

## Postgraduate education for health professionals in Kuwait

### Editorial

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*Bulletin of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization*, Volume 6, Number 1 constitutes a special issue on the theme of postgraduate medical education and continuing education. 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 theme of postgraduate education is dealt with in the articles presented in the current issue. The topics analyzed include the pattern of postgraduate medical education in Kuwait, the changing role of the pathologist, national medical education in Kuwait, development of academic manpower at Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait, the development of Family Practice training, and interns' performance of clinical skills and their levels of confidence for undertaking them in future.

Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization (KIMS) 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 number of measures have been implemented during the past few years to re-organize postgraduate medical training programs offered under the administrative authority of KIMS. These include reviewing curricula for internship and postgraduate specialty training, organizing faculty development programs for instructors in specialty training programs and ascertaining the range of clinical experiences received by trainees enrolled in the training programs. Some of the articles that appear in

the current issue of the journal are based on the outcomes of these activities and investigations.

A specific responsibility that KIMS was called upon to shoulder since 2000 was planning and administering a scheme for the maintenance of professional competence by healthcare practitioners. Continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) could be viewed as the continuation of the education of health professionals beyond the phase of formal postgraduate education. The Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Program of Kuwait has now drawn the attention of the postgraduate education and continuing medical education authorities in nearly all the countries coming within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and links of an advisory and collaborative nature are being established.

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 continuing professional development. I am confident that the present publication, too, will be found useful by the readers in Kuwait as well as in the other countries in the GCC region.

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