

## Life-long learning for health professionals in Kuwait

### Editorial

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*Bulletin of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization, Volume 5, Number 2* constitutes a special commemorative issue on the theme of life-long learning and maintenance of professional competence that would be of benefit to health professionals in Kuwait. It presents in a convenient format a selection of the articles that appeared in the previous issues of the journal so that the reader has ready access to research and associated work that had been undertaken and published by Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization during the past few years.

The articles presented in the current issue in the field of life-long learning include those on the topics of re-certification, quality assurance and standards, personal learning plans, global standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and the need of an alliance for CPD in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization is the authorized institution that has been entrusted with the task of planning and implementing all aspects of postgraduate training for medical practitioners and other health professionals in Kuwait since 1984. A specific responsibility that the institute was called upon to shoulder since 2000 was planning and administering a scheme for the maintenance of professional competence by healthcare practitioners. The scheme, which at its beginning targeted medical and dental practitioners, now includes pharmacists. Steps have been taken to widen its scope so that it benefits other categories of health professionals as well.

The maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Program of Kuwait has been conducted successfully for over 6 years and has

since received the attention of the postgraduate education and continuing medical education authorities in nearly all the countries coming within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). I am pleased that it is being used as a basis for the planning and implementation of appropriate schemes of continuing professional development in these countries.

During the recent past Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization had released a number of publications, both in the traditional format as well as through the electronic media, dealing with postgraduate education and life-long learning. The present publication, too, is bound to be useful to the readers in Kuwait as well as in the other countries in the GCC region.

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