

Countdown to RCSI Bahrain's 2013 Conferring Ceremony

Preparations for the fourth conferring ceremony at RCSI Bahrain are well underway. On June 10th, more than 200 students from the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing and the School of Postgraduate Studies will be conferred in the presence of their families, friends and faculty. It is the biggest day in the University's calendar and a number of exciting new developments are taking place this year.

Four new awards will be presented in recognition of professors who have made outstanding contributions to RCSI Bahrain. The perpetual Jim Finucane Prize in Medicine is in honour of Professor Finucane who is in honour of John who retired at the end of last year. The final award is in honour of Professor Niall O'Higgins and will be known as the Niall O'Higgins Prize in Surgery. A prize in nursing will also be given out.

For the first time, the ceremony will also be broadcast live on the internet. This will enable relatives and friends who can't attend, to watch the day's events online, minute-by-minute. In order to accommodate additional guests, the ceremony will also be shown live in the University's two main lecture theatres.

The 2013 ceremony will be held at the RCSI Bahrain campus under the patronage of His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister. The VIP guest list includes a number of Bahrain's prominent figures as well as representatives of various RCSI Bahrain Stakeholders.

Preparations for the event began several weeks ago with the conferring team working on many different aspects. Invitations were designed, gowns have been ordered, school dinners have been planned, media representatives have been contacted and different companies have been hired.

Under the expertise of a professional events contractor and skilled designers, the Sports and Recreation Centre will be transformed for the ceremony. During the event-planning, details have been under continuous review, with many different ideas being brought to the table.

A production company has also been hired to provide the live feed to the University's two main lecture theatres. Through still photography and DVD coverage, the production company and professional photographers will document the ceremony.

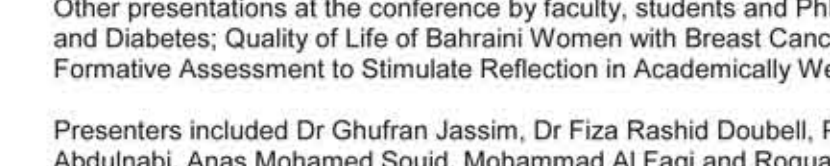
In the run up to the June 10th conferring, each School will host a dinner in honour of the graduating classes. The School of Nursing dinner will take place in The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel on Wednesday June 5th from 7pm. The School of Medicine will hold its dinner in the Sheraton Hotel on Thursday June 6th from 7pm.



Staff celebrate Interim President's appointment

On April 30th, Staff gathered in the staff room on the 30th of April to congratulate Professor Sameer Oloom on his recent appointment as Interim President, RCSI Bahrain. A card signed by staff and a cake were presented to Professor Oloom who said that he was delighted to have been appointed Interim President and that he was looking forward to working with everyone on all aspects of the University and in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

A native of Jordan, Professor Oloom joined RCSI Bahrain in 2005, in 2007 he was promoted to Professor and was appointed as the Head of the School of Medicine. He became Dean of RCSI Bahrain in 2009 and in 2012, he was appointed as Vice President for Academic Affairs.



Challenges and opportunities for research discussed at Conference

The School of Postgraduate Studies and Research organised a conference called "Challenges and Opportunities for Research at RCSI" on April 30th. The keynote speaker, Professor Ray Stallings, Director of Research at RCSI Dublin spoke about the challenges facing research and research funding in RCSI.

During the talk he spoke about his personal interest in the research of neuroblastoma genetics. He also highlighted recent research success stories in RCSI Dublin, Ireland.

Collaborations between RCSI Dublin and RCSI Bahrain have been sought over the years and are beginning to bear fruit, such as 'The SODIS project in RCSI Bahrain', presented by Professor Kevin Mc Guigan.

Later this year, The Solar Disinfection of Water project will commence in RCSI Bahrain under the supervision of Dr Michael Keogh, which will build on this successful area of research that has continued in RCSI Dublin for 20 years.

Other presentations at the conference by faculty, students and PhD candidates, covered topics such as Sickle Cell Disease and Diabetes; Quality of Life of Bahraini Women with Breast Cancer; Nursing as a Career Choice in Bahrain, and Using Formative Assessment to Stimulate Reflection in Academically Weak First-Year Undergraduate Medical Students.

Presenters included Dr Ghufuran Jassim, Dr Fiza Rashid Doubell, PhD candidate, Eman Tawesh and medical students, Ali Abdulnabi, Anas Mohamed Souid, Mohammad Al Faqih and Roquayya Mohsen Shehab.

During his visit, Professor Stallings met with colleagues at KHUH, BDF and AGU and also with SBI Pharma to discuss research interests and collaborations.

The School of Postgraduate Studies and Research would like to thank the Medical Research Society for its assistance at this event.

Staff research paper published in BMC Cancer Journal

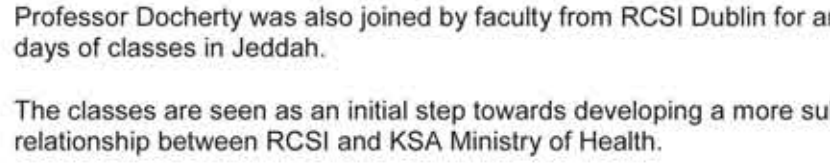
Dr Ghufuran Jassim and Professor David Whitford recently published a paper called "Quality of Life of Bahraini Women with Breast Cancer: a cross sectional study" in the BMC Cancer Journal.

The objective of their study was to describe the quality of life of Bahraini women with breast cancer and its association with their socio-demographic and clinical data.

The paper concluded that Bahraini survivors of breast cancer reported favourable overall global quality of life. It also reported that factors which significantly reduced the quality in some aspects of life included the presence of metastases, having had a mastectomy as opposed to a lumpectomy and a shorter time-lapse since diagnosis.

The poorest functioning was noted in the emotional and sexual domains. The most bothersome symptoms were fatigability, arm symptoms and upset due to hair loss.

This study identifies the categories of women at risk of a poorer quality of life after breast cancer and associated issues that most need to be addressed in this Middle Eastern society.



News in Brief

Congratulations to Professor Naseem Ansari who was the international speaker at the Dermatology Symposium at the College of Medicine in the University of Dammam recently. His lecture: An Overview of Five Dermatological Entities That Have Been Described in Recent Years, emphasised clinical and histopathological features.



Farewell and Best of Luck to Professor Jim Finucane

James (Jim) Finucane was brought up in Limerick, Ireland and went to medical school at University College Cork. He graduated with distinction and also took a year out to do a Bachelor of Science degree (BSc) in Physiology.

His postgraduate work was initially in Cork and he then worked in many of the famous hospitals in London. He also spent a number of years in research at the University of Birmingham, England. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London and Ireland. He has an M.D. degree, awarded for his work in endocrinology.

At an early age, Jim was appointed consultant physician/endocrinologist to the Richmond Hospital in Dublin and later to Beaumont where the Richmond moved there. He was also appointed Professor in RCSI Dublin.

Regarded as a superb physician, his opinion was much sought-after in complicated medical cases. He was also a gifted teacher and is published widely in his field of endocrinology.

In 2008, he was invited to set up the department of Medicine in RCSI Bahrain and was appointed to the foundation chair of Medicine. Again, his teaching skills have been recognised by students who have graduated from RCSI Bahrain over the past four years. This year, to mark his achievements, RCSI Bahrain is pleased to introduce the perpetual Jim Finucane Prize in Medicine.

In recognition of his contribution to education in Bahrain, Jim was recently listed in the Gulf Insider's Top 100 Leaders in Bahrain.

Jim plays golf to a high level. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of politics, films, pop music and a wide variety of sport. He is a great fan of the Rolling Stones and proudly relates that in his earlier days, he attended some of their most memorable and historic outdoor concerts. He also idolises the famous Irish hurler Christy Ring.

Jim is a hugely engaging companion with an inexhaustible fund of stories. RCSI Bahrain will certainly miss him when he leaves at the end of this academic year. All of the staff, his students and his many friends here wish him a long and happy retirement.

Joe McMenamin, Head of School of Medicine

RCSI involved in improving clinical nurse skills in Saudi Arabia

Staff from RCSI Bahrain and RCSI Dublin have carried out a series of master classes aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of Clinical Nurse Trainers in Saudi Arabia. 35 participants from around Saudi Arabia completed the first three-day programme, which was carried out by Professor Charles Docherty, Catherine Abou-Zaid and Orla Merrigan in Riyadh.

Professor Docherty was also joined by faculty from RCSI Dublin for another three days of classes in Jeddah.

The classes are seen as an initial step towards developing a more substantial relationship between RCSI and KSA Ministry of Health.



Staff and Students take part in annual raft race

Staff and students took part recently in the annual Rotary Club of Sulmaniya Raft Race, which raised more than BD 34,000 for charity. The RCSI Bahrain team included team captain Ismail Al Awadhi, Ahmed Al Mousawi, Ali Mohammed, Prof. Martin Corbally, Omar Al Mitwalli, Dr. Angela Brunstein, Mary-Kate Corbally, Stephanie Hsu and Mehruinna Kaiser.

Supported by the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya, the raft race took place at Al Bander Hotel & Resort. Funds for the event were raised through sponsorship and team contributions. The 34,000BD raised will be directed to the Rotary Club's 'Healthy Kids for a Healthy Future' project, which promotes active and healthy lifestyles.



Student News

Should I spend my time doing clinical research?

'Yes' is definitely the answer.

Alli Abdulnabi Mohamed, President of the Medical Research Society (MRS) on the A to Z of doing research.

Whether you are interested in academic medicine as a career or you would like to be a researcher throughout your professional life, doing research as a medical or nursing student will always be of enormous benefit.

From generating the research idea until publishing your paper in a journal, there are many phases and a lot of skills to learn and improve.

Your critical thinking and problem-solving skills will help to build your research question. Once that is established, communication and interpersonal skills will be needed to approach a potential supervisor.

A research team can be important, so asking some friends and colleagues to come on board will boost your team skills.

You will meet frequently with your supervisor, you'll organise and divide the workload, collect the required data and work day and night for a few months to have the data collected and ready for analysis. This will help your meeting and time-management skills.

You analyse your results and you find something new – something nobody had discovered before!

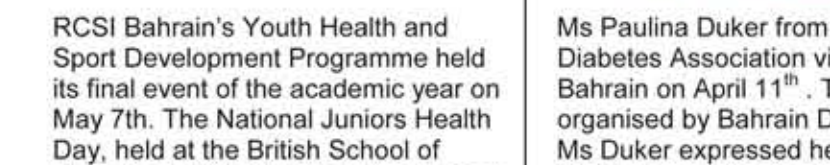
Writing skills are needed now, to write the paper and send it to journals for publication. Result! Many scholars around the globe can read your work and build on it.

You will then want to use and advance your presentation skills. Submit your paper to a conference and once it is accepted, you present it to scientists and professionals in the hope they find it valuable.

Working on research during the summer break or as an elective course, is a journey full of opportunities which helps develop different skills and expertise.

Research is highly encouraged at RCSI Bahrain and it is one of three strategic pillars of RCSI Bahrain's Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

In this supportive environment, there is the opportunity to discover yourself in a research project through which you can improve your clinical interest and choose your speciality for the future.



The Philanthropy Club held a fundraiser in collaboration with the Music Club on April 7th.

The music event raised more than BD300, which will be used to sponsor a kennel for a year at the Bahrain Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA).



The Philanthropy Club also held a Melanoma Awareness Campaign in collaboration with two schools, the British School of Bahrain and Naseem International School during March and April. The middle school children were asked to create awareness leaflets for skin cancer. On April 17th, a Melanoma Awareness Lecture was held in the Kevin O'Malley Lecture Theatre. Speakers included Professor Naseem Ansari and consultant dermatologist, Dr Heba Abdul-Wahab.

Student News

Medical Society the Big Winner at Student Awards

The Medical Society has scooped the top two awards at this year's Student Awards Ceremony.

The Society won the Best Club 2012/2013 Award and the Student's Choice Club of the Year Award at the third annual event, which was held in the Ritz Carlton Hotel on May 7th.

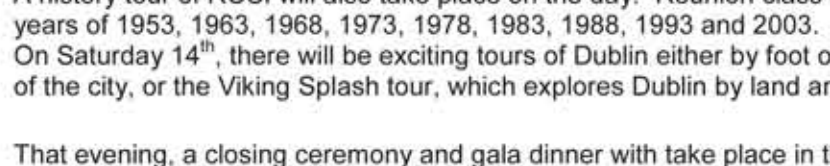
More than 100 students and staff attended the ceremony in the Hotel's Grand Ballroom of the Hotel where they were entertained by MC for the night, Fares Al Fares. The Student's Choice Awards were voted on by students while the Best Club and Best New Club Awards were chosen by a panel of judges which included Nour Al Khalifa, Adrian Lydon, Catherine Abou-Zaid, Aven Sidu and Tim Doubell. Other big winners on the night were the Art Society (Head, New Club) and the Friends of the Environment Society.

Student's Choice Club of the Year: Medical Society
Student's Choice Event of the Year: A Tree for our Future Campaign (Friends of the Environment Society)

Best New Club: Art Society

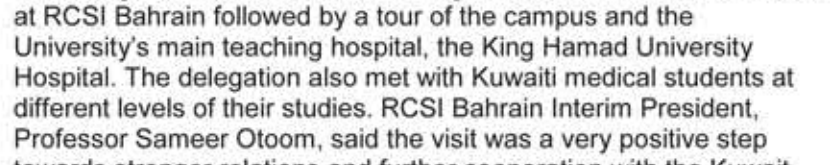
Best Club of 2012-2013
1st Place: Medical Society
2nd Place: Friends of the Environment Society
3rd Place: Philanthropy Club

Sports Awards:
Male Athlete of the Year: Stephanie Habib
Female Athlete of the Year: Anthony Hsu
Team of the Year: Men's Football Team
Alex Rodrigues Award: Karim Abdalla



Talent Show a Huge Success

The RCSI Bahrain Student Council Talent Show 2012 - 2013 was a great success! Students and staff gathered for the event, which was held in the beautiful poolside area of the Seef Residence Hotel. On the night there were some great performances. The overall winner was Omar Tamimi for his monologue of Alec Baldwin in Glengarry Glen Ross. Second place went to Mona Al Banna for an a capella version of Be My Husband. Stephanie Hsu, Alex Rodrigues and Hazem Al Mas Duker expressed their love for their rendition of Everybody Talks.



For a second year running, the North American Student's Association held an Ice-Skating Event. Over 30 students took part and many who started as beginners ended the night as great skaters.

Congratulations to the American Medical Student Association - RCSI Bahrain chapter, which has received official recognition from the American Medical Student Association in the United States.

Department name? Student Services

Location? First Floor, Room 130 **Number of staff?** 2

What we do in a nutshell? We do everything in relation to student life. We look after visas, organising and planning student events and looking after all aspects of student life at RCSI Bahrain.

About Student Services? Student Services is a small but busy office. We provide advice on accommodation, visas, organising and planning student events and we provide general advice on living and studying in Bahrain.

A day in the life of the Department? Meeting with students, parents, coordinating and planning events, liaising with the various clubs and societies as well as the Student Council on student-related events and activities, working on the exchange student programme and corresponding in regards to student visas and passports.

Meet the Team
Name? Nouf Al Khalifa and Sara Al Mahdi
Where are you from? Bahrain
How long are you working in RCSI Bahrain? 4 years
What are you responsible for? Most of the student-related matters in regards to visas and extracurricular activities.



RCSI Gathering 2013

A Celebration of RCSI - Past, Present and Future
12th - 14th of September 2013

Throughout 2013, Ireland is opening its arms to hundreds of thousands of friends and family from all over the world for gatherings in its villages, towns and cities. From September 12th to 14th, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) will welcome our alumni and friends of the College to RCSI and to Ireland for the RCSI Gathering.

The RCSI Gathering is a three-day event taking place in RCSI Dublin. It will kick off on Thursday September 12th with a 'Whistle-Stop Tour' of some of Ireland's most beautiful attractions, including the Japanese Gardens and Russborough House. There will also be an option to play golf on one of Ireland's best golf courses at Carton House. That evening, celebrations will be held in Dublin's Convention Centre.

On Friday 13th, a scientific meeting will be held in RCSI. The focus of the conference is 'International Higher Education: New Horizons for Ireland' and will feature renowned national and international speakers. A history tour of RCSI will also take place on the day. Reunion class dinners will take place on Friday evening for the Alumni years of 1953, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003.

On Saturday 14th, there will be exciting tours of Dublin either by foot or by sea. Take a Sea Safari trip of Dublin Bay, a walking tour of the city, and the Viking Splash tour, which explores Dublin by land and by sea.

That evening, a closing ceremony and gala dinner will take place in the Convention Centre. For further details, visit the RCSI Bahrain and RCSI websites.

Kuwait delegation visits RCSI Bahrain

A delegation formed by the Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education conducted a one day site visit to RCSI Bahrain on Monday April 29th. The delegation, led by Dr. Adel Khodor Ayed who is the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University, included members from the Ministry of Higher Education as well as senior academic and administrative staff from various faculties at Kuwait University.

The delegation met with senior management and administrative staff at RCSI Bahrain followed by a tour of the campus and the University's main teaching hospital, the King Hamad University Hospital. The delegation also met with Kuwaiti medical students at different levels of their studies. RCSI Bahrain Interim President, Professor Sameer Oloom, said the visit was a very positive step towards stronger relations and further cooperation with the Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education.

Social and Personal

Congratulations to **Bindu Nair** (Learning Resource Centre) on the arrival of a little baby girl, Anugraha, which means Blessing.

Well done to Professor Andrew Curtain who recently took part in the London Marathon and raised money for and awareness of his chosen charity, the Wellbeing of Women.

Arrivals and Departures

A big welcome to **Kim Dewhurst** who has started work as Student Recruitment & Admissions Officer and to **Sara Al Khunizi** who recently joined the College as a temporary part-time Academic Support Tutor.

Congratulations to **Khadija Abdulla Shaikh** who has taken up the role of Admissions Officer. Khadija had previously worked in reception.

Sadly, **Kevin Culligan** will be soon leaving the College shortly. RCSI Bahrain would really like to thank him for his great contribution to the College and wishes him all the best for the future.

Carol Chalmers worked with us for a relatively short while in her role as Immunisation Coordinator and sadly, she left RCSI Bahrain last month to return to her native Scotland.

Best of luck to **Rachel Towers** (Student Recruitment) who is also leaving RCSI Bahrain and moving to Doha.

Face your fears and chase your anxieties

RCSI Bahrain is hosting Felicity Heathcote's "Peak Performance Programme – Part II". It will take place on June 9th, in Room 330, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

This two-hour interactive, follow-up workshop promises to empower your ideas and maximise your performance in everyday life events.

The workshop will be of value to educators, administrators and clinical staff. Places are limited and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Register by contacting Sultan at smuhammad@rcsi-mub.com

Photography Competition Winner

Congratulations to Debbie Conception (Head of Finance) who is this month's winner of the photo competition with her entry called 'Happiness'. This month's theme was summer holidays and we think that her entry captures what summer is all about. Thank you to everyone who entered this month's competition, which will return again in the next issue of Connected in September. Have a great summer everyone!

We encourage staff to submit items for the next edition of RCSI Bahrain Connected to the Communication Office at: communications@rcsi-mub.com