ICME
International Conference
On Medical Education
RIPHAH
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
Major General (Retd.)
Muhammad Zulfiqar Ali Khan, (Late)

TI(M), TBt.

The Visionary & Chancellor of Riphah International University

Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan

Chancellor of Riphah International University
CEO Ras Al Khaimah College of Dental Sciences

Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad

Vice Chancellor of Riphah International University

Major General (Retd.)
Professor Masood Anwar

Dean FHMS
Chairman Organizing Committee ICME
Riphah International University
Riphah International University Mission:

Maj Gen (Retd) Muhammad Zulfiqar Ali Khan TI(M), SBt (Late), the founder of Armed Forces/National Institute of Cardiology in Rawalpindi, a great visionary in Education and Healthcare established Islamic International Medical College Trust (IIMCT) in 1995 with a mission of establishing state of the art educational institutions with a focus on inculcating Islamic ethical values. The first Institution established by the Trust was Islamic International Medical College in 1996.

Riphah International University was established in 2002 by Islamic International Medical College Trust (IIMCT) in order to foster and promote the mission of the Trust. President of Pakistan is the patron and Maj. Gen Mohammad Zulfiqar Ali Khan TI (M), SBt. (Retd) (late) was the first and founding Chancellor of Riphah International University. Renowned educationist and scholar Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad is the Vice Chancellor. In addition to three campuses in Pakistan University owns Ras Al Khaimah College of Dental Sciences in UAE and runs programs in Mauritius and Somaliland as well. Its medical programs have been ranked by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan as 5th among all universities and second among private universities of Pakistan. Its high standards of Quality Enhancement have been ranked second in Asia.

Riphah Academy of Research and Education (RARE) Mission:

The university has successfully completed 14 years of its existence with a number of achievements in academics, research and other curricular and co-curricular activities. RIPHAH is committed to quality education and training with high priority for research and development. Riphah invests heavily in research & faculty development and has developed for this purpose Riphah Academy for Research and Education (RARE) in 2006. The mission statement of RARE reads; “The RARE shall be dedicated to conduct and dissemination of research, production of ideas, capacity building and grooming of researchers and educationists with a holistic and integrated vision of life. It will also be responsible for quality assurance in research & education in line with the world standards and university’s vision”.

Riphah International University under the auspices of RARE is one of the pioneers in introducing reforms in Medical Education in Pakistan. It invited a number of renowned scholars in the field of Medical Education and Ethics to conduct scores of workshops, seminars and short courses. This vast interaction culminated in idea of establishing International Conference on Medical Education.

International Conference On Medical Education (ICME):

The mission of International Conference on Medical Education is “to provide a credible platform for bringing together World leading Experts on Medical Education and Educators from all over the world to prepare them adopt recent innovations and standards in medical education so that the product from Institutions in their countries matches and competes with the product from similar Institutions in developed world”.

The first ICME was organized in 2009 in Islamabad-Pakistan. It was a great success and its recommendations were implemented by Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

It was decided that the conference will be a biennial event and will be organised also in other developing, particularly Muslim, countries who require support in implementing reforms in Health Profession Education.
ICME OBJECTIVES:

• To provide an international environment of learning and professional development.

• To provide a credible forum and creating communities of practice for health professionals, leaders, scholars, educators, clinicians, policy makers, and organizations by sharing their experiences, scholarly work, and future challenges in health professions education.

• To promote collaboration and strengthen liaison between medical schools internationally through exchange of research ideas, viewpoints and experiences in health professions education.

• To appraise the trends and opportunities confronting health professions education both nationally and internationally.

• To share the challenges & issues in; growth of knowledge, societal issues, technology evolution, student’s involvement and support in curriculum, health care reform, accreditations, faculty development and social accountability.

• To provide opportunity to identify international standards and prepare the health professionals according to that but in local context.

• To develop strategies and recommendations to cope with the future context based challenges by using the best evidence based medical education.
First International Conference ICME 2009 was held from January 2009 in Islamabad - Pakistan. The theme of the conference was “Trends in Medical Education”. It received patronage from all major stake holders in Health Profession and Health Profession Education. These included Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan, World Health Organisation and all Universities of Pakistan with Medical Faculty.

The conference was inaugurated by his Excellency Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who in his opening remarks emphasized the urgent need to initiate and sustain the reform process in medical education in the country and region. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister / In charge of Higher Education Commission, Dr. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, elaborated the changes in medical education which are assuming global significance and concluded that it was high time “to produce doctors to fulfill the expectations of the society, to cope with the exponential growth of medical and scientific knowledge, to inculcate physician’s ability for lifelong learning, to ensure mastery in information technology, and to orient medical education to innovations in health care delivery systems, with emphasis on ethical values”.

Although it was the first conference of its nature yet there were 600 registered participants from all over the country as well as from abroad. There were 11 keynote addresses from leading experts from home and abroad. Guests from abroad included world leading experts on medical education e.g., Prof Ara Tekian.
There were 54 oral presentations and 31 poster presentations from researchers of Pakistan and abroad.

This was a great achievement and endorsement for the medical education community and it was a matter of honor that the world was eager and ready to listen to what the region had to offer in terms of innovations in education and scholarship. The enthusiasm of the participants was overwhelming.

The most important achievement of the conference was that HEC and PMDC declared that medical education will be recognized as an essential entity in medical and other health professions institutions and will be considered as a specially for the faculty. Faculty will be encouraged to specialize in this field. Experience in this field will be given due recognition by PMDC.

Following were the recommendations extracted from the proceedings of the ICME-2009:
1) Formal teaching and assessment of Professional Ethics should be made an integral part of undergraduate as well as postgraduate training.

2) Curriculum of Medical Colleges should be reformed in line with international guidelines and practices.

3) Continuous review and evaluation of the programme shall be made mandatory and reinforcement of this will be the responsibility of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.
4) Assessment design should be objectively structured to limit subjectivity and to increase reliability.

5) Primary Healthcare & Geriatrics should be introduced and integrated at an early stage in the undergraduate Curriculum.

6) There is need to properly design and develop residency training programme with small research projects.

7) For successful accomplishment of the above mentioned objectives it is mandatory to work towards developing competent and skilled faculty. Therefore it is imperative to conduct and facilitate faculty development programs at national level.

The mission of the ICME 2009, triggering the process of reforms in Medical Education in Pakistan was fully accomplished. Coming years saw more and more institutions moving towards integrated, student centered and outcome based curriculum. More and more faculty members sought formal qualifications in medical education which paved way for introduction of indigenous health profession education programmes by several universities.
After the great success of ICME 2009, it was decided to hold the next conference in another country of the region. Next conference was due in 2011 but was prepared to December 2010 to celebrate as the centennial anniversary of Abraham Flexner’s monumental report published in 2010 that initiated reforms in medical education. The conference was co-sponsored by Health Authority of Abu Dhabi. Ruler of Abu Dhabi, his Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan was the Patron of the Conference. The theme of the conference was “Beyond Flexner: A Roadmap for Excellence in Health Professions Education”.

All stakeholders both from Pakistan and UAE collaborated and sponsored the conference. These include Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan, Ras Al Khaima Medical and Health Sciences University, and Ras-Al-Khaima College of Dental Sciences, Sharjah UAE.

Other world leading educationalists who delivered state-of-the-art lectures in the conference included Henk Schmidt, Madalena Patricio, John Boulet, Thomas J. Nasca and Glen Regehr. There were two pre-conference courses, ESME and FAME conducted by Prof. Ronald Harden and Prof. John Norcini. Over 350 delegates of 26 nationalities attended the Conference. In addition, there were four conference workshops conducted by Janet Grant, Hossam Hamdy, Dan Hunt and Steven L. Kanter. Conference had 9 Keynote addresses and four scientific sessions and poster viewing sessions.
Following recommendations emerged from the proceedings 1. The role of the medical teacher is pivotal and quality of the teacher is even more important than the educational strategy or approach adopted in the curriculum. The 21st century attributes of an 'excellent' teacher should comprised of range of technical competencies that are necessary to fulfill his or her role at workplace.

2. Flexner’s ideas of student orientated, active learning, and of the need to forge a closer learning relationship between the science and the practice of medicine, have been accompanied by the emergence of evaluation based on qualitative data with quantitative date being relegated to a secondary position.

3. The Flexner Report has significant progress in assessment on three fronts. First, a plethora of new methods of assessment has been developed with the goal of being able to measure all aspects of physician competence. Second, the computer has become an integral part of testing. Third, research on assessment in medical education has identified several ways of improving the validity and reliability of scores.

4. Students graduating from schools with innovative educational programs in health professions education are expected to be more skilled in interpersonal communication, are thought to be better problem-solvers, and would be better prepared for self-directed, lifelong, learning and the graduates are better able to retain relevant knowledge. This need to be tested out through rigorous research.

5. The process of institutional self-review (as opposed to more high stakes accreditation) can bring about significant reform. The WFME standards continue to provide a useful framework to consider all medical education activities and to engage faculty.

6. All international medical graduates (IMGs) must be certified by ECFMG to be eligible to enter accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs in the United States.

7. Accreditation can be a tool for quality assessment/improvement, regulation, as well as serve as an agent of social change.
After the success of ICME 2010 in Abu Dhabi, the forum decided to further its sphere to African continent. The third conference in the series (ICME-2013) was organized in 2\textsuperscript{nd} - 5\textsuperscript{th} October, 2013, at the picturesque location of Mauritius with the theme "Health Professions Education: Aspiring for Excellence".

Main collaborators for the conference were Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology from Mauritius, Minister of Health Mauritius, Tertiary Education Commission, Higher Education Commission Pakistan and Government of Pakistan (through its High Commission in Mauritius) from Pakistan, Ras-Al-Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University from UAE and Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) from UK.

The event comprised two days of Pre - Conference Courses and Workshops and three days of the main conference. There were two Pre conference courses, ESME and Master Class on Computer Enhanced Learning conducted by Prof Ronald Harden and John Sandars respectively. The scientific programme covered a wide variety of topics including ethics and professionalism in medical practice, curriculum design, faculty development, innovations in medical education, assessment and evaluation, quality assurance and accreditation, social accountability and other issues of current importance and interest. The topics were addressed in eight Pre Conference Workshops, two Conference Workshops, six Symposia and scientific sessions.
Conference received 202 abstracts from 36 countries of which, after peer review, 181 were accepted. These were presented in 13 parallel sessions. The scientific programme was so rich that it was granted 29 credits from the European Accreditation Council for CME Credits.

The conference was attended by more than 270 participants from different countries. There were a total of 42 invited experts who organized courses, facilitated workshops, delivered key note addresses in plenaries and participated in symposia. They hailed from Singapore, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Mauritius, South Africa, Canada and United States of America. The conference received full support and endorsement from Association of Medical Education for Europe who participated with a six member strong team.

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr Rajeshwar Jeetah, Minister for Tertiary Education, Science, Research & Technology Republic of Mauritius. In his opening address he expressed the resolve to keep striving for better health indices for the Mauritian people.

He commended the leadership of Riphah International University who chose Mauritius for such an exciting event which is exactly in line with the policy of the Government of Mauritius who is striving to promote Mauritius as a regional Centre for Health and Medical Education with the objective of enhancing quality of scientific and ethical standards in medical education.

Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun and Ex-President of Mauritius Mr. Cassim Muteen attended the conference as an ordinary delegate.

The Honourable Lormus Bundhoo, Minister for Health and Quality of Life graced the occasion as Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony highlighted the policy of the Government of Mauritius to develop Mauritius into a hub of quality health sciences education. He also highlighted the steps taken by the Government to regulate Medical Education, Practice and Continuing Education of Health Professionals.
Following recommendations emerged from the ICME 2013 proceedings:

1. All countries (and their regulatory authorities) shall develop their own competencies for an MBBS graduate that should be suited to their requirements as well as universally acceptable.

2. Developing countries should adapt to modern educational strategies as soon as possible and developed countries should come forward to help them. Conferences like this may help to achieve this objective.

3. It is desirable to develop curriculum indigenously rather than importing from somewhere else.

4. Faculty development is a pre-requisite to writing and implementing curriculum.

5. Innovative methods in accordance with local requirements may be employed in curriculum development.

6. Emphasis must be on development of communication skills, ethics and professionalism and inculcation of lifelong learning.

7. Assessment should be for learning rather than of learning.

8. Simulated patients as well as mechanical simulation are very effective in learning.
Fourth International Conference on Medical Education (ICME 2015) was held in the historic city of Istanbul at the cross roads of Europe and Asia in the picturesque venue of Halic Congress Center located on the bank of Golden Horn of Bosporus from 15 – 18 October, 2015. The theme of the conference was Future Challenges in Health Professions Education.

Ministry of Health of Turkey and Medipol University, Istanbul were the main partners in ICME 2015. Other partners who provided financial support as well were Necmattin Erbakan University – Konya, Bazmialam University – Istanbul, RAK College of Dental Sciences – UAE and Turkish Airlines. As usual main collaborator for ICME 2015 was Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE). Other collaborators include Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical & Dental Council, Istanbul University and Istanbul Medeniyet University.

The event comprised two days of Pre-Conference Workshops and Courses and three days of main conference. As on previous ICMEs, AMEE Experts conducted two courses, Essential Skills in Medical Education (ESME) and Essential Skills in Computer Enhanced Learning (ESCEL). There were 10 Pre-Conference Workshops conducted on various topics included in the objectives of the conference. In addition six workshops were conducted during the main conference.
Main conference comprised an Opening Ceremony, five plenaries, five symposia, 17 sessions of oral presentation, four of poster presentations and a closing ceremony.

There were a total of 32 invited scholars who conducted courses and workshops, participated in symposia and delivered plenary lectures. They came from Canada, USA, UK, Denmark, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

A total of 287 abstracts from 22 countries were received by the Scientific Committee. After peer review 136 were accepted for oral presentations and 35 for poster presentations.

Inaugural session was held in the afternoon of Friday, the 16th October. It was presided over by the First lady of Turkey, Madam Sara Davutoglu, who herself is a working Gynecologist. She flew in to Istanbul from Bursa, in spite of bad weather, in time for inauguration. In spite of her very busy schedule because of forthcoming national elections in Turkey she decided to stay with the delegates and participants during the first plenary by Prof. Ronald M. Harden. Opening ceremony was also attended by Honourable Dr, Mehmet Mouzzenoglu Minister of Health, Dr. Haci Omer Tontus General Director and other high officials of Ministry of Health, Turkey attended the opening ceremony. The ceremony was also graced by senior official of Pakistan Embassy, Rectors of Universities in Istanbul, and Deans of Medical Faculties in Istanbul and other parts of Turkey.

After recitation from Holy Quran Conference was declared open by the Chief Guest. In his brief introductory remarks, Prof. Masood Anwar, Chairman Organizing Committee thanked the Chief Guest for sparing time from her very busy schedule to inaugurate the conference. He gave facts and figures about ICME 2015 and lauded the contribution of Turkish partners in the conference. He particularly thanked the local Organizing Committee led by Prof. Zeki Sengil and ably assisted by Dr. Suleyman Yildirim with patronage of Prof. Sabahttin Ayedin Rector Medipol University, Istanbul.
Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Pro-Chancellor Riphah International University, in welcome address thanked Ministry of Health, Turkey for co-hosting ICME 2015 in Istanbul. He appreciated the assistance extended by Ministry of Health, Turkey, Medipol University, Istanbul and all Universities represented in Local Organizing Committee. He stressed upon collaboration for reforming curricula of Health profession Educational Institutions in order to align them with International standards for the benefit of all patients. Organizing International Conferences in Medical Education in different countries is a humble contribution from Riphah International University towards this collaboration effort.

Dr. Mehmet Muezznoglu, Minister of Health Turkey in his address in Turkish appreciated the initiative taken by Riphah International University to organize ICME 2015 in Istanbul. He desired that the collaboration for promotion of Health Professional’s Education must continue between Universities of Pakistan and Turkey.

Chief Guest, in her address in Turkish, highlighted the achievements of Turkey in the fields of Medicine and stressed upon need for reforming the Medical Education in order to produce world class doctors and health professionals to benefit the patients. She also welcomed the initiative taken by Riphah International University for organizing the conference for the benefit of Turkey Health Professionals and those from other parts of the world. She welcomed and thanked all the guest speakers and wished them a happy stay in Turkey.
Following recommendations emerged from the conference proceedings:

1. All Medical Schools shall adopt globally accepted basic and quality standards defined by WFME (World Federation of Medical Education).

2. Curricula of Medical Schools should adopt to their local context while benchmarking their educational program with WFME standards.

3. Social accountability in health profession education is an emerging concept globally and is a need of time and future. This should be incorporated in curricula.

4. Curriculum Reforms should be considered as perpetual and integral part of an ongoing process of integrated curriculum with no fixed goals and boundaries.

5. E-Learning should be promoted in Medical Schools Teaching and Learning.

6. Learning requirement of health profession students are on the increase and are resource intensive. At the same time there is growing concern for patient safety. Clinical Skills Labs and simulation centers can act as an effective resource for learning in place of actual patients.

7. In the background of newer educational tools the classical bed side teaching is declining. This still needs to be encouraged, using simulated patients as it is valuable source of teaching ethics and professionalism.

8. Assessment is an integral part of the educational process and brings a positive change in learning. Assessment should be enhanced through Virtual Learning Environment using Moodle or other similar programmes.

9. Feedback and reflection after each part of the curriculum module should be evaluated statistically to improve the next part of the course.

10. An international collaboration is required to help all Health profession Institution to reform their programmes in order to provide equally trusted health services across the globe.
Fifth International Conference on Medical Education (ICME) was held, in conjunction with Ottawa Conference 2018 in Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi, UAE from 10 – 14 March 2018. Although planned for 2017, it was delayed in order to have it conjoined with Ottawa Conferences which are traditionally held in first quarter of calendar year. The theme of ICME stream was “Reforming health professions education for better healthcare and patient safety” while theme of the Ottawa Conference stream was “Authentic assessment across the continuum of health professions education”.

Ministry of Tourism of UAE and ADNEC were the main partners whereas His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance was the Patron of the conference.

The conjoined conference was officially launched in Perth, Australia during Ottawa-ANHHPE held from March 19-23, 2016. An MOU was later signed between founder of ICME, Mr. Hassan M. Khan and co-founder of Ottawa Conferences, Prof Ronald M. Harden on June 30, 2016.

Objectives of the conjoined conference were:
• Share ideas on all aspects of assessment of competence in both clinical and non-clinical domains, throughout the continuum of the education.
• Share and develop Ottawa consensus group reports on various aspects of assessment.
• Share and develop ideas on designing curricula for achieving better healthcare and standards of patient safety.
• Maintain excellence by building a culture of educational scholarship and research.
• Executive Committee constituted for the conference, after visiting several options, selected Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center. An agreement, in this regard was signed with ADNEC on June 30, 2017.
In the meantime, after due deliberations Meeting Minds Dubai, UAE was selected as event manager of Ottawa – ICME 2018. The company was officially contracted on August 10, 2016. Various committees were formed to manage and oversee the arrangements for the conference. The committees included, Executive Committee chaired by Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Organizing Committee chaired by Professor Masood Anwar, Scientific Committee chaired by Professor Trudie Roberts, International Advisory Committee chaired by Professor Ronald Harden and UAE Organizing Committee chaired by Professor Mohammad Al Houqani.

Four pre-conference courses were contracted. These were ESME, FAME, ETIME and Educational Leadership. Invitation for Pre-Conference Workshops (PCW) and Conference Symposia were floated on Oct 12, 2017 with closing date of February 24, 2017. Total of 218 proposals were received for PCWs, of which 30 (20 in Ottawa stream and 10 in ICME stream) were selected by Scientific Committee. Off these five (one in Ottawa and 4 in ICME streams) were cancelled for various reasons.

Pre-conference Courses and Workshops
Four pre-conference courses were contracted. These were Essential Skills in Medical Education (ESME) by AMEE, Fundamentals of Assessment in Medical Education (FAME) by National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), ETIME and Educational Leadership.

Invitation for Pre-Conference Workshops (PCW) and Conference Symposia were floated on Oct 12, 2017 with closing date of February 24, 2017. Total of 218 proposals were received for PCWs, of which 30 (20 in Ottawa stream and 10 in ICME stream) were selected by Scientific Committee. Off these five (one in Ottawa and 4 in ICME streams) were cancelled for various reasons.

Oral and Poster Presentations and Conference Workshops
Abstracts for Oral and Poster presentations and Conference Workshops (CW) were invited on March 14, 2017 with closing date of September 30, 2017. The response was tremendous. In all, 944 (764 for oral and poster presentations and 180 for conference workshop) abstracts were received. Of these 409 were for ICME stream and
535 for Ottawa stream. After due process of review and grading scientific committee selected 73 CW (56%). Of 764 abstracts for presentations 649 (85%) were selected, 454 as oral and 195 as poster presentations. However only 479 (74% of accepted abstracts) registered for presentation and were included in the programme. Registered abstracts were assigned to 112 thematic sessions of oral presentations and 12 sessions of poster presentations spread over two and a half days conference proceedings. For this purpose, a number of themes were selected in both streams for submission of abstracts.

Educational Programme

Conference educational programme, besides two days of pre-conference courses and workshops comprised 4 plenary sessions, 10 conference symposia and 3 “What the Experts Say” sessions. Speakers in these sessions included Paul Barach, Cees van der Vleuten, Debra Klamen, Nivritti Patel, Ronald Harden, Mathew Gwee, Fadil Citaku, Stephanie Hering, Ahsan Sethi, Rahila Yasmin and Rehan Ahmed Khan. Notable feature of the conference was that four of the winners of prestigious Kerolinska Prize for research in medical education (Ronald Harden, John Norcini, Cees van der Vleuten and Brian Hodges) participated in the conference.

Registration Statistics

By the start of the conference a total of 940 delegates had registered. These included, besides guest speakers and committee members, faculty and students from over 60 countries from New Zealand in the east to USA in the west and UK in the north to Argentina in the south. Leading countries were UK (104), Thailand (77), Canada (76), USA (76), UAE (73), Pakistan (66), Australia (49) and Saudi Arabia (43).

A comprehensive programme book was made available both in soft and hardcopy forms to all the participants. A conference app was also developed and provided to all registered participants.

Opening Session

Conference began with Pre-conference courses and PCWs on March 10, 2018. Opening session of the conference was conducted on March 11, 2018 followed by welcome reception.

Opening session started with recitation from Holy Quran. Prof Masood Anwar, Chairman Organising Committee in his opening address welcomed the guest speakers and delegates and emphasized upon achieving the objectives of the conference. He thanked various committees, particularly UAE organizing committee for their devotion to make the conference a great success. He also thanked His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance for becoming the patron of the conference and Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau for the support in arranging the conference.

Prof Ronald M. Harden, co-founder Ottawa Conferences, elaborated upon the objectives of the Ottawa Conferences and expressed his satisfaction on the arrangements. He also thanked Mr. Hassan M. Khan for making the organization of the Ottawa Conference for the first time in MENA region.
Mr. Hassan M. Khan, founder of ICME, elaborated upon objectives of ICME and traced its history in remarks. He thanked Prof. Harden for his trust in ICME organizers for arranging this conjoined conference. He also emphasized the importance of designing curricula with objectives of patient safety leading to better health care.

Prof. Mohammed Al Houqani, Chairman UAE Committee in his address welcomed the guest speakers and delegates. He elaborated upon achievements in health profession education in UAE and informed about future plans in this field. He expressed his gratitude to both Ottawa Conferences and ICME for arranging the largest conference on health profession education in UAE and advised local academicians to take full advantage from the conference.

**Ian Hart Award**

Prof. Ian Hart was responsible along with Prof. Ronald Harden for creating the Ottawa Conference in 1985. The conference takes place every two years. He was a leader in Medical Education of International repute. His special interest was assessment of professional competence. Hart Family and AMEE created an award in his memory which will be given to individuals having exceptional skills and contribution in assessment. This was the first award to be given in OTTAWA-ICME 2018. The award was announced by Prof. Ronald Harden, co-founder of Ottawa Conference and was given by Prof. Trudie Roberts, President of Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE). The winner of the first Ian Hart Award was Prof. Olle ten Cate of Ultrecht University, Netherlands for his work on Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA).

**Networking Reception**

Opening session was followed by networking reception. Delegates and guest speakers participated in the reception that included sumptuous high tea and used the occasion for building relationships.

**Ottawa Consensus Groups**

Ottawa consensus groups were created during 14th Ottawa Conference held in Miami from 15-19 May 2010. The objective was to develop and publish a series of consensus statements and recommendations related to assessment in health care professions that would provide an opportunity to reflect on what had been developed over the last 25 years and now seems to be a good practice in this area from both national and international perspectives. These would also provide an opportunity to identify areas of weakness, challenges or controversies that should be addressed by the international community to further advance the field of assessment. These will also identify the areas of priority and focus so that subsequent Ottawa conferences could build upon this work.

Six areas were identified and groups were formed for this purpose. These were:

- Criteria for a good assessment (Chairman John Norcini, USA).
- Technology based assessment (Chairman Zubair Amin, Singapore).
- Performance assessment (Chairperson Kathu Boursicot, UK).
• Assessment of Professionalism (Chairman Brian Hodges, Canada).
• Assessment for selection of the health care professions and specialty training (Chairman David Prideaux, Australia)
• Research in Assessment (Chairman Lambert Schuwirth, Netherlands).

Statements and recommendations were published in Medical Teacher in 2011. Three of these groups met again in Abu Dhabi to review previous statement and recommendations in the light of developments that took place during these years. These were:
• Criteria for good assessment (Chairman John Norcini, USA)
• Assessment of Professionalism (Chairman Brian Hodges, Canada).
• Assessment of selection in healthcare professions and specialty training (Chairman Chris Roberts, Australia).

Groups had separate meeting to develop the proposals which were later discussed with the delegates in the conference workshops, separately conducted by each group, to gather additional input. Final statements and recommendations were presented in last plenary session. Same will be published in Medical Teacher.

**Official Inauguration**

Conference and Exhibition were officially inaugurated in the morning of March 12, 2018 by the Patron, HE Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance. The Chief Guest in his thought provoking speech elaborated upon development of Higher Education, particularly in Health Profession Education in UAE.

He also emphasized on aligning health profession education with high moral and ethical standards and integrating objectives of better healthcare and patient safety with health profession education curricula. Chief Guest was presented the memento of the conference by Prof Yaser Al Nuami.

His excellency, accompanied with members of reception committee, then inaugurated the exhibition and conversed with booth managers about their products being exhibited.

**Exhibitions**

In all there were 46 booths, mostly from various universities and international educational organizations. Eminent publishers like Elsevier, educational software developers and producers of teaching models and aids also participated in the exhibition.
Keynote Speakers

Ronald M. Harden
- Professor of Medical Education (Emeritus)
- University of Dundee
- General Secretary & Treasurer, Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)
- Editor, Journal of ‘Medical Teacher’, United Kingdom

Trudie Roberts
- President, Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)
- Director, Leeds Institute of Medical Education, University of Leeds
- United Kingdom

M. Brownell Anderson
- Vice President, National Board of Medical Examiners, International Programs
- United State of America

Olle ten Cate
- Professor of Medical Education, Utrecht University
- Program Director, Undergraduate Medical Education, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands

Hossam Hamdy
- Professor of Surgery & Medical Education
- Chancellor, Gulf Medical University, Ajman
- United Arab Emirates

Azim Mirzaazadeh
- Associate Professor, Department of Medical Education, Tehran University of Medical Sciences
- Director, Education Development Center, Ministry of Health & Medical Education
- Iran

Technical Officer, Health Workforce Development
- WHO / EMRO
- Egypt

Gohar Wajid
- Mohamed M. Al-Enaki

Dates to Remember

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International Conference on Medical Education

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