

The Third Kuwait International Pharmacy Conference was held in Kuwait on February 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, aim at providing an update on the medication safety and assess whether we are doing enough in this part of the world, presenting and discussing cutting edge state science in the fields of medication safety, herbal medicines and pharmacogenomics, providing an update on current trends in pharmacy education concerning medication safety and strengthening communication ties and facilitating continued cooperation between schools of pharmacy, in this region, in both teaching and research.

The plenary sessions and workshops are related to basic and new knowledge about medication errors, new technology, selected topics on safety from pharmaceutical sciences perspectives, and updates on regional medication safety initiatives.

Recommendations suggested at the closing of the third KIPC:

- 1- The establishment of a consultation committee on medication safety to determine systems to identify issues related to medication safety, particularly, providing basic data on medication errors and adverse events in Kuwait. The committee must also identify methods to improve medication safety. We recommend the careful selection of members of this committee, by selecting pharmacists and doctors from Kuwait University and the Ministry of Health who have sufficient experience and qualification to undertake the tasks required by the committee.
- 2- To strengthen the role of the pharmacist as a pivotal healthcare member to improve medication safety.
- 3- We agreed that is impossible to be efficient and effective in this time without becoming more proficient in the use of technology which overcomes the limitations of human memory and the use of conjuncture in decision making. Recommendation: To analyse where technology can enhance or replace the work done by humans.
- 4- To establish an effective and efficient partnership between FOP, Kuwait University and the General Directorate of Pharmacy, MOH, which would be most valuable in advancement of education and research, as well as pharmaceutical services offered for patients in Kuwait.
- 5- The establishment of a drug information and poisoning center which provides independent information on medicines and poisons for both healthcare professionals and the public.
- 6- Measures should be taken to promote research to improve the concept of medication safety and its implication in practice and regulations.
- 7- To introduce in the undergraduate curriculum of medical and pharmacy faculties courses on medication safety and safety issues related to herbal medicine.

- 8- The best healthcare systems would not be successful in providing care unless the patient and other care givers are fully engaged and participating in the process.

Recommendation: To involve patients and provide them with tools to be more connected to the care process and the healthcare professionals providing their care.

- 9- Patients fail in their treatment regimens either because they don't know what to do, how to do it, or are not motivated to do it. The toughest of these is motivation.

Recommendation: To use the power of social networking to address this concern, i.e. in motivating patients to follow their treatment regimens.

- 10-The enhancement of post-marketing surveillance and the use of advanced authentication techniques to ensure that Kuwait is always free of counterfeit medicines.

The conference was held under patronage of his highness the prime minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohamed Al-Ahmed AlSabah and was attended by health professions, students and audience from the public.