

## MINISTER MEETS WITH FACULTY COUNCIL



Ensuring quality education, responsive to the needs of today's society and developing orchestrated integration of all education units in the Ministry of Health with those in the Kingdom are the challenges facing us today. H.E. The Minister provided these directions in his visit to the College on the 25 February 2003.

H.E. visit comes as part of a series of visits to the College. His vision of quality health services clearly starts with quality education and programs. The Dean presented the College's strategic directions for 2003-2005 that aimed at developing Nursing and Allied Health Education. Graduates will be the vital resources for attaining health and reaching targets. They form the backbone of the health system in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is imperative for a significant change to take place to reform the College and expand its function to become "University Colleges of Health Sciences". The Dean concluded by saying to move forward will require a significant shift and scaling up of requirements of staff, facilities and budget.

Visitors were invited to join the meeting - Prof. Zuhair Sebai, member of Shura Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, owner of Al Sebai Institutes and project leader for Amir Sultan University Colleges in Taif and Dr. Tawfik Khoja, the Executive Director of the Health Ministers Council for GCC States. The College faculty and the guest visitors exchanged challenges facing the health system in the Gulf.



## SHAIKHA SABEKA INVITES CHS FACULTY TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

H.H. Shaikha Sabeeka, President of the Supreme Council for Women invited the College Dean and faculty, Ms. Batool Al-Muhandis, Ms. Muna Buhaza and Ms. Raja Al-Qameesh to join hundreds of Bahraini women at her Al-Rawdah Palace on 8 March 2003 to attend a ceremony to celebrate International Women's Day. In her highness' address she stressed the Role of Women in Development of the Economy. Shaikha Sabeeka honored a number of women from different sectors for their outstanding role in managing their families and contributing to society's well being.

## CHS STUDENTS MEET THE MINISTER

Responding to a letter from CHS Students, H.E. The Minister of Health met with the students on 24 February. The student representatives were from all College Programs and from all levels. The meeting aimed at addressing students demands for improvement of the educational system and College facilities. The Minister acknowledged the importance of students' demands and he gave directions.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES TO BECOME A UNIVERSITY

A joint ministerial committee has been set up to explore ways of converting the College of Health Sciences into a full-fledged university with greater learning facilities catering to Bahrain's health manpower needs. The move will involve the Ministries of Health, Education, and Labor and Social Affairs. Health Ministry Under-secretary Dr. Abdulaziz Hamza will chair the new panel. The Dean is a member, and the Committee will include several officials from the three ministries.

*VISION WITHOUT ACTION is merely daydreaming.  
ACTION WITHOUT VISION is merely "marking time".  
VISION WITH ACTION is the only formula for SUCCESS.*

## EDITORIAL

We welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> monthly issue of the CHS Update. **The CHS Update is now being distributed to all areas of the MOH, to other organizations in Bahrain, and to several places outside Bahrain, as well as being available on the MOH website.** This month the College of Health Sciences was honored by a visit from the Minister of Health, Dr. Khalil Hassan, who met independently with the Faculty Council and again with a group of students. It was also announced that the College is to become a University. CHS will open the direct entry BSN program in the fall, and there are also new BS Programs in the planning stages. The College also participated in two exhibits and several conferences and international meetings. The CHS continues to work on establishing Policies and Procedures and continues work on numerous College Committees, as well as facilitating workshops and short courses for various groups of people. With all these commitments, we highly appreciate your contribution to the CHS Update. The CHS Update continues to receive lots of positive feedback from the readers. So, **remember** by contributing to this newsletter you are keeping everyone informed of your major contributions to further the development of the College of Health Sciences and the Ministry of Health. **DON'T FORGET THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

*Betty Popovich - CHS Newsletter and Publicity Committee*

### DIRECT GENERIC BSN PROGRAM TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2003

The CHS Nursing Division held a workshop on “Establishing Generic Baccalaureate and Post-Basic Nursing Program” on 23 March 2003 at the EDC. The workshop aimed to draw a framework for opening the direct entry BSN Program with Post-Basic Nursing specialization to encompass a range of competencies leaning towards primary and preventive care. Ms. Batool Al-Muhandis, Dr. Mouza Suwaileh, and Ms. Fatema A. Wahid facilitated the workshop. Dr. Mouza discussed the curriculum model and Ms. Fatema discussed the broad framework for the Macro-Curriculum. Ms. Batool gave an Overview about the Case-Based Curriculum, which was started in the Nursing Division in 1998. Ms. Batool directed Dr. Mouza to form a task force to develop an action plan regarding what is needed to open the Direct Generic BSN Program, along with a list of potential faculty with varied qualifications and experiences who will qualify to teach in the program. Participants were from the Nursing, Allied Health, English and Integrated Sciences Divisions at CHS, as well as representatives from various areas of the MOH and BDF.

### CHS TO OPEN NEW BS PROGRAMS IN ALLIED HEALTH

In line with the MOH and CHS strategies and WHO directions that Education of Health Professionals must find its rightful place in higher educational organizations, Mrs. Raja Al-Qameesh, Acting Chairperson of the Allied Health Division, has established teams to establish baccalaureate degree programs in Medical Laboratory and Pharmacy. Strategic and Operational Teams have been established for both programs consisting of staff from MOH, SMC, BDF, AMH, the private sector and various divisions/departments in CHS. Planned opening for the BS in Medical Laboratory Program is for the Academic Year 2004/2005 and for Pharmacy 2005/2006.

### ESTABLISHING DISPENSING OPTICIAN PROGRAM

CHS is contributing to solving the ever-increasing problem of unemployment in Bahrain. At the request of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the College will start a Dispensing Optician AD Program in 2004 in order to Bahrainize the profession which currently employs all expatriates. A team was formulated, consisting of CHS Allied Health, ISD and English Division faculty, SMC ophthalmologists, private opticians and Ministry of Labor officials, to draw up a contract between MOL and MOH. Students will be fully sponsored by the MOL or private stakeholders.

*Don't worry about what will happen if you get involved. Worry about WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T!*

### NEWSLETTER AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZES TWO EXHIBITS FOR CHS

The College recently participated in two exhibitions. The first, the **Gulf Education Exhibit** at the Gulf Hotel from 25-28 February 2003 was opened by the Minister of Education, Dr. Majid Al-Nuaimi. It was the First International Educational Fair to be organized in Bahrain and was designed exclusively for educational institutions to display their programs, services and facilities in order to create



a valuable link between educationists, potential students and parents in the Gulf to open up new channels of higher education worldwide. Many students and parents showed interest in CHS programs.

The College also participated in the Rotary sponsored **Career Expo 2003** from 17-19 March 2003 at the Bahrain Exhibition Center. The exhibit was aimed at increasing Bahraini students and jobseekers understanding of the world of work, job search, training and career development. It was opened by the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Dr. Majeed M. Al-Alawi, who visited the CHS booth and watched the students doing blood sugar testing and performing CPR. Thousands of students from the secondary schools in Bahrain attended the Career Expo. Also, many training institutes asked about CHS programs for future collaboration. Both exhibits were organized, planned and implemented by the CHS Newsletter and Publicity Committee volunteer faculty and students who worked in both of these exhibitions and helped to make them a success.



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### ITO NEWS

A group of nine international participants attended a workshop on ACLS and rhythm recognition during the First Primary Health Care Conference. **Ms. Amina Matoq** and **Dr. Amjad Obeid** conducted the workshop.

### CHS OFFERS SHORT COURSES

#### First Aid

In line with the Kingdom's preparation for war, a collaborative project between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education was established. Two groups of MOE social workers have recently successfully completed the practical and written examination on first aid. Classes were taught by a group of volunteers from SMC, CHS and one from the fire department at Civil Aviation Affairs. **Ms. Fatima Murtada** (CHS) and Rabab Hassan (CCU) supervised the course.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ARAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NURSING MEETING IN CAIRO EGYPT

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the Arab Advisory Committee for Nursing was held in Cairo, Egypt from the 16-18 February 2003. Participants discussed unifying accreditation system for nursing programs in the Arab countries; strategies to overcome the shortage of nurses and nurse educators and migration of nurses to western countries; the experience of BSc completion programs in Bahrain, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates; and the role of the Arabic Nurse during emergencies and disaster.



**Dr. Mouza Suwaileh, Ms. Badria Al-Kuwaiti and Ms. Fatema A. Wahid** from the MOH attended the meeting. Dr. Mouza presented a paper about the Bahrain experience with the BSc completion program. **Dr. Fariba Al-Darazi**, former Director of Training at the MOH, presented a paper on the role of WHO to overcome the shortage and migration of nurses.

Members worked in groups to identify the reasons and strategies to overcome the problem and to draw up guidelines for accreditation of programs and institutions. At the end of the meeting, eleven recommendations were identified and will be forwarded to the Arab Ministers of Health Council. Members also recommended issues to be discussed in the next meeting. They include Continuing education and specialization in nursing and drawing a strategic plan of action for the Committee.

## STUDENT MULTI PURPOSE ACTIVITY HALL

In line with the College of Health Sciences efforts aimed at developing the services provided to its students and improving student life and extra curricular activities, the College has strived to gain the Ministry of Health's preliminary approval to construct a student Multi-Purpose Activity Hall above the present cafeteria.

Of the several meetings conducted with Ministry of Health officials, the last meeting took place on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003, with the Associate Dean, **Dr. Amal Akleh**; **Mr. Khatem Al-Asmawi** from the MOH Directorate of Engineering; **Dr. Wedad Al-Banna**, **Mrs. Naseema Al-Arrayed**, and a student, **Mr. Mahmood Saleh**. Amendments to the preliminary drawing of the Multi-Purpose Hall were made. Some of these amendments include the addition of 2 meeting rooms, stage area, prayer rooms, student restrooms, in addition to enlarging the main hall to accommodate about 200 students expected to attend different student activities.

The Hall is expected to host most of the College activities such as cultural, sports and social student functions, scientific forums organized by the Student Committee, in addition to College entrance examinations and orientation day. The final draft of the Hall map will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health for funding the project.

## FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

- **Nadia Adbahi** attended an International Conference on Women and Children in Bangkok, Thailand that was sponsored by McMaster University on the "Impact of Global Issues on Women and Children" from 16-21 February 2003. She presented a paper on the "History of Child Abuse and Neglect in Bahrain".
- **Betty Popovich** has seven of her photos of Historic Doors of Muharraq published in the March/April 2003 issue of *Bahrain Confidential*. She also placed fourth, fifth and sixth in recent monthly competitions at the Awali Photographic Society with photos of a sunset, a close-up of an old Bahrain door lock and a flower garden. We congratulate her on her success.
- **Ms. Zahraa A. Al-Hassan Al-Saegh** recently joined the College as the new Secretary in the Educational Development Center (EDC). We welcome her and wish her all the best in her new position.
- **Awatif Al-Ahmed** (Dean's office) and **Amira A. Majeed Ali** (English Dept) were sponsored by the MOH to attend a 3-day workshop in the evenings at the Regency Hotel that was organized by the Bahrain Secretary's Association.
- CHS recently received a certificate from HID in recognition of their active participation in developing the HID policies and new strategies.
- **Rabab Abbas Moh'd** transferred from SMC to CHS to become the ITO secretary. Her office is in the new auditorium building. Please welcome her to the College.
- We all remember **Dr. Tolo Dudani**. He sent his greetings to everyone at CHS inquiring whether he can rejoin our College. We might soon have Dr. Dudani back on our reopen the Public Health AD Program.



## INTERNATIONAL DIABETIC NEWS

Congratulations to **Ms. Kawther Taitoon** who has been selected as International Researcher to review diabetic research abstracts on a newly allocated web site. Kawther Taitoon (IDF/EMME Region Supervisor for Diabetic Education) was also invited by the Endocrinology Metabolism Research Center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences to conduct a workshop for nurses on the "Psychological Aspects of Diabetes" during the Second International Diabetic Update Seminar. She also presented a session on diabetic education for a group of physicians. She has been active in the international arena of diabetes since 1994. For further information, she can be contacted at CHS on Ext. 5233. Kawther recommends "*Check your Blood Sugar every 6 months.*"

## DIVISION/DEPARTMENT NEWS

### English Department

Seventy-five candidates from the Ministry of Labor will take the GCPT 2 exam at the English Department in order to join the Health Care Assistants Program.

A "conversation course" will be launched in September 2003 for MOH employees. This course is purely for improving speaking, and the candidates should be at least at an intermediate level to join the course. For further information, contact the English Dept. on Ext. 6673.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Dean, Ms. Batool Al-Muhandis established a CHS Emergency Preparedness Committee to prepare for any national crisis or emergency in order to safeguard the well being of CHS students and staff. The Committee is chaired by Ms. Rula Al-Saffar, Ag. Head of Emergency Nursing Program and a member of the MOH crises intervention team. The Committee will prepare an Action Plan, which will include communication and warning systems, evacuation procedures, first-aid preparations, and training of faculty and students. Members include Muyassar Sabri, Mahbooba Zainal, Hala Toorani, Fatima Jamali, Fatima Murtada, Dr. Suad A. Sadiq, Dr. Wedad Al-Banna, Raja Al-Qameesh, Dr. Ayda A. Aziz, Abbas Khatem, Dr. Adel S. Dairi, Gitarani Ponnuchamy, Manijeh Mistry and Betty Popovich.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Recruitment Committee

Now that programs are being upgraded to BS levels, CHS is in the process of recruiting highly qualified faculty. Dr. Amal Akleh, Chairperson of the Recruitment Committee is actively working with her team to recruit new staff to teach in College programs. Advertisements have appeared in both the Arabic and English newspapers for Lecturers in Physiology, Anthropology, Sociology, Biochemistry, Biostatistics, Dental Hygiene and English. For further information, contact Dr. Amal on Ext. 6663.

## CHS READINESS FOR ON-LINE LEARNING

The Dean formulated an E-Learning Committee, chaired by Dr. Adel Diari, to Assess CHS Faculty Readiness to implement on-line learning. Members include Layla Moh'd Hussain and Denzil Browne from EDC, Rula Al-Saffar from Nursing, and Heyam Hazeem from HID. Fifteen CHS faculty members were surveyed regarding this matter. The results of the survey indicated that, based on the current situation, CHS is not ready to adapt on-line learning because the infrastructure at CHS needs upgrading, as well as most faculty need IT training. CHS will continue working with Edutech to develop a plan for E-learning at CHS, as well as working with HID to identify needs and upgrade the College's infrastructure. At the same time, the Library Programs Support Committee and the CHS Information /Education Technology Review Committee have started "Hands-on" Internet Workshops for CHS Faculty to train them on the use of IT. The first workshop on "Internet Search Tools" was conducted on 24-25 March. Please contact Dr. Adel, Ext. 5333 or Abbas Al-Khatem for further information.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank everyone for their contributions to the latest edition of the CHS Update. We apologize to anyone whose article had to be held over till the next issue due to lack of space. **Don't forget, the deadline for the April CHS Update is 15 April 2003.** Submit your news **NOW!** Try to keep the articles as brief as possible. We reserve the right to edit articles to fit the space. With everyone's contributions and support, we will continue to keep everyone informed and at the same time, market CHS!

## CHS STUDENTS HOLD ANNUAL OPEN DAY



The CHS Annual Student Open Day was held on 3 March 2003 in the CHS garden. Lamees Alamqhwee, a student and the Dean, Ms. Batool Al-Muhandis gave speeches. Many activities were carried out, such as knowledge games and art competitions, charity dish, raffles, and football. Several commercial exhibitors participated, selling accessories and pottery. Proceeds from all the activities, raffles and exhibitors were given to the Needy Student Fund. Nearly one hundred prizes were awarded to the students and faculty for the games and the raffle. Besides the prizes purchased by the College, other prizes came from IT Camp International, who donated five IT training courses worth BD140 each; Al-Hyatt, who donated 100 English language classes worth BD15 each; and Al-Ayam Press and Publications, who donated five 6-month newspaper subscriptions, five 6-month subscriptions to Sada Al-Asabua magazine and five 6-month subscriptions to Panorama Al-Khaleej. Most of the students and faculty participated and enjoyed the day and had lots of fun.



## COMING EVENTS

- Students and faculty at CHS will stage a peaceful anti-war rally on Wednesday **2 April 2003** at 12:30 pm in front of the CHS Auditorium.
- A representation from the Civil Defense will give a presentation to students on Monday, **7 April 2003** regarding preparing for disasters.
- CHS and AGU are collaborating to give a workshop entitled "Ethical Principles for Health Professionals: A Joint Workshop for Medical and Nursing Students on **10 April 2003** at AGU.

## March CHS Update Team

Betty Popovich, EDC – Editor-in-Chief/Writer/Reporter  
Layla Moh'd Hussein, EDC – Design and Production  
Denzil Browne, EDC – Design and Production  
Muyassar Sabri Jaber, Nsg. – Reporter  
Eman Al-Tawash, Nsg – Reporter