

MBRU360

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Welcome
to the new
**ACADEMIC
YEAR**
2019 - 2020

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News

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum Chairs MBRU's Fourth Board of Trustees Meeting



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chancellor of the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) and Chairperson of its Board of Trustees, chaired the fourth meeting of the Board and reviewed its three-year impact report, hailing the University's efforts in advancing health through furthering medical education and research. This was the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Board of Trustees following the issue of Decree no. 23 of 2019 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in June this year. MBRU also welcomed a new member to its Board of Trustees, Professor Ian Greer – President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast.

The impact report highlighted accomplishments achieved by MBRU in delivering its innovative strategy which is underpinned by six core pillars: Education; Research, Community Engagement;

Sustainability; Governance, Emiratization.



Breakthroughs in medical healthcare

Striving to strengthen the journey of its healthcare students and to continuously integrate academia with health and research,

MBRU's network of clinical affiliates grew to include Mediclinic Middle East, Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, Dubai Dental Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital in Dubai, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and the Ministry of Health and Prevention.

In 2016 the MBRU team, including surgeons from the College of Medicine, in collaboration with Mediclinic City Hospital, made organ transplant a reality in Dubai, conducting the first ever kidney transplant in the Emirate, a testimony to MBRU's immediate impact on healthcare.

In 2018, a joint medical team from MBRU and Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital also successfully performed Dubai's first pediatric kidney transplant.



H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said:

The impact report is a clear indicator of MBRU's commitment to the advancement of health in the UAE and region, and its goal to become a global hub for innovative and integrated healthcare education and research.



Making strides in research

More than AED 13 million in external and internal grants have been secured, and over 260 peer-reviewed publications, exceeding the national average for impact and quality in a number of indicators, have been achieved.

Research topics have focused on regional healthcare challenges including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, autism, asthma and cancer.

Launch of the MBRU-
AlMahmeed Collaborative



Research Award, made possible by a generous contribution from Emirati cardiologist, Dr. Wael Al Mahmeed, has drawn global collaborative proposals. Dr. Al Mahmeed was the first to receive the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Investing in Scientific Research' by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in recognition of his efforts in support of research and the scientific community in the UAE.

Investing in the future

MBRU has created an integrated academic health system through partnerships with private and public healthcare institutions on the local, regional and international level.

An example is the MBRU's Summer Scholars Program involving the placement of medical students in local and international clinical, academic

and research institutes where they apply what they have learned during the course of the year allowing them to develop a global perspective on healthcare and learn what it means to be a working medical professional.

80% of the **MEDICAL STUDENTS** voluntarily participate in the program which illustrates MBRU's value of connectivity, and reflects its philosophy that learning is not limited to the classroom.

The Summer Scholars Program resulted in the first MBRU-Mayo Clinic published research with one of MBRU's Year-4 medical students, Aya Akhras.

New Board Member



MBRU welcomed Professor Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast (QUB), as a new member to its Board of Trustees. Professor Greer is the Chair of the UK Regenerative Medicine Platform Board and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board at the UK Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Centre, who has led five medical schools in UK and created the Manchester academic health sciences system. MBRU aims to build on the successful 4-year partnership with QUB placing extra efforts on new joint programs such as postgraduate nursing degrees as well as innovative research.





اجتماع مجلس الأمناء للسنة الأكاديمية 2019/2020
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020



"Queen's University Belfast (QUB) was honored to be selected in 2014 as academic partner in the development and establishment of the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU), and we were delighted to be given the opportunity, in 2018, to play a further part in MBRU's success by supporting the development of Nursing Master's programs at the University.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Amer and his team on the significant progress made to date in achieving MBRU's vision of becoming a global hub for innovative and integrated healthcare education and research at the service of humanity, and we very much look forward to continuing to build on our flourishing partnership," commented Professor Greer.

Future Plans - New Educational Programs

Building on the successful foundations achieved since MBRU's inception, and in support of the National Advanced Sciences Agenda 2031's priorities to build national capacity and address health challenges in the UAE, the University is launching new programs. The newly established College of Nursing & Midwifery will offer Cardiovascular and Pediatric Nursing specialties; these Master of Science (MSc) programs are designed to fulfill an identified need within Dubai and the wider UAE for specialist clinical nursing programs to support the healthcare needs of the region. The Master of Science Programs in Nursing are offered for the first time in the region in partnership with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and the National Health Service (NHS) in UK. Through its unique partnership with QUB, MBRU secured



clinical rotations for the nurses for 3 months in Belfast, UK, as an integral part of the program.

Additionally, the Master of Science (MSc) in Biomedical Sciences program under the College of Medicine, is designed to allow students to acquire a variety of research skills that cater to their aspirations and the expressed needs of relevant institutions in the UAE.

Highlights



MBRU Holds Fourth White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2025

MBRU welcomed its fourth batch of students to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, MBBS, program on September 16, 2019.

The celebration took place in the presence of H.E. Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Sciences. MBRU welcomed 62 students of 18 nationalities, taking the total number of MBBS undergraduates to more than 200.

This year's ceremony expanded its reach to welcome students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malawi and Dominica, representing an important step for the students, as they took the Hippocratic Oath and wore their medical white coats for the first time.

In her keynote speech, H.E. Sarah Al Amiri said, "Students

pursuing a career in medicine are well aware of their future role as doctors and the intrinsic ethical, national and humane responsibilities associated with this role in saving people's lives and preserving their health." She added that medicine is largely and essentially dependent on advanced sciences and future technologies, which makes it imperative for doctors and medical students to pursue continuous learning and acquire high-end skills to further develop the medical sector in the UAE.



Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Dean of the College of Medicine, said, "Through a transformative learning

experience, access to research opportunities and global connectivity, our students are the embodiment of our mission to advance health in the UAE and the region, while embracing respect, integrity and excellence, which are the qualities of a complete physician."



Dr. Laila Alsuwaidi, Assistant Dean of Student Happiness and Wellbeing at the College of Medicine, added, "In addition to interactive learning and clinical exposure, the students will have access to a range of facilities and activities to enhance their experience and personal development during their time at MBRU."

Highlights

Congratulations to our own Dr. Hanan Al Suwaidi

Dr. Hanan Al Suwaidi, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, made history for being selected to be the physician monitoring the 1st Emirati Astronaut Hazza Al Mansouri.

Recently in an interview Dr. Al Suwaidi stated,

We can assure our viewers that our astronauts are in their best shape and we are very happy and grateful for their upcoming mission.

We're proud of Dr. Al Suwaidi for having such an integral role and supporting the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre on their mission, and for being a part of the MBRU Family.

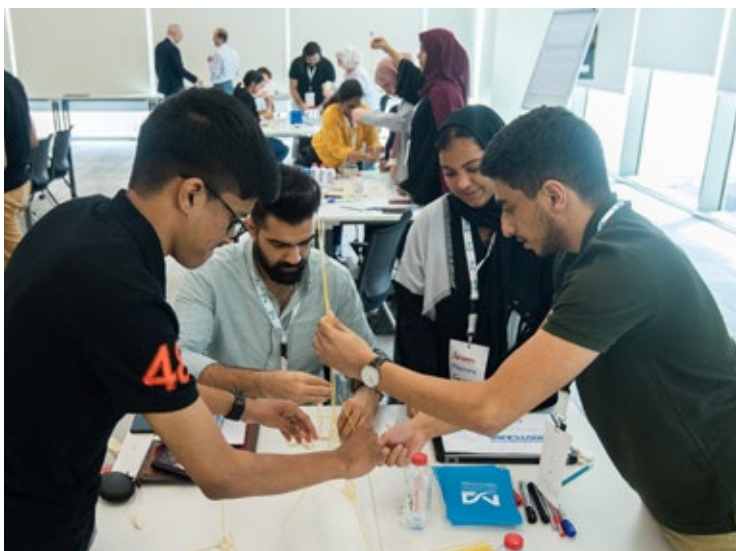


Highlights



MBRU Holds the First of its Kind Design4Health Bootcamp to Innovate Healthcare Solutions

MBRU has held the first Design4Health Bootcamp with the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation (DIDI) and the American University of Sharjah (AUS). Students from MBRU, DIDI and AUS came together to codesign innovative solutions to address regional healthcare challenges.



The Design4Health Bootcamp was productive, the students pushed the boundaries of their creativity and worked on the prototype after the first round of ideation. The sessions ran along the Design Thinking process from understanding to being more empathetic to defining the problem, ideating, prototyping and testing. In each of these steps, students were introduced with techniques and tools such as *patient journey map*, *patient's problem statement*, *ideation rules & brainstorming*.



Highlights

The objective of this bootcamp is to equip students with approaches and tools to address problems differently. The sessions aimed to expose the students by working in multidisciplinary teams with engineers and designers to find solutions. The uniqueness of the Design4Health Bootcamp is that the students are faced with real life problems to

which they may be confronted with as future physicians. Two teams worked for Mediclinic City Hospital and Park View to target the problem of no-shows in clinics. Both teams suggested easy to implement solutions by means of visual campaigns to raise the level of awareness and streamlining the cancellation process. They also suggested

mobile applications to provide more incentives, hence encouraging patients to cancel if they cannot make it through a reward points system similar to the airline miles. Apps would also provide additional services such as booking transportation, and cancellations based on the patient's location.

MBRU has been a key player in enabling this bootcamp by setting up the collaboration with the two other institutions and creating the program. Things unfolded very well, and the students were very focused and eager to start. In the first part of the day students accumulated a great deal of knowledge, techniques and tools that they were able to apply in the afternoon. In fact, the students spent 2 hours observing and interviewing people in the different participating hospitals, which allowed them to better understand the challenges, the end-users, the environment and the context.

Thomas Boillat

Assistant Professor of Healthcare Innovation and Technologies



The last group worked on increasing engagement of outpatients in view of increasing patient satisfaction. The group suggested a smart watch that would ask patients questions according to their location in the hospital (nursing station, physician, etc.). It differs from a traditional survey that is sent in block at the end of the experience. The watch would also be able to track vital signs and other physiological metrics.



Highlights

Largest Organization of Surgeons Worldwide Accredits MBRU as the 1st Comprehensive Education Institute in the UAE



The American College of Surgeons (ACS), the largest organization of surgeons in the world, has accredited MBRU as a Comprehensive Education Institute, making it the first type of accreditation an educational institute receives in the UAE, and only second in the region after Kind Saud University in Saudi Arabia.

MBRU had to follow rigorous standards to achieve the accreditation, such as having a homegrown curriculum that is both nationally responsive

and innovative, faculty development programs that are grounded in growth and focused on improving learning, and research in which MBRU has topped the national average when it comes to publications in the top 10% journals according to SCOPUS, a citation database with more than seventy-five million records, one of the largest bibliographic database of academic journal articles (2015-2018); reflecting the caliber of the faculty; amongst many other factors.

All Comprehensive Education Institutes must develop original curricula, offer faculty development programs and courses, and additionally engage in research or other scholarly activities that advance the field of surgical education and training. The goal of the accreditation is to promote patient safety using simulation, to develop new education and technologies, identify best practices, and promote research and collaboration among accredited institutes.



We are all very proud of this achievement. These types of prestigious international accolades increase the competitiveness of MBRU and enhance its reputation amongst other medical universities in the UAE and the region. For the past two years, we all have worked determinedly with the mission of advancing the future of health care in the UAE. This accreditation is a step forward in our journey of accomplishing excellence, which is also one of MBRU's values embedded in everything we do.

Dr. Amer Sharif, Vice-Chancellor





Homero Rivas

Associate Dean of Innovation and the Future and Professor of Surgery at MBRU's College of Medicine

We have recently attained full accreditation as one of few centers around the world. Only less than 100 such centers around the world have this top distinction, and of those, only 14 centers are outside the USA. This accreditation will have great impact on our community, not only with young physicians and surgeons trained with the highest quality standards, but also it will have a great positive impact in patient safety through the use of simulation, resulting in better outcomes. We, at MBRU, align well with the American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institutes, developing new education and technologies, identifying best practices, and promoting research and collaboration not only in our colleges, but also among other accredited institutes. Lastly, this accreditation has been the result of several years of organized, deliberate and hard work at MBRU from many of our distinguished scholars, with the goal to attract and create leaders in medicine and surgery in the United Arab Emirates and around the world.

First Cohort of Medical Students Welcomed to Mediclinic Middle East

As part of an academic affiliation agreement between MBRU and Mediclinic Middle East, the first group of fourth-year medical students were welcomed to Mediclinic Middle East in an inaugural ceremony which marked their arrival and celebrated the progression of their studies.

The students will commence their clinical clerkship in Mediclinic Middle East's hospitals and clinics in Dubai, joining the departments of Family Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Dermatology in rotation over a 40-week period per year. Once they have completed their full six-year course, including their clerkships at Mediclinic, students will have attained an MBBS degree and be eligible to enter a UAE residency program or undertake postgraduate studies overseas.

Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Dean of the College of Medicine at MBRU said, "We are very proud of our students who have worked

hard over the past three years to be ready for this phase of their learning experience at MBRU. We are fortunate to have a strong and mutually beneficial affiliation with Mediclinic and the Ministry of Health and Prevention who have been very supportive of the educational journey of our students. Together, we are working towards advancing the academic care model in Dubai and the UAE."



Highlights

MBRU and Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation to Collaborate on Innovation and Design Thinking



MBRU has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in the presence of Mohammad Abdullah, President of the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation (DIDI), Dr. Amer Sharif, MBRU's Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Dean of the College of Medicine.

MBRU and DIDI will explore areas of collaboration in the areas of higher education, scholarship, and research.

Both entities will consult and cooperate with one another in areas of mutual interest that will further their strategic interests. Both institutes will also explore opportunities to have student exchanges; students from MBRU and DIDI will be able to attend workshops and lectures. There will also be joint activities and projects, including design challenges.

Dr. Amer Sharif said:

Our vision is to be a global hub for innovative and integrated healthcare education and partnering up with the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation will open up new avenues for our undergraduate and postgraduate students. It will allow us to collaborate on mutually beneficial projects, enhancing our students learning experiences when it comes to design and innovation.



DIDI
DUBAI INSTITUTE
OF DESIGN
AND INNOVATION

He further continued, "Earlier this year we launched a Design Lab, in line with UAE Innovation Month, led by Professor Homero Rivas, Associate Dean of Innovation and the Future. It's a center for nurturing and fostering innovative healthcare solutions to improve the delivery of care, ultimately benefiting patients and our communities. This MOU is a key step towards realizing MBRU's goals of innovative healthcare education and research."

Tribute to Emirati women on Emirati Women's Day



Some of us recall the time when medicine wasn't the preferred profession choice for women. Today, we have statistics that show a significant increase of women in the health sectors. According to a report by Dubai Statistics Center, there is a 16% increase in Emirati women doctors from 2013-2015.

As with every year H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, has announced

Living proof of that is MBRU's female students, 75% are of our student-body are females. Worldwide we also see that more women are enrolled in medical school than men according to data from the Association of American Medical College.

the theme for the 2019 Emirati Women's Day as *Women, Icons of Tolerance*.

Women are indeed icons of tolerance; they embody patience and love in everything they do. Whether at work or at home their nature to coexist and acclimate with everyone and everything makes it impossible for us to exist without them.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum once said, *"Behind every great community, stand great women, leading each generation and raising our families and nation higher."*

Likewise, behind MBRU's success are great women like H.E. Dr. Raja Al Gurg, a core member of our Board of Trustees whose leadership and guidance has helped shape MBRU into what it is today. This year Dr. Raja was selected as a member of the Emirates Schools Establishment, an independent entity that manages and operates public schools in order to advance the education sector in line with UAE objectives.

MBRU's Emirati women are our greatest ambassadors, their work speaks for itself.

When I look around at all the Emirati women, we have with us today, whether students,



faculty or staff I see them as our partners on this journey. Their work in the areas of academia, communications, advancement, HR, and finance has allowed MBRU to remarkably grow and gain notable accolades.



Another great example of our people is our young poet, Shamsa Abbas, who published her book this year *All Around the Sun*.

An advocate for education, Dr. Reem Al Gurg was on a recent visit to Malawi

with Dubai Cares to raise awareness on the importance of adopting schools and providing long life quality education.

A national pride, Dr. Hanan Al Suwaidi was recently selected by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre to be the Physician on the mission of launching the first Emirati astronaut, Hazza Al Mansouri, to space.

Proudly thirty-six percent of our student-body today are UAE Nationals, who I am confident will go on to great careers and will be of service to our beautiful country.

To all our partners on this journey to excellence thank you for your work, and for being iconic in every sense of the word.

Sincerely,
Amer Sharif

Teasing Words

by Dr. Ritu Lakhtakia
Professor of Pathology

Feel our swing, the words they peal,
Round and round in my mind's cartwheel;

Hear our tunes, the words they hum,
Echoing strings of a guitar's strum;

Then castles in my head's-cloud are built;

Taste our sweetness, the words appetite;
Tease imagination, to help me synthesise;

Pour us out, the words they push,
They wield a whip, in a firm swoosh;

Lay us down gently, the words they delight,
Caress us with soft fingers,
arrange us with insight.



Summer Scholars Program

see what our students had to say about their experience



Rochester, Massachusetts

"Doing research at Mayo Clinic for the 2nd summer has taught me things I couldn't have learned in medical school alone. Compassion, excellence, integrity, humanity- among others. There's an energy to this place that I can't put in words. Evidence-based medicine at its finest." -Aya Akhras



Rochester, Massachusetts

Thanks to MBRU for giving me the opportunity to see my first robotically-assisted cardiac surgery. I hope to follow this path."

-Anas Bin Zahid



Cairo, Egypt

"During our summer program we spent two-weeks in a structured clinical program where we got a chance to observe doctors in surgeries, wards, and outpatient clinics as well as learn hands on skills in Al Kasr Al Ainy Hospital in Cairo. This teaching hospital gave us a unique chance in interacting with a wide variety of clinical scenarios across various departments that include emergency, obgyn, paediatrics, and tropical medicine. Most importantly we learned valuable lessons about compassion and caring for patients and their families that we will forever honor and remember. One thing for sure we know as we are leaving is this common saying about the hospital, "We don't live in Kasr Al Ainy, it lives inside us." -Mariam, Reem, Mohannad, Houda, Nada and Batool



Dubai, UAE

"As a 1st year student, I was excited for my first placement at a hospital. Over the course of 4 weeks at Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai, I observed patients and doctors in surgeries and the outpatient department. I got to interact with doctors of various specializations, including optometrists, orthoptists and even the nurses. Above all, during my journey, I was able to observe patient interaction, how each one is different and requires a different approach. It made me realise the importance of empathy, sympathy, compassion and most importantly patience and understanding in the process of treatment." -Ruzaina Sait



Melbourne, Australia

"Amidst the breath-taking Australian vineyards located in the South Yarra Valley, I found myself being immensely grateful to the MBRU Summer Scholars Program for providing me with this tremendous opportunity. Over the course of the past month, I have had the privilege and honor to undertake research experience at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne, Australia. Not only has this opportunity provided me with valuable skills and knowledge but it has also allowed me to spread my wings and grow to become an independent individual."

-Gunjan Awatramani





مستشفى
دبي للأسنان
Dubai Dental
HOSPITAL

Dubai Dental Hospital Screened 181 Children at Summer Camp

Dubai Dental Hospital (DDH), MBRU's clinical partner, has conducted a dental awareness campaign during the summer camp organized by Dubai Cares. The summer literacy camp hosted children



from underprivileged families in the UAE in celebration of the Year of Tolerance. The dental campaign targeted youngsters between the ages of 6 to 12 years old to increase their awareness about dental and oral health.

A total number of 181 children were screened by a dentist and a hygienist from DDH to identify their dental health needs. Most of the children were found to be at high-risk for caries and gum disease.

The team demonstrated brushing and flossing techniques along with a healthy diet consultation was presented to the children using puppets, making it more fun and appealing. Educational videos about oral health were played for the children while they were waiting to be screened. The campaign was concluded by distributing oral hygiene kits where each child received a toothbrush and a toothpaste.



Razan S Abusabha - The word wizard
Mark Mones - The creative one

A special thank you to everyone who has contributed and made our newsletter possible. We are happy to hear from you, please send us your suggestions, or story submissions at:
MBRUcommunications@mbru.ac.ae