can offer expert advice ahead of any medical procedures. Those recommended for treatment will undergo the necessary processes in a private and comfortable treatment room. The hospital said it would be utilising the latest technology and medical equipment taking into account developing advances in the field to offer the 'most efficient service possible'. IVF is one of several techniques available to help people with fertility problems have a baby. During IVF, an egg is removed from the woman's ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg – called an embryo – is then returned to the woman's womb to grow and develop.



KHAMH won Prestigious Best Hospital Design Award



The King Hamad American Mission Hospital (KHAMH) won the best designed hospital project in the 13th Annual Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Projects Awards on 26th November. The MEED Awards are given to ground-breaking projects in the engineering industry located in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

KHAMH was selected based on its technological innovation, engineering excellence, commitment to sustainable practices and overall benefit to society. As a result, KHAMH was chosen as the National Winner for the Healthcare Project of the Year.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain congratulates Professor George Cheriyan, Chief Medical Officer/CEO of American Mission Hospital on winning this prestigious award.

The university is keen to develop its new teaching facility in collaboration with the KHAMH team, hence granting KHAMH the recognition of a teaching hospital.

Presenting future plans to HEC Secretary General



In September, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain was honoured to welcome 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 on Sunday, for Her Excellency's first visit to the University.

On this notable occasion, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain led the meeting with Her Excellency and the HEC delegation, namely Dr Farzana Abdulla Al-Maraghi, Assistant Secretary General; Dr Hussain Mohsen Al Arayedh, Accreditation and Licensing Director; and Ms Mariam Salem, Engineer.

The university's Deputy Head of School of Medicine, Professor Naji Alamuddin; Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Kathryn Strachan; and Head of School of Postgraduate Studies & Research, Professor Stephen Atkin, provided an update on their respective achievements and developments, as well as the preparations for this new academic year.

Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, led the discussion on the university's proposal for a new academic building, featuring six key areas of development being teaching, clinical simulation, student experience, research, conferring and events and offices, in addition to plans of launching new medical programmes.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain reaffirms strong ties with Government Hospitals



Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and members of the University's Executive Committee welcomed on campus on 12th December His Excellency Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulaziz AlKhalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Government Hospitals and Her Excellency Dr Maryam Al Jalahma, Chief Executive of the Government Hospitals, to discuss further opportunities for cooperation. In attendance were Professor George Cheriyan, CEO/Chief Medical Officer of American Mission Hospital; Professor Juliane Kause, Advisor to the CEO of Government Hospitals and Associate Professor in Medicine at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain; Dr Amer Alderazi, President of Bahrain Medical Society; and a number of executives and academic faculty.

At the start of the meeting, Professor Ootom congratulated the delegation from the Government Hospitals for receiving the high royal trust from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, for their new leadership positions.

During the meeting, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director provided an update on the University's expansion plan, Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of Recognition, Careers and Alumni, presented on the internship programme offered to students at the American Mission Hospital and Professor Naji Alamuddin, Associate Professor in Medicine & Deputy Head of School of Medicine, presented the training programmes offered to students.

Professor Ootom commended the efforts of the health sector and the Government Hospitals for their role in providing the optimal health services to the people of Bahrain. On their part, the officials from the Government Hospitals commended the impactful role the University plays in the academic and medical training fields on national and regional levels. In addition, they reiterated the importance of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's role in developing clinical training programmes for doctors after graduation.



LCU Fulbright Scholar

In September, we welcomed Ms Paula Canales, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant who joined the Language and Culture Unit (LCU) and shared her experience at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain so far.

"My first semester at RCSI as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant has been an enriching learning experience, both academically and culturally. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues in the Language and Culture Unit and have been fortunate to have them as mentors as I learn more about higher education teaching and research in Bahrain. With their assistance, in Semester 1, I conducted language support sessions for N1 students in the

English Language Communication module to provide individualised support for students to develop their language proficiency across the different skills.

I have also had the opportunity to assist in delivering tutorials in N, as well as language support sessions, focusing on academic writing, to N3 and N4 students as part of their Nursing modules, and have collaborated with my colleagues in designing language activities using AI.

Aside from academic projects, I had the privilege of being welcomed to the University by Professor Sameer Ootom, the President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and Professor Alfred Nicholson,

the Vice President for Academic Affairs, at the beginning of the semester. I have enjoyed participating in social events and getting to know staff from around the university, many of whom have given me opportunities to experience the different cultures of Bahrain inside and outside of RCSI.

My goals for the remainder of my time as a Fulbright scholar are to continue to expand language support sessions, contribute to the research being conducted in the Language and Culture Unit, and learn more about the history and multiculturalism that make Bahrain such a unique and beautiful nation."

Participation in US Embassy International Education Week

On 14th November, Dr Maryam' Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and former Fulbright graduate, presented on the topic of "Teaching and Research in Higher Education: A Reciprocal Relationship.", as part of the International Education Week hosted by the US Embassy.

Dr Alaradi's presentation explored the intrinsic connection and mutual benefits of research and teaching within the academic sphere and as strategic pillars of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.

Dr Alaradi also delved into the impact of educators incorporating research into teaching practices and involving students in research activities, citing several examples of its benefits of enhancing the quality of education and contributing to the advancement of the students' knowledge.





Keele University Nursing Students visit

In October, we welcomed on campus Keele University nursing students Ms Victoria House, Ms Katherine Towle and Ms Igbal Zein for their first visit to Bahrain, as part of the ongoing exchange programme.

The nursing students participated in lectures on campus and clinical observerships in local healthcare facilities. Commenting on this new experience abroad, the students noticed that the teaching in Bahrain was more comprehensive and less self-directed than in the UK. Comparatively, the students also noted the higher nurse-to-patient ratio in Bahrain and the advanced medical and simulation technology used in clinical settings.

Last June, Ms Fatema Qaher, Ms Shaikha Ali, Ms Manar Alnahham, Ms Zahra Alzainuddin, Ms Aysha Alrowaiei and Ms Sara Mohamed, all Year 3 students, spent three weeks at Keele University, UK, to experience teaching, clinical simulation and immersed themselves in a multi-cultural healthcare environment and gained first-hand experience interacting with patients from diverse backgrounds.

The Nursing Exchange programme aims to provide undergraduate students in the pre-registration nursing programme with an opportunity to enhance their education while immersing themselves in a new culture and a diverse healthcare environment.



IPL 'Ethics in Healthcare' Workshop

On 28th of November, the Interprofessional Learning (IPL) Working Group held their held a thought-provoking workshop titled "IPL – Ethics in Healthcare", led by Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing & N4 Director, Professor Nuha Birido, Associate Professor in Surgery & Academic Director of Clinical Simulation and Dr Maryam Alaradi, Senior Lecturer in Nursing.

The workshop was facilitated by the IPL student representatives Ms Noora Salem and Ms Yosra Aljowder, both Nursing Year 4 students and Ms Lana Al-Jabery, MED3 student, and brought together eighteen nursing and medical students to explore challenging ethical dilemmas commonly encountered in healthcare practice.

Students tackled three ethically debatable scenarios through lively discussions and presentations, fostering critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills.



Schizophrenia Lecture by Dr Elizabeth Walsh

On 7th of November, Dr Elizabeth Walsh, Forensic and General Psychiatrist at employed at University Hospital Galway, Ireland and Vice Chair of the Medical Board, presented a lecture titled 'Violent Behaviour and Schizophrenia'.

This lecture delved into the complex intersection of schizophrenia and violent behavior, exploring the offender characteristics, societal impact, and optimal risk management strategies. Using clinical case studies, Dr Walsh highlighted effective measures for ensuring treatment setting security, implementing dynamic risk assessment, facilitating information sharing and prioritising victim safety planning.



Professor Ghufuran Jassim joins the Arab Board for Family Medicine

In November, the Arab Board for Family Medicine appointed Professor Ghufuran Jassim as a member of the Arab Board Council for Family Medicine and will be representing the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Professor Jassim participated in the first meeting of the Scientific Council for the Specialization of Family Medicine Scientific Committee, which was held in Amman, Jordan. It is a delightful milestone for RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and will undoubtedly strengthen the ties between the two institutions and facilitate further collaboration in training and examinations.



Presenting at 2nd International Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Congress

On 9th of November Dr Maryam Yaqoob, Lecturer in Nursing, presented at the 2nd International Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Dr Yaqoob presented the preliminary findings of her professional doctorate study titled "Enablers and Barriers for a Successful Transition to Higher Education as Perceived by First-Year Undergraduate Nursing", which explored the factors that influence the success of first-year nursing students.

Dr Yaqoob's research helps with identifying strategies for improving the transition of students into nursing programmes, ultimately leading to better student outcomes and a more qualified nursing workforce.



1st Personal Tutor Meeting for Foundation Year Students

On 11th of October, the Centre for Student Success (CSS) held the first Personal Tutor session for Foundation Year students under the theme of 'Settling into University', with 13 academic staff supporting 179 Foundation Year.

We extend our thanks to the Personal Tutors for supporting the success of our Foundation Year students along their first year journey.



Meeting with Bahrain Association of Family Physicians

On November 14th RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the Bahrain Association of Family Physicians held a meeting on campus to discuss avenues of collaboration. The meeting was led by Professor Ghufraan Jassim, Head of Family Medicine Department, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, with the attendance of Dr Saba Al-Othman, PT Clinical Educator in Family Medicine, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, and a delegation from the Bahrain Association of Family Physicians (BFPA), namely Professor Faisal Abdulatif Alnasir, President, Dr Amal Dawood, Vice President, Dr Ali Albaqarra, General Secretary, Dr Hana Al-Fayez, Board Member.

During the meeting, Professor Alnasir shared the news that the BFPA is a member of the World

Organization Congress for Family Physicians (WONCA) and a chapter was formed for junior doctors, headed by Dr Yusuf Altahoo, Medical Practitioner in Bahrain's Family Practice Residency Programme (FPRP) and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Alumnus (Class of 2018). The BFPA proposed opportunities for collaboration, including health promotion campaigns aligned with the World Health Organization awareness days and organizing educational activities in partnership with the university's family medicine department.

Professor Jassim proposed a collaboration on research projects, for which more details will be provided. Both parties proposed to collaborate for upcoming family medicine conferences and general assembly meetings, both locally and regionally.

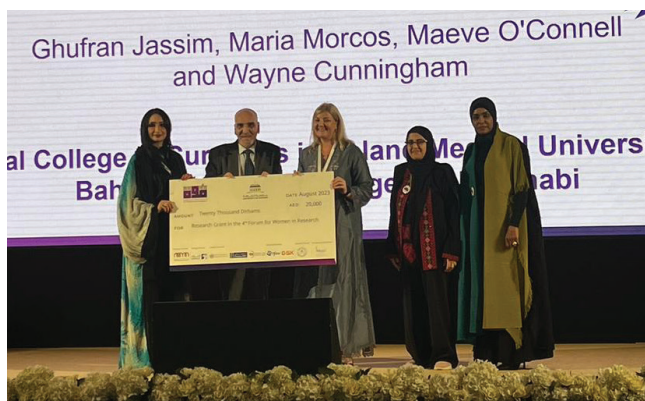
Updated Undergraduate Nursing Programme Approved



In November, changes to the BSc (Hons) Nursing programme were approved by the National University of Ireland (NUI) and will be implemented in academic year 2024-25.

Having secured full accreditation from the Medicine Health Sciences Board (MHSB), the revised curriculum promises a dynamic and comprehensive learning journey for aspiring nurses.

RCSI faculty won an award of 20,000 AED in the 4th Forum for Women in Research



In September, Professor Ghufran Jassim, Head of Department & Associate Professor of Family Medicine along with her team Dr Maeve O'Connell, former Lecturer in Nursing, Professor Wayne Cunningham, former Professor of Family Medicine and Director Intermediate Cycle, and Maria Morcos, Fulbright Scholar, has won an award at the Fourth Forum for Women in Research entitled "Quwa: Sustaining Women's Empowerment in Research & Innovation" held at Sharjah University, UAE for their research titled: "A Feasibility Randomized Controlled Superiority Trial of Fluticasone-Vilanterol Once Daily Use for the Treatment of Mild Asthma in Adults".

The forum was held under the patronage of His Highness, Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University of Sharjah, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies in cooperation with the Research Outreach Department at Sharjah University, UAE.



RCSI and AGU Faculty collaborated on a published paper in PLOS ONE journal

In September, faculty from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Arabian Gulf University collaborated on a joint grant project for a research paper titled: "Investigation of germline variants in Bahraini women with breast cancer using next-generation sequencing based-multigene panel," which has been published in the PLOS ONE journal.

The collaborative research findings reported, for the first time, three new variants in non-BRCA1/2 genes in patients with a strong family history of breast cancer.

Research Review Competition Winners



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted on campus the Research Review competition which celebrated participants' achievements and highlighted the importance of integrating research into undergraduate education, reaching 45 total submissions from 107 students.

Mentored by Professor Alexandra Butler, Professor in Pathology, Ms Jenan Sh. Nasser, SC1, Ms Noor Altahoo, SC1, Mr Sayed Husain Almosawi, SC1 and Ms Abrar Alherm, MED3 won the First-place prize for their review titled "The Role of MicroRNA in the Pathogenesis of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: A Literature Review". Winners of the second-place prize are Ms Zarish M. Hussain, SC1, Ms Sh. Maryam AlKhalifa, SC1 and Ms Nujood Buhaimed, SC1 for their review titled: "Therapeutic Efficacy of Nano Drug Delivery Compared to Current Non-Surgical Treatments for Cutaneous Melanoma Patients: A Systematic Review".

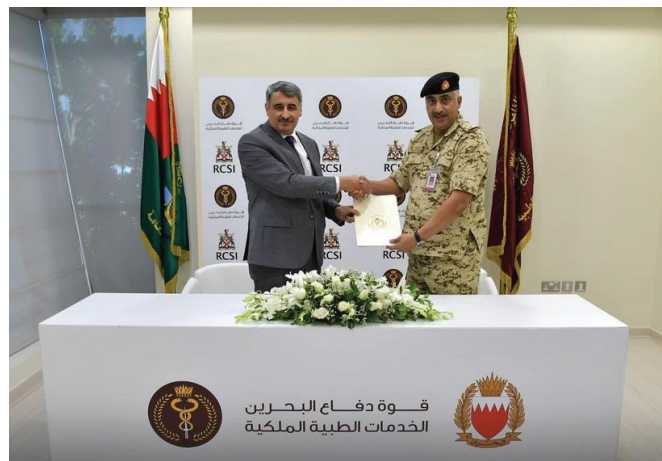
Winners of the third-place prize were Ms Khawla Hamad MED1, Ms Alshibtini MED1 and Ms Sarah Juma, MED1 for their review titled: "Inflammatory Markers in Wound Healing Research: Implications and Artefacts".

Cooperation agreement with the Royal Medical Services

In November, His Excellency Brigadier (Prof) Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Al-Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, and Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain signed a cooperation agreement to develop research and academic programmes for healthcare professionals working in the Royal Medical Services, including Bahrain Defence Force Hospital, King Hamad University Hospital, Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Salman Specialist Cardiac Centre, and Bahrain Oncology Center.

His Excellency Brig. (Prof) Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa emphasised the importance of collaborating with reputable educational institutions such as RCSI Medical University of Bahrain to support the professional development and competence of staff members.

Professor Ootom highlighted that the agreement is a positive step for both institutions to achieve the mutual goal of improving the quality of medical services provided in Bahrain by investing the necessary resources and technologies. He also extended his congratulations to Professor Steve Atkin and his team for all the great efforts to reach this outcome.



Students participate in Third Middle East Electron Microscopy Conference

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain students participated in the Third Middle East Conference on Electron Microscopy, that showcased the significant role of Electron Microscopy in both life and material sciences, that was held in December at the Crowne Plaza.



Mentored by Dr Roshan Deen, Lecturer in Chemistry, seven students, Ms Bushra Hasan, Med2 student, Ms Noor Jaragh, Med2 student, Mr Ali Zayer, Med2 student, Ms Jainisha Thadani, Med4 student, Ms Maryam Alqayem, Med2 student, Mr Osama Zeidan, Med2 student, and Moath Daoud, Med1 student, presented through poster and oral presentations, their research findings that encompass the diverse applications and advancements in Electron Microscopy across the life and material sciences.



Undergraduate Research Event

Ten RCSI Bahrain students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and Midwifery presented at the Undergraduate Research Event, showcasing their research on local and international research programmes.

Dr Maikki Cullen, the Academic Director of Undergraduate Research and Ms Taraf Salah Jaro, Student Research Officer inaugurated the session by providing valuable insights into the diverse opportunities available. The event fostered a vibrant peer-to-peer learning environment, creating a collaborative space for students to exchange ideas and experiences as the event underscored the importance of integrating research into undergraduate studies to shape future scholars.



Launch of Professional Development Strategy and Framework

The Professional Development Unit (PDU) at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has recently launched the Professional Development Strategy and Framework, tailored for Academic and Professional Services, with the aim to develop a pool of highly trained and educated staff capable of meeting the evolving demands of healthcare education, both nationally and globally.

Through this strategy and framework, the PDU looks forward to supporting all staff in their professional development goals and the overall strategic objectives of the University's Departments and Schools.

The framework underscores RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's commitment to ensuring that graduates are not only well-prepared for practice but are also positioned as leaders in their fields.

First Executive Committee Equal Opportunities and Procedures meeting



On 28th of November, the University held its first Equal Opportunities Executive Committee meeting led by Mr Gary Brady, Head of Human Resources and Ms Fatema Frutan, HR Partner for Learning and Development.

This committee is assigned to consolidate the principle of equal opportunity and ensure the promotion of diversity and inclusion practices among staff in alignment with the efforts of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) led by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the SCW.

The creation of the Equal Opportunities Executive Committee is another step forward and an opportunity to enhance the university's professional development plan further.

As part of the University's Equal Opportunities framework and Professional Development Unit's strategy, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is keen on engaging with the SCW to implement equal opportunity initiatives and professional development programmes that meet both personal and institutional goals, in alignment with our strategic plan.

StEP Open Forum



On 19th of November, the Student Development & Wellbeing department led by Dr Wendy Maddison, hosted a StEP Open Forum with StEP Champions and supporters.

About 60 staff and students attended and discussed innovative project ideas on which they could collaborate.

We look forward to some great student and staff synergies this academic year which result in driving positive change.

Training Quality Authority (BQA) Workshop



On the 5th of October, a group of academic and operational staff from RCSI Medical University of Bahrain attended a workshop at the Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA), to prepare for the third cycle of Institutional Reviews forecasted to start soon.

The workshop included tips on developing a critical and informative Self-Evaluation Report, building the evidence profile and best practices, in addition to a briefing on the revised Institutional Framework standards.

Participation in the International Association of Universities



From 25th to 27th of November, Dr Husain Ali Nasaif, Senior Lecturer in Nursing & Director of BSc Nursing Programme, and Mr Fadi Ghosn, Head of the Career & Alumni Office, represented RCSI Medical University of Bahrain at the International Association of Universities (IAU) annual conference held in Doha, Qatar.

With this year's conference theme "The Importance of Intercultural Learning and Dialogue", a wide range of topics were discussed, ranging from intercultural competencies in teaching and learning, the impact of differences on the living values of universities to bordering the scope of internationalisation and future international cooperation.

Influenza vaccination clinic



On 9th of November, the Student Health and Wellbeing Unit organised an influenza vaccination clinic, in collaboration with Kims Medical Centre during which 45 students and 54 staff members received the flu vaccine.

Members of the RCSI Medical University of Bahrain community are encouraged to take the flu vaccine annually, as it is considered the most effective defense against the flu and helps in preventing the spread of the virus.

RCSI Faculty present in Women Health Summit



Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty King Hamad and President of the Supreme Council for Women, the Royal Medical Services organised the Women Health Summit on 4th and 5th of December, aimed at promoting women's wellbeing and quality of life.

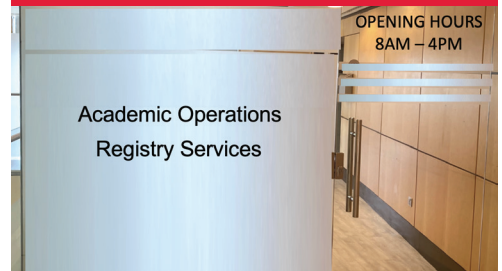
RCSI faculty Professor Fergal O'Brien, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation at RCSI in Dublin, Professor Ghufra Jassim, Head of Family Medicine Department, Dr Khawla Ali, Clinical Senior Lecturer, Dr Edwina Brennan, Senior Lecturer & MCP Director and Ms Luma Bashmi, Lecturer in Psychology participated in several panel discussions and shared their expertise.

New AdvanceHE Fellows

Congratulations to the 34 RCSI Bahrain academics who have achieved Fellowship status with Advance HE. This prestigious recognition signifies their commitment to teaching, learning and enhancing the student experience within higher education through engagement in a practical process that encourages research, reflection and development.



Academic Operations Transformation



During the first semester, the Student Academic & Regulatory Affairs department (formerly known as SARA) has been transformed into the Academic Operations Department.

The Academic Operations Department, headed by Mr Simon Whitebridge branches into two main teams: Registry Services (formerly Records & Regulations), Technical Solutions (formerly Service Improvement).

The Academic Operations have been rebranded and are undergoing further updates to support the changes in the organisation structure as it moves from strength to strength.



N1 students first OSPE

On 5th of December, Nursing Year One students had their first OSPE (Objective Structured Practical Examination) in their nursing education journey.

The OSPE is a station-based exam to assess the student's clinical competencies.

Academic Integrity Campaign



From 12th to 16th of October, the Library and Learning Resources Centre (LLRC) launched its Academic Integrity Campaign to emphasise the importance of academic integrity being cornerstone of research, teaching and learning of students and staff.

The launch event was attended by Professor Alf Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine and Shaikh Salman AlKhalifa, President of the Student Council, who acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The two-week-long featured awareness videos, activities and giveaways. Students were also encouraged to undertake a self-paced online course introducing the values of Integrity and their application.

The campaign concluded by announcing the winners of the meme competition. Ms Aysha Mohamed (SC1) won the first prize, while Ms Fatima Ahmad (Med 2) and Mr Gozeel Imran (Med 2) won the second prize. The third prize was awarded to Ms Sara Anjum Niinuma (Med 3) and Ms Haniya Habib (Med 2).

Presenting at the IGeLU Conference



In September, Asif Altaf, the Manager of Library Digital Initiatives, Services & Systems, presented at the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU) 2023 Conference and Developers' Day held under the theme: "Libraries Enabling Innovation."

During his presentation, Asif shared the success story of the migration and implementation of Alma/PrimoVE technology at RCSI Bahrain Library & Learning Resource Centre.

LLRCbot Service Launch

The Library & Learning Resource Centre has announced the launch of the LLRCbot. The LLRC chatbot will serve as a 24/7 help desk, expanding library support services to students by providing instant answers to their queries about research, library resources, borrowing policies, and other inquiries.

King Hamad American Mission Hospital Library Visit



The Library & Learning Resource Centre visited KHAMH library with the aim of fostering collaboration between the two entities and seeking support in implementing policies.

During the visit, potential areas of cooperation were explored focusing on enhancing library services and aligning policies to improve efficiency.

President's Honours List

In November, the President's Honours List ceremony was hosted, recognising the top six academically ranked students among the student cohorts for the academic years 2022-23.

A total of 30 winners in the School of Medicine and 18 winners in the School of Nursing and Midwifery were awarded recognition on the President's Honours List. Winning students are set to receive a financial bursary and the achievement will be included on their transcripts.



World Mental Health Day Activities on Campus

Marking the University's Mental Health Awareness Campaign, the Student Health and Wellbeing Unit in collaboration with the Mental Health & Psychiatry Society, organised an all-day event in the atrium on World Mental Health Day on October 10th, including multiple stations with different activities such as the mental health ribbons station, mindfulness colouring station, mood board station, Starbucks sleeves writing station and kindness dice roll station.

The series of activities concluded with a Mental Health Art Therapy workshop focused on the work of Vincent Van Gogh and breaking the stigma associated with mental illness where students were able to express their creativity through art.



Student Life
Update



International Citizenship Award programme

The 2023-2024 academic year saw 104 students (84 Med2 and 20 N3) enrolled in the International Citizenship Award (ICA) programme, mentored by 31 staff members in their first year as ICA mentors, marking the largest mentors number to date.

Through workshops, mentors equipped students with valuable skills in cultural competency and reflective writing, empowering them to become global citizens.

In the programme second year, 54 Med3 students continue their ICA journey, guided by 12 experienced staff mentors.



Royal Life Saving

During October and November, RCSI Bahrain hosted a series of training sessions in collaboration with Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB), guiding volunteers through obtaining a certification in Beach Lifesaving.

During the training sessions, the RSLB programme covered various aspects of beach lifesaving such as drowning prevention and first-aid techniques, delivered through three stages of training and subsequent assessments for certification.

The final session was held at Al Bilaj Beach, where student volunteers gained hands-on experience in various sea rescue techniques, including stand-up rescue paddling, rescue boards, and lifelike drowning simulations for triathlon scenarios.



Diabetes Mobile Unit Updates

Marking the continuous efforts of the Diabetes Mobile Unit in increasing diabetes awareness and prevention among children, the Diabetes Mobile Unit van has been renewed and delivered on campus in September, in the presence of Rotary Club Manama and Diabetes Bahrain Society members, as part of the preparation for the Diabetes Mobile Unit National Campaign's relaunch in November.

In celebration of the Diabetes Mobile Unit relaunch, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain hosted a signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS) and Rotary Club of Manama, in the presence 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, and Ms Renuka Nambiar Ravindran, President of Rotary Club of Manama.

During November, National Diabetes Month, the DMU participated in the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Day event held in Seef Mall, organised by the Royal Medical Services and Bahrain Diabetes Society, in the presence 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.

In December, Ms Danah Smith, Lecturer in Nursing and Academic Lead for the Diabetes Mobile Unit, gave a presentation about the Diabetes Mobile Unit (DMU) to the DMU's main sponsors the Rotary Club of Manama, Mr Bashar Haddad, District Governor, Ms Renuka Nambiar, President of Rotary Club of Manama, Ms Amira Ismail, Deputy District Governor, Mr Khalid Mukthar, former President and Mr Mazen Alumran, former District Governor, in which she shared updates regarding the DMU re-launch plans and presented the new DMU storybook and interactive educational resources.

Throughout the semester, the DMU visited a wide range of public and private schools locally and participated in the Bapco Summer Camp, hosted by Awali Hospital, where the volunteers provided 50 children with education about healthy lifestyle practices that can prevent diabetes through games and child friendly activities.



Movember



Marking Movember, a global campaign held annually in November aimed at raising awareness about men's health challenges, Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, cycled 105 kilometres around the campus accompanied by other RCSI staff. To further support Mr Harrison-Mirfield in his endeavour, a sponsoring scheme opened

to raise donations for the Bahrain Cancer Society. Dr Abdul Rahman Ebrahim Fakhro, President of Bahrain Cancer Society, commended RCSI Bahrain's contribution towards cancer translational research and its commitment to various cancer awareness activities, as well as raising donations annually.

Mental Health Awareness Campaign



RCSI Medical University of Bahrain launched its Mental Health Awareness Campaign for the academic year under the slogan "Breaking the Silence: Open Dialogues on Mental Health". The campaign included a series of talks with the purpose of spreading awareness regarding various mental health topics.

The series of talks commemorated with the talk entitled: "How to communicate therapeutically with people living with Dementia", presented by Ms Ali-Rose Sisk, Lecturer in Nursing at RCSI Bahrain.

In an interactive session, Ms Sisk shared effective communication techniques with dementia patients based on the VERA framework. Marking 'Movember' Men's Health Awareness Month, Dr Hani Malik, Lecturer in Family Medicine, gave a talk entitled: "A Journey Towards a Higher Purpose", where he shared insightful findings on mental wellbeing, contemplative practice and practical wellness strategies to reach higher levels of consciousness and lead a purposeful life.

As part of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's annual celebration of Bahrain Women's Day, and in collaboration with the Student Services & Events Departments, and the Community Engagement Office, Professor Charlotte Kamel, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Psychiatry, hosted a talk entitled: "EmpowerHER: Navigating the Emotional Wellbeing of Women." In the presence of World Health Organization (WHO), Health Promotion Officer, Ms Shanine Mohebat, Professor Kamel presented an overview of the stages of women's psychological and social development, psychosocial pressures faced by women and shared stress combating strategies to achieve balanced well-being.



Breast Cancer Awareness Activities

Contributing to Breast Cancer Awareness month, RCSI Bahrain staff and student volunteers from Community Engagement participated in the Bahrain Cancer Society Walk-A-Thon at Water Garden City, the event brought together various institutions, charity societies, and hospitals in support of prevention and early detection of Breast Cancer.

Supporting the cause, a fundraiser by Community Engagement and the Library was held on campus, raising donations through the sales of Think Pink merchandise and food items, with the proceeds donated to Think Pink and the Bahrain Cancer Society.



ICE Trip to Vietnam

As part of the university's International Community Engagement programme in partnership with Operation Childlife(OCL), a charitable organisation aiming to provide optimal medical and nursing care to children in developing countries, four students, Nader Khawaja and Jessica Wright (SC2 students) and Alejandro Canlas and Sharefa AlQasimi (Nursing Year 4 students), accompanied by Professor Martin Corbally, Head of Department and Professor of Surgery, flew to Hanoi, Vietnam in October.

The student volunteers and medical professionals provided clinical healthcare to paediatric patients and attended complex paediatric surgeries at the National Children's Hospital, the country's leading pediatric referral center, in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Golf Tournament

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain staff participated in the 24th American Mission Hospital's Island Classic Golf Tournament, held under the Patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, during the period of 16 and 18 November, represented by the Community Engagement Office.

Adam Wallace, Head of Marketing, Communications, Student Recruitment & Admissions, Anthony Friel, Lecturer in Communications – MCP, and Dr James Blackwell, Lecturer in Physics, took part in the

charitable golf tournament hosted at the private Saffriya golf course, where the proceeds went to community service initiatives including providing free medical treatment for the less privileged aligning with the core values of RCSI. To conclude the golf tournament, Professor Alfred Nicholson, Vice President for Academic Affairs / Head of School of Medicine, Professor Stephen Safrany, Associate Professor of Pharmacology & Year 2 Director, Dr James Blackwell, Lecturer in Physics, attended the Gala Dinner representing RCSI Medical University of Bahrain.



SMILE Campaign



The University's Language & Cultural Unit and Community Engagement Office partnered with the SMILE, an initiative under the auspices of the Bahrain Future Society for Youth, which aims to provide essential psychosocial support to paediatric cancer patients and their parents in Bahrain.

A fundraiser event was held on campus that sold SMILE Merchandise, artworks created by children affected by cancer, and raffle tickets to students and staff, where all proceeds went to SMILE initiative. Medical and nursing students also volunteered their time at the SMILE booths located in shopping malls to engage with the public, provide entertainment for children and raise awareness about childhood cancer.

Throughout the campaign, RCSI students and staff collectively raised 1,500 BD, which was handed over to Mr Sabah Al Zayani, the founder of the SMILE Initiative Society.

In October, SMILE hosted a grand closing ceremony at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, in the presence of Dr Amal Alqallaf, Head of Language and Culture Unit and Ms Fatima Aldaylami, Lecturer in English, representing the Language & Cultural Unit, where they were awarded as a testament to their invaluable contributions to the SMILE initiative.

Future Nurses Workshops

November marked the start of the Future Nurses Bahrain national initiative under the Patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health. The initiative was commemorated with a training workshop for N2 and N4 students, led by Dr Eman Tawash, Senior Lecturer in Nursing & N4 Director, and RCSI alumni Ms Hawra Saeed and Ms Asma Al-Najjar.

The second workshop, led by RCSI alumna Ms Eman Al Jahmi, delivered a series of instructions for our N3 students. The series of workshops prepared nursing students as part of the campaign provide interested high school students with valuable insights into the nursing career through engagement in a series of interactive presentations and workshops.



Class of 2013 Reunion Event and Inspiring Excellence Award

RCSI Bahrain hosted the alumni reunion for the Class of 2013, to commemorate the ten-year graduation anniversary and announce the winners of the 2022 Inspiring Excellence Award.

Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, Managing Director of RCSI Bahrain, presented key campus developments the University has witnessed over the years and alumni got to reconnect with their fellow alumni, watch recorded message from their colleagues around the world.

On this occasion, the winners of the 2023 Inspiring Excellence Award were announced including Captain (Dr) Fares Noor Uddin, (Class of 2013) Upper Limb & Sports Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Guards - Bahrain Defence Force and a member of the Bahrain Royal Medical Team and Ms Aysha Albuarki (Class of 2010 and 2021) Nurse Educator at King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH). Dr Talal Hilal (Class of 2012), Senior Associate Consultant, Mayo Clinic, USA, received the third 2023 Inspiring Excellence Award in absentia, where their achievements as healthcare leaders are honoured by displaying their portraits along the walls of the University's atrium.





Careers & Alumni Office announced the Alumni Ambassadors programme

The Careers and Alumni Office launched the Alumni Ambassador programme for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. The programme aims to foster an engaging support network for local and international alumni by selecting Alumni Ambassadors in the top five destinations for RCSI Bahrain alumni representing Bahrain, United Kingdom (UK), United States (USA), Kuwait, and Canada. The RCSI Bahrain Alumni Ambassadors RCSI will provide support their fellow RCSI Bahrain alumni regarding career growth, business development and operational activities.

RCSI Bahrain extends its congratulations to the alumni ambassadors selected including, Dr Ali Abdulnabi (class of 2013), UK's Alumni Ambassador, is a CRUK Clinical Research Fellow at King's College London and Honorary Specialist Registrar at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, Dr Bassam Alhamer (class of 2020), USA's

Alumni Ambassador, is an Internal Medicine Resident at Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, USA, Dr Tharmegan Tharmaratnam (class of 2021), Canada's Alumni Ambassador, is a Family Medicine Resident at St Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Dr Zainab Toorani (class of 2016) is a Senior Resident in Hematopathology at Salmaniya Medical Complex, She is Bahrain's Alumni Ambassador for activities pertaining to medicine, Ms Hawra Saeed (class of 2020) is an academic at the University of Bahrain, College of Health and Sports Sciences, Nursing Department, She is Bahrain's Alumni Ambassador for activities pertaining to nursing, Dr Nazha Alfaraaj (class of 2022), Kuwait's Alumni Ambassador, is an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Resident training in hospitals under the Ministry of Health in Kuwait.

France Residency Training



In October, His Excellency Mr Eric Giraud-Telme, French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, awarded three RCSI alumni the DELF B2 French language diplomas.

Upon receiving the diploma, as part of the intergovernmental initiative that was officially launched in 2019 following the visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to France, Dr Noor Sulaibeekh (class of 2018), Dr Salman Hasan (class of 2016), and Dr Mohammed Faqi (class of 2014) are set to start their specialized residency training over the coming four to six years.

UK focused Alumni Talks

During the period of October and November, the Careers and Alumni Office hosted a series of UK focused Alumni Talks, noting the high match rates of RCSI Bahrain graduates into the UK Foundation Programme over recent years.



On 24th October

Dr Ebrahim Abousher (Class of 2023) and Dr Husain AlQari (Class of 2022), currently working as FY1 and FY2 doctors respectively, presented to RCSI students the UK Foundation Programme, life in the UK and the UK General Medical Council.

On 2nd November

Dr Ahmed Nasser (Class of 2015), who was awarded Intern of the Year 2016 and graduated with a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University in 2019, currently working as a Specialty Registrar (ST6) in Trauma and Orthopaedics, visited RCSI Bahrain campus for a talk on the process of being accepted into specialty training and his experience as an Orthopaedic Trainee Registrar.

On 13th November

Dr Masa Adwan (class of 2022), presented to RCSI Bahrain students about surgical training in the UK. She is working as a Foundation Year 2 Doctor and applying for Core Surgical Training in the UK.

Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, USA Visit

RCSI Bahrain hosted visitors from Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, USA in December. The delegation included Professor Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, President, Dr Wael Al-Husami, MD, Medical Director, International Health & International Medical Education, and Dr Jalil Afnan, MD, Designated Institutional Official, Executive Vice-Chair Operations, Radiology.

The Lahey delegation toured RCSI Bahrain and met with former exchange students, some of whom are now applying for residency positions at Lahey. They also held discussions with officials from SCH, KHUH, and BDF, exploring potential collaborations beyond student exchange.

The visit's focus was exploring ways to elevate the collaboration between the institutions at a university level. Lahey has expressed interest in accepting more RCSI Bahrain students each year for electives in new specialities. Lahey also discussed with hospitals possible residency and fellowship opportunities for Bahraini graduates.



SC2 students discussed their experience with clinical electives in the US

In November, Senior Cycle Two students Ms Aya Abdoh, Ms Nouran ElHenawy, Ms Sana Ahmad, Mr Iman Qureshi, Mr Salman Abdulhusain and Mr Farhan Rana shared their experiences of their clinical electives they undertook at prestigious institutions including Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and George Washington University in the United States.

Through these presentations, they not only shared their valuable clinical learnings but also fostered a spirit of curiosity among the attending students.



Winter 2023 highlights:

