

University to hold two conferring ceremonies on Monday, June 16

Due to the growing number of students graduating from RCSI Bahrain, two conferring ceremonies will be held this year on Monday, June 16. For graduands of the School of Medicine and the MSc in Healthcare Ethics and Law, a morning ceremony will take place at 10am. An afternoon ceremony at 2pm will be held for graduands of the BSc in Nursing, the Bridging Programme and the MSc in Nursing. The ceremonies will take place on campus in the Sports and Recreation Centre.

With only a few weeks remaining until the University's biggest day of the year, an organising committee is discussing plans for the ceremonies, which will see more than 260 students from the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Postgraduate Studies being conferred in the presence of their families, friends and faculty.

Four new awards will be given this year to outstanding clinical staff who work with RCSI students. The Clinical Teaching Awards will be given to clinicians who display excellence in supporting teaching and learning of RCSI Bahrain medical students. The nominees will be proposed by and voted for by students and the awards are open to clinical lecturers in Salmaniya Medical Complex, Bahrain Defence Force Hospital, King Hamad University Hospital and in Family Medicine.

Four student prizes which were introduced in 2013, will be given out again at this year's ceremony. The prizes are in recognition of three professors who have made outstanding contributions to RCSI Bahrain – the James Finucane Prize in Medicine, the John Murphy award in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Niall O'Higgins Prize in Surgery. The fourth prize, the Rufaida Al-Aslamia Prize in Nursing, is named after the first female Muslim nurse.

The conferring ceremony will be broadcast live on the internet, enabling relatives and friends who are not able to attend to watch the proceedings online, as they happen. Graduands will be emailed soon with further information.



RCSI Bahrain presents lifesaving equipment to Bahrain Diabetes Society



RCSI Bahrain has presented more than BD5,000 worth of lifesaving equipment to the Bahrain Diabetes Society, as part of the society's Insulin Pump Programme. The presentation was held at RCSI Bahrain in the presence of His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Alkhalifa, Minister of State for Defence Affairs.

The BD5000 was raised last November when a team of 11 kayakers from RCSI Bahrain completed a tough endurance challenge by paddling around Bahrain in just three days. The money raised during the charity challenge has been used to purchase two insulin pumps which, when attached to an individual, can continuously administer insulin to a type 1 diabetes patient.

Two Bahraini children with diabetes who will use the pumps, attended the presentation ceremony with their parents.

The Paddle Bahrain challenge, which was organised by the RCSI Bahrain Community Engagement office, was undertaken for the benefit of the Bahrain Diabetes Society. The aim of the challenge was to raise funds and increase public awareness of the risk factors associated with developing type 1 diabetes.

Paddle Bahrain and RCSI Bahrain lecturer, Dr Declan Gaynor said, "We are delighted that two young children are getting a chance to have a better way of life thanks to modern medical technology and the efforts of everyone involved in Paddle Bahrain."

Lesotho ('where the Basotho people live'), Southern Africa by Ms Maeve Royston



For the second year running, in conjunction with the School of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Medicine, Community Engagement supported four final year RCSI students in travelling to Lesotho, southern Africa.

The purpose of this trip was to provide the students with the experience of working overseas in a voluntary capacity to encounter a culture and society with an entirely different healthcare system to the one with which they were familiar, allowing them to witness a variety of disease patterns, many not seen during their training. These and many more objectives were met!

Based in St Joseph's Hospital in Roma, the students joined the healthcare team from Action Ireland Trust which comprised two nurses, a GP and a dentist. They also worked alongside local doctors and nurses and were ably supported by student nurses from the Roma School of Nursing to translate, triage and to share knowledge.

In a hospital with no anaesthetist or emergency code system, the RCSI students, in conjunction with Dublin Fire Brigade, were well-placed to provide refresher courses in Basic Life Support, which were attended by more than 25 nurses.

The students and the team travelled long distances to primary care clinics where they saw many challenges facing healthcare clinics to which there is limited access. They attended HIV treatment clinics, assisted at Caesarean sections and witnessed childbirth in conditions where infection control was hugely compromised.

A social strand of the trip allowed the group to meet the King of Lesotho, the Archbishop of Lesotho and to attend a garden party in the Irish Ambassador's residence.

It was a memorable trip and one that would provide a huge amount of learning for any healthcare professional. It was my privilege to travel with Julia, Zaid, Ebrahim and Hanan. RCSI Bahrain and International Community Engagement were served well.



Professor Corbally and two students return from charity work in Vietnam

Professor Martin Corbally and two students from the undergraduate programme have arrived back after spending a week in Vietnam carrying out charity work.



Students Hawra Alnasoo (N4) and Zina Al Haddad (SC2) spent time supporting and observing operations and procedures at Children's Hospital 2. The trip was in conjunction with Operation Child Life. Zina told Connected, "All in all, it was a trip so rich in surgical and cultural experience, I would not trade it for anything in the world." Part of her experience included scrubbing in on and assisting in surgeries, which, Zina said, she never thought she would have had the privilege of seeing. She said the majority of surgeries performed by Professor Corbally were oncological, ranging from massive sacrococcygeal teratomas to rare rhabdomyomas of the heart. The RCSI Bahrain team also rotated between the intensive care unit (ICU), the neonatal ICU (NICU) as well as the inpatient and outpatient departments.

RCSI Bahrain staff present papers at KHUH research day

On March 8, a research day was held in King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH). The event was organised by Professor Eamon Tierney and featured more than 20 presentations from staff at KHUH, RCSI Bahrain, the Arabian Gulf University and the University of Bahrain.

Professor Eamon Tierney (RCSI Bahrain and KHUH) and Dr Mahmood Mousa (KHUH) presented research on an 'Audit for Obstetric Epidural Analgesia Services'. Professor Eamon Tierney and Dr Aashish Jain (KHUH) presented research on a study of 'Parental Satisfaction of Paediatric Day Surgery'. Professor Eamon Tierney and Dr Vipin Kauts (KHUH) gave a presentation on 'Development and Evaluation of a Medical Communication Scale'.

Professor Kevin Dunne (RCSI Bahrain and KHUH) and Dr Fathima Nasmy (KHUH) presented research called "A One-Year Retrospective Study of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Children Aged 3 Months and Above at King Hamad University Hospital".

Nursing Lecturer, Ms Orla Merrigan presented a joint research study on Healthcare Professionals between RCSI Bahrain and King Hamad University Hospital, titled 'Knowledge and Attitudes of Staff Involved in Cardiac Arrest in KHUH'.

Dr Tim Doubell presented a pilot study on sound-evoked muscle reflexes. This study is part of a project funded by the RCSI Bahrain research fund to develop new diagnostic hearing tests.

Dr Robin O'Sullivan presented a paper called 'The Problem with Histology', with his co-workers Yomna Hesham, Maha Ibrahim, Dina Ibrahim, Sidra Rauf and Hashim Alqaroon. It outlined a series of investigations currently underway at RCSI Bahrain with the shared objective of developing novel polychromatic dyes for use in histology.

Nursing graduate (2013) Ms Duaa Ahmed presented a paper called 'Awareness among Healthcare Workers of Neonatal Total Parenteral Feeding in Bahrain'. This project included collaborations between healthcare sites in Bahrain and RCSI. Authors included Dr Michael Keogh, Duaa Ahmed, Catherine Abouzaid, Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf.

Conference chairman Professor Eamon Tierney congratulated Duaa for being the first undergraduate student to present a paper at the conference.



RCSI Bahrain's Cassidy team wins golf title

Congratulations to Dr Seamus Cassidy and his wife, Claire who have won the Audi Quattro Cup at the Royal Golf Club's championship Montgomerie Course on Saturday March 22nd. The victorious duo will join other country winners at the Audi Quattro Cup World Final in Dubai from December 7 to 11.

At another golf outing on March 7, RCSI Bahrain fielded two teams to play in the Bahrain/Irish Society Golf day. Players on Team A were Dr Seamus Cassidy, Mrs Claire Cassidy, Professor Joe McMenamin and Professor Seamus Cowman. Team B comprised Professor John Fennell, Mrs Dervela Fennell, Professor Frank Cunningham and Mrs Anna Cunningham.



Team A played extremely well, missing out on the prizes by just one shot. Dr Seamus Cassidy won nearest the pin on Hole 2 with a superb shot.

Student News

More than 100 students attend Career Guidance Symposium

On March 15, RCSI Bahrain hosted a Career Guidance Symposium, which was attended by more than 100 students from RCSI Bahrain and other universities. The main purpose of this conference was to give students access to information on a wide variety of specialities.

Speakers at the event were specialists from Bahrain and abroad. Given the success of this event, students have requested that the symposium with different specialities be introduced as a regular feature throughout the academic year.



The Student Support Centre is renamed the Centre for Student Success

The Student Support Centre has been renamed the Centre for Student Success. According to Ms Wendy Maddisson, Head of Student Development and Wellbeing, it was felt that the name change reflects a more positive image of the Centre's facilities and services, which underpin students' achievements and success in many different ways.

Wendy said that the centre will continue to focus on and be inspired by students, adding that the student voice plays an important part in what the centre provides. "Rebranding ourselves means that we can offer even more innovation and opportunities for our students' success," she said.

The Centre for Student Success is part of the Department of Student Development and Wellbeing, which advocates three core areas of student activity: personal and professional development; welfare and wellbeing and academic success through a drop-in learning concept.



Students hold mini carnival at RCSI Bahrain

On March 5, students from the Taekwondo club, the Nursing Society and the Culinary Club hosted a mini carnival. During the event, there was camel riding, arts and crafts, sumo wrestling and "ride the bull".



Medics in Leadership to organise a Skin Symposium

Registration is open for a skin symposium, organised by medics in the Leadership Society. The Skin Symposium, which will take place in RCSI Bahrain on April 19, will feature lectures and workshops in dermatology, cosmetics and plastic surgery, delivered by some of the best dermatologists and plastic surgeons in Bahrain.

Student News



Three N2 students were recently presented with Certificates of Achievement from the Centre for Student Success in recognition of completion of a 4-part Writing and Grammar Course.



Two Nursing Year 2 students, Alia Alamoodi and Sakina Yaser recently received Certificates of Contribution from the Centre for Student Success.

Students' attend National Conference on Physical Activity and Health in Qatar

At the National Conference on Physical Activity and Health, which was held in Qatar on February 3 and 4, Senior Cycle 2 students, Saif AlBorgan and Zaid Marhoon presented their paper called "Pattern and Prevalence of Smoking Among Primary Healthcare Physicians in Bahrain". The research was under the supervision of Dr Ghufraan Jassim.

The conference focused on many aspects of research into physical activity including interventions, public health data and the physician's role in prescribing physical activity.



Students and staff attend 'Great Gatsby' themed Winter Ball

On February 20, RCSI Bahrain held its annual winter ball at the Intercontinental Regency Hotel. As this year's theme was The Great Gatsby, the venue's ballroom was decorated to resemble the lavish party scene in the 2013 film adaptation and attendees were creative in dressing up according to the theme.



Plan to hold two Town Hall meetings a semester for staff and students

A new initiative has begun to ensure effective communication between the University and its key customers. Two town hall meetings for RCSI staff and students will be held twice during each semester to provide a forum for pertinent issues to be discussed.

The first of these meetings on March 2 and 3 featured keynote presentations by Professor Roy Spence, Chair of the Examinations review panel, who covered the primary findings and recommendations of the review panel. He commended both staff and students for their commitment to the University and to academia in general.

He explained the six main recommendations at length, which included Ms Judith Gilroy, Associate Director of Academic Affairs at RCSI Dublin and Mr Stephen Harrison-Mirfield, COO of RCSI Bahrain, who provided details of the recommendations.

Professor Sameer Otoom expressed his sincere gratitude to the team for their work and for coming back to present the findings to staff and students.

The staff town hall meeting featured presentations by each of the Schools, Academic Affairs and the Operations team. Each presentation addressed the priorities of the various functions and allowed staff to hear first-hand about the direction of RCSI Bahrain. Throughout these interactive sessions, a number of questions were asked and answered.

The student town hall meeting followed a slightly different format. A relatively small turnout allowed attendees to put questions directly to the University's management team. The questions covered a variety of issues spanning a number of years, including matters on electives and recognition of RCSI qualifications in various countries. Feedback on the format and the responses was very positive and the attendance of Ms Judith Gilroy enabled students to table questions that were better answered from an RCSI Dublin perspective.

Professor Sameer Otoom said that the town hall meeting is a communication policy that the senior management team would like to have on a regular basis. He added that he wants to foster an environment of transparency, collaboration, high performance and mutual respect between senior management and staff.

"Feedback is a powerful method for improvement," said Professor Otoom "and today we want to tell you not only how we responded to your feedback, but to also get you involved with our future academic and operational plans, as you are an integral part of them."

The next town hall meetings will take place on April 28.



Successful evacuation drill carried out at the University

In collaboration with the General Directorate of Civil Defence in the Ministry of Interior, RCSI Bahrain recently conducted a fire safety orientation and an evacuation drill.

The evacuation process ran smoothly and with the exercise conducted in an orderly manner through emergency exits under the supervision of RCSI Bahrain's fire wardens who guided and directed students, staff and visitors to designated assembly points.

RCSI Bahrain welcomes new recruits

Nabeel Moideen – SARA Coordinator Examinations – started on 16th of February and will be working with RCSI Bahrain for the next 6 months

Zainab Abbas - started on 23rd of February as the new Receptionist to replace Fatima Mohammed Ahmed who has moved to Student Services full-time

Dr Alex Rodrigues – Gym Instructor with the SRC started on the 2nd of March and will be with us until the end of June

Adam Wallace – Gym Instructor with the SRC started on the 6th of March

Mandy Ferguson – Admissions Officer started on the 16th March

RCSI Bahrain Ruffaida Honorary Society launch a Nursing Blog

A new blog by the Ruffaida Honorary Society of Nursing, www.ruffaidahonorysociety.com was launched at the beginning of April. The initiative was suggested at a recent nursing board meeting and subsequently developed by Mr Sultan Muhammad, Administrator for School of Nursing & Midwifery and secretary to the society.

President of the Ruffaida Honorary Society, Dr Catherine O' Neill complimented Mr Sultan Muhammad on his innovation and creativity and said the blog is a consolidation of the Ruffaida Society's and board members' work to date, and that it will form a solid foundation for the goal of achieving the full chapter status with Sigma Theta Tau.

Professor Brendan Kavanagh launches book on Birds in Bahrain



A new book called the "Birds of Dilmun" by Professor Brendan Kavanagh was launched at the Mara'ee animal production show on March 21. Written by Professor Brendan Kavanagh while he was on secondment in Bahrain from RCSI Dublin between 2004 and 2012, the publication is the first account of the avifauna of Bahrain since 1993 and explores many of the changes which have occurred since then.

The book is beautifully illustrated with more than 300 photographs, all taken in Bahrain by Finnish photographer, Juhani Kyrrö. It was while working with the Ministry of Education from 2004-2007 on the 'Schools of the Future' project, that Juhani Kyrrö met Brendan Kavanagh. Together, during their free time, they recorded and photographed the birds.

Based on his research in Bahrain, Brendan has also published scientific papers on Sooty Falcons, Turtle Doves, Spanish Sparrows and Little Ringed Plovers. He also ringed (banded) more than 12,000 birds of more than 120 species and trained the first

Bahraini bird ringer to qualify under the British and Irish Bird Ringing Scheme.

The publication of Birds of Dilmun was made possible by generous sponsorship from The Supreme Council for the Environment (Bahrain) and RCSI (Dublin and Bahrain). During a coffee morning on March 23 to welcome him back, Brendan caught up with staff in RCSI Bahrain.

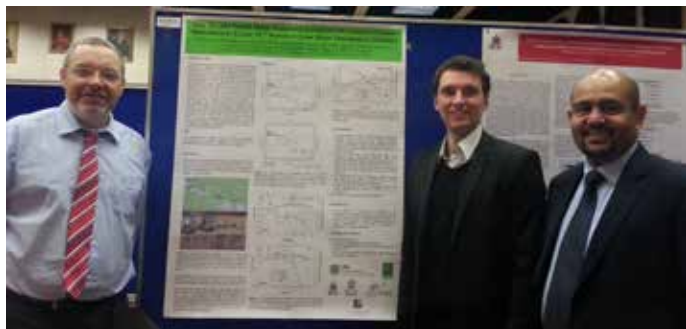


Bahrain delegation visits Jordan University of Science and Technology

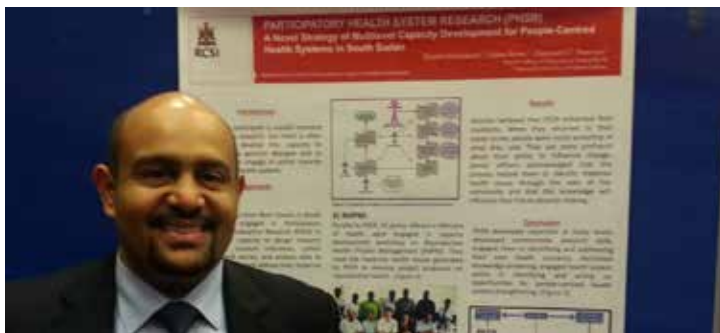


In February, a delegation from RCSI Bahrain and the Bahrain Defence Force Royal Medical Services (BDF RMS) visited Jordan University of Science and Technology. The select group included Professor Sameer Otoom, RCSI Bahrain President; Maj. General (Prof.) Sheikh Khalid Bin Ali Al Khalifa, Director of BDF RMS and Dr Nayef Lori, Graduate Training Manager.

During the visit, the delegation discussed possible future cooperation between the 3 organisations, especially in the field of developing postgraduate programmes and developing continuous medical education.



Professor Kevin McGuigan, RCSI Dublin with Dr Michael Keogh and Khalifa Elmusharaf presenting at RCSI Dublin research day on the 20th of March. Dr Michael Keogh presented his SFERA awarded research conducted in the European Solar Research institute, Spain 2013. Titled 'Can 19-litre plastic water dispenser containers be used as a viable alternative to 2-litre bottles in Solar water disinfection (SODIS)'.



Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf presented his work on Participatory Health System Research (PHSR) 'A novel strategy of multilevel capacity development for people centred health systems in South Sudan'.

Congratulations to principal investigators Dr Michael Keogh and Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf who received a generous donation of €3,000 from HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein and Professor Kevin McGuigan RCSI Dublin for their project titled 'Community acceptable approaches for safe clean drinking water'.

More than 20 RCSI staff and their partners joined around 650 guests at the annual, black-tie St Patrick's Day Ball at the Gulf Hotel, Bahrain. Entertainment on the night included Irish dancing from the Victoria Dance School and live music was by DeJa Boo, who were flown in from Ireland especially for the occasion, and by the Tinkerbelles.



RCSI Bahrain celebrated St Patrick's Day on Monday 17th March. Staff and students dressed in green for the occasion, some even showed up in their leprechaun costumes. The celebrations included an exciting Treasure Hunt around campus.



Photography Competition - Omana Kuttan Narayanan, maintenance technician in Estates and Support Services is this month's winner of the photo competition, which was titled 'Mothers Day'. Omana wins a BD20 voucher.

