

## Press Release

# Harvard Medical School Dubai Center and Dubai Healthcare City Jointly Host Region's First Conference on Ethical Standards in Research

**Dubai: 2 November, 2008** - The Harvard Medical School Dubai Center (HMSDC) Institute for Postgraduate Education and Research, a member of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Center, hosted the region's first 'Ethics in Research' conference in the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, on November 2, 2008 in collaboration with Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), a member of Tatweer.

Research forms the cornerstone of academic medicine and promises to be an integral component to the infrastructure of DHCC in its venture for excellence in health care delivery. Scientific investigation requires conformation to international standards and regulations that assure protection of all research subjects. Critical to the development of Research, is the adherence to the principles of Ethics. The latter is complex and requires the understanding of religious and legal aspects of research.

The conference aimed to disseminate this understanding amongst those who participate in research or are involved in its regulation. This educational initiative was one of many to follow as part of a series of events organized by the Department of Research at HMSDC and DHCC. Attendees were invited to the conference and were awarded continuing medical education (CME) credits. These credits are recognized by Dubai Health Authority (DHA), Ministry of Health (MOH), Center for Healthcare Planning & Quality (CPQ) and Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD).

Dr. Ayesha Abdullah, Senior Vice President of DHCC, said: "In collaboration with HMSDC, we aim to raise awareness of ethical issues in research through CME-accredited programmes in the region. Adequate information on a code of ethics is vital to conducting medical or scientific research"

The DHCC has already established CPQ, with its strategic collaborator Partners Harvard Medical International (PHMI), to attain the highest international standards of healthcare delivery.

Dr. Uzma Shah, Director of Research, HMSDC, said: "The program was the first of its kind to provide significant information on ethics in research. It demonstrated DHCC's commitment to raise awareness of regulatory and ethical issues in the field of medical research. We are keen to help develop creative thought and scientific investigation as a means to advance health care in the region. It is imperative however, that we do so in a safe and effective manner."

#### **About DHCC:**

Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) was conceived with the objective of creating a regional center of excellence for medical services, medical education, and life science research and development in the Middle East. It is the world's first healthcare free zone and was created using a phased approach.

The first phase, which is 4.1 million square feet in size, features a medical cluster comprised of day clinics, diagnostic centers, rehabilitation centers, transplantation centers, hospitals, clinics and a sector for pharmaceutical and equipment suppliers. It is home to the Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Centre with the integration of its entities; the Harvard Medical School Dubai Centre (HMSDC)- Institute for Postgraduate Education and Medical research, the University Teaching Hospital (UH) and the Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical research (DHFMR) and Al Maktoum Harvard Medical Library. Some of the medical cluster's other renowned partners are Mayo Clinic, AstraZeneca, Harvard Medical International, Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Centre, the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, Consultant Physicians (AUB), Fresenius Medical Care, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, BU Dental, Moorfields Eye Hospital, The City Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, Wyeth, Smith & Nephew, Sanofi Aventis, Swiss Academy of Scientific Acupuncture, Yateem Group, Dragger Medical, Alvi Armani, dr. Nicolas & ASP and the German Heart Center.

The second phase will feature a dedicated wellness cluster comprised of wellness centers, nutrition centers, resorts and spas, and sports medicine facilities.

#### **About Tatweer:**

Launched in December 2005, Tatweer is one the region's most dynamic enterprises and a member of Dubai Holding. Comprising 10 market-leading brands, it oversees an ambitious business development plan.

Its current portfolio is divided into Energy & Healthcare, Tourism & Entertainment, and Industry & Real Estate offerings. Its entities include **Dubai Healthcare City**, the region's hub for world-class quality healthcare services; **Mizin**, one of the most advanced real estate companies in the region; **Universal City Dubailand**, the 22 million sq ft development, featuring Universal Studios Dubailand as its centerpiece; **"The Tiger Woods - Dubai"**, an exclusive golf community that will include the first Tiger Woods designed golf course; **Dubailand**, one of the biggest leisure, entertainment and tourism destinations in the Middle East; **Dubai Industrial City**, an industrial township to develop Dubai as a leading manufacturing hub; **Bawadi**, the world's leading hospitality and

entertainment project hosting 51 luxury hotels and more than 60,000 hotel rooms; **Dubai Energy**, investing in regional and global energy opportunities and building a diversified investment portfolio; **Dubai Mercantile Exchange**, the first energy futures exchange in the Middle East set up in partnership with the New York Mercantile Exchange and **Global Village**, a premier family destination for culture, entertainment, cuisine and commerce. Tatweer's entities continue to consolidate a group of life-improving industries in addition to pioneering joint venture initiatives with leading global conglomerates. They continuously strive for world-class performance, while implementing leadership development to drive and sustain business excellence, quality and high performance.

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