



Association for Medical Education in the  
Eastern Mediterranean Region

# AMEEMR



NEWSLETTER



Executive Committee  
Meeting University of  
Sousse, Tunisia  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2011

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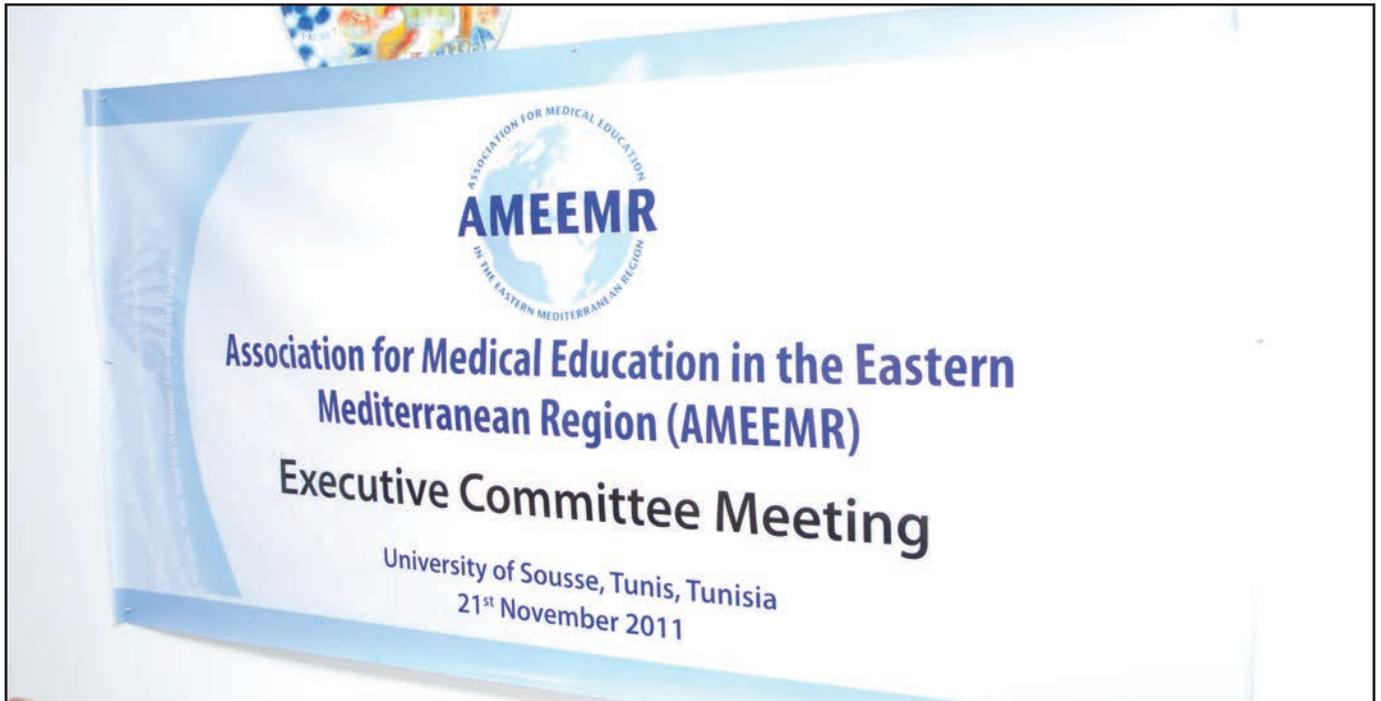


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# Highlights of the Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting started at 1100 hours at the Dean's Conference Room. Those present were: Dr. Ibrahim Al Alwan, Prof. Mohi Magzoub, Prof. Somaya Hosny, Prof. Salah Kassab, Prof. Ali. Batarfi, Prof. Rukhsana Zuberi and Prof. Najib M'rizek



Apologies: Prof. A. Haboor, Prof. A. El Ouazzani

### Welcome Remarks - Dr. Ibrahim Al Alwan, President, AMEEMR

Dr. Ibrahim Al Alwan extended his warm welcome to all those present in the EC meeting and expressed his appreciation to the University of Sousse particularly to the Dean of the College, and Prof. Najib Mrizak for coordinating the meeting. Dr. Alwan continued to thank Prof. M'rizak in providing transportation to all the members from Tunis to Sousse.



Dr. Alwan reported his participation at the Executive Council of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) which was held in Malmö, Sweden, from the 27th – 28th April 2011 chaired by Prof. Stefan Lindgren, current president of WFME. The meeting was also attended by Prof. I. Banihani, former President of AMEEMR and Dr. Alwan mentioned that KSAU-HS supported his participation to this meeting. He cited the topics that were covered during the Council Meeting i.e. presentation from each region; update from the Chairman on the EXCO meeting in Bangkok in March 2011; WFME standard programs, reports from six regional associations from Africa, America, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South East Asia, Western Pacific. In addition to social accountability initiative as part of accreditation and other topics that are essential to medical education.



Dr. I. Alwan said that as part of his participation he gave a presentation on the progress of AMEEMR where he summarized the proceedings of the First Foundation Meeting held last 12th to 13th March 2011; announced new members of the Executive Committee, plan of actions in the next three years and

that this meeting brought together members of the EMRO/WFME chapter who both enthusiastically shared their knowledge and expertise during the two-day meeting.

### **Plan of Actions (POA) for the next three years**

Prof. Mohi Magzoub, General Secretary, AMEEMR presented the POA of which a copy was distributed to all the members before the meeting. The POA included activities, actions to be taken, how these activities will be conducted, responsible member to carry out the tasks, when it should be implemented and the source.



Prof. Magzoub mentioned that some of the activities listed have already been conducted such as the creation of AMEEMR website, designation of AMEEMR headquarters, and distribution of AMEEMR newsletter (two issues Volume 1- Issue 1 and 2 August 2011 and November 2011, respectively) The EC members approved the POA for the next three years.

### **Financial Report**

Prof. Magzoub gave a brief report of the association's financial status of which an annual budget of SR 200,000.00 was approved by H.E. Dr. Bandar Al Knawy, President of KSAU-HS for the first two years. He mentioned that expenses incurred totaling to SR 83,832.00 represents payments to printing of promotional materials disseminated at the AMEE Conference in Vienna, Austria on the 27th to 31st August 2011 and contribution of AMEEMR to WHO as co-organizer of the WHO Accreditation Conference, Tunis. Other payments pending are payments to printing of the 2nd Issue of AMEEMR Newsletters, and payment due to Medknow Publications for publishing our journal.

It was agreed by the EC members that the remaining amount from the budget for this year will be used for conducting workshops in Suez Canal University and Arabian Gulf University. Suez Canal University workshop will be on Assessment whereas AGU workshop will be on Curriculum Development. Dr. Salah Eldin Kassab and Dr. Somaya Hosny were requested to write and submit a proposal in regards to these two workshops.



### Appointment of Treasurer and Coordinating Secretary

According to the AMEEMR Constitution, a Treasurer should be appointed along with the Coordinating Secretary. The members elected Dr. Ahmed Al Rumayyan, Associate Dean, College of Medicine, KSAU-HS as Treasurer and Ms. Lilian R. Carandang, Department of Medical Education, COM, KSAU-HS as Coordinating Secretary.

### Group Formation

The EC discussed the possibility of establishing selected four groups to conduct specific activities that will contribute to the enhancement of medical education in the Eastern Region.

The EC agreed on the following groups and responsible members:

Group on Social Accountability (GOSA)	Dr. Mohamed El Hassan Abdalla, Deputy Head, Medical Education Unit Faculty of Medicine, Jazan University
Group on Accreditation & Quality Assurance (GAQA)	Prof. Somaya Hosny, Dean Faculty of Medicine Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt Dr. Zein Elabdeen Karrar, President Sudan Medical Council
Research in Medical Education (RIME)	Prof. Mohammed Yousef Hasan Baniyas Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences United Arab Emirates University Prof. Salah Eldin Kassab, Chairman DME, COM and Medical Sciences, AGU

Group on Capacity Building (GCB)

Prof. Rukshana Zuberi, Associate Dean  
Faculty of Health Sciences, Aga Khan University  
Pakistan  
Prof. Somaya Hosny, Dean  
Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University  
Ismailia, Egypt  
Lilian R. Carandang  
Department of Medical Education, COM  
KSAU-HS

### **AMEEMR Website**

Dr. I. Alwan updated the EC on the progress of creation of the website for AMEEMR which will go live in the near future.

### **Next General Assembly Meeting**

The EC agreed on holding the next general assembly meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to be hosted by KSAU-HS on a time to be determined by the University but not earlier than December 2012.

### **Progress on the Medical and Health Sciences Education Journal**

Prof. Magzoub gave a brief progress on the journal; MOU between Medknow and AMEEMR has been finalized, details as follows: USD1893 per issue for 2000 copies, design, hosting, and maintaining the journal's website and other issues stipulated in the MOU.

### **AMEEMR – WHO/EMRO Collaboration**

Members of the committee discussed the importance of AMEEMR/WHO collaboration in aspects related to medical education particularly in the areas of accreditation and enhancing quality of medical education in the eastern Mediterranean region.

The meeting also stressed the importance of recognizing accrediting bodies by AMEEMR and members showed willingness that AMEEMR should carry the task of recognizing accrediting bodies in countries where accreditation is well established. These countries included Egypt, Sudan, Pakistan, and Iran and also the meeting emphasizes the importance of helping countries where accreditation is still under established such as Tunisia, Morocco. In this regard, members have agreed that AMEEMR can now start Capacity Building work on accreditation issues on the formulation of national standardization.

### **Prof. James Ware**

The members decided that since Prof. James Ware does no longer belong to the medical institution should therefore be relieved as member of the EC. Dr. Nadia Al Wardy, Head, Medical Education Unit, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman was named as Prof. Ware's replacement.

### Application for membership to AMEEMR

Dr. I. Alwan informed the EC regarding application for membership to AMEEMR from Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) represented by Dr. Ahmad Nadeem Akbar and members of the EC approved its application as member of AMEEMR as well as the Sudan Medical Council represented by Prof. Zein E. Karrar.

It was also stressed in the meeting the creation of a database of all the medical schools in the eastern Mediterranean region and all schools should be approached for membership. The database should be continuously updated in collaboration with each country.



The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM. EC members were invited to lunch by Prof. Faysal Mansouri, President, University of Sousse.

# Brief Summary of the WHO Regional Consultation of Health Professions Education in the Eastern Mediterranean Region – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011



The registration started at 0830 hours and the welcome addresses and opening remarks were presented by several bodies i.e. EMRO, Chairman of the Scientific Society of Arab Deans of Medical Schools of the Arab Universities Union, WFME President, and AMEEMR President. The official opening was done by H.E. Minister of Health, Tunisia.

Session 2 was chaired by Dr. M. Ben Ammar and the introduction as to the theme of the meeting, its objectives and expected outputs was conveyed by Dr. Walid Abubaker. The afternoon session proceeded in discussing accreditation experience, lessons and practices from UK and Australia which was chaired by Dr. Charles Boelen. The last session ended with presentations given by selected countries from the region (Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, GCC, and Iran) which includes their experience in the establishment and sustaining accreditation of their health sciences school which included health sciences, medical, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry.



Introductory remarks and discussion on social accountability of medical schools towards the community were undertaken on the 2nd day of the conference with the plenary session headed by Dr. Charles Boelen. Group session was initiated and attendees were divided into five groups with each group having a representative to give recommendations in regards to modification or improvement of the current regional standards of HPE accreditation.

During Day 3 of the conference institutional country experience in evaluation from several regions along with other health sciences including Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry (Iraq, Yemen, UAE, Jordan and Morocco) was heard from their representatives. Session two was a continuum of different workshop discussion about domain for standard of accreditation, revised, and then followed by each representative from each group giving feedback to the attendees.

The last day of the conference (Day 4) was focused on regional coordination and capacity building workshops where representatives from the WHO, WFME, AMEEMR, and Scientific Society of Arab Schools facilitated the discussion. Summary of regional support coordination between these bodies will finally improve quality of accreditation in the eastern region. Session two was directed in parallel capacity building workshops (three workshops); 1) selection and training of assessors; 2) institutional accreditation; and 3) clinical presentation curriculum.

At the end of the conference, it was agreed that WHO will make a summary of the 4-day workshop for recommendation of all the attendees.

# News Update

## Executive Board appoints the Regional Director for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Geneva, 17 January 2012

The World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board, currently holding its 130th session, has appointed Dr. Ala Alwan as the new WHO Regional Director for WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, which is headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Alwan will take up his appointment for a five-year term starting on 1 February 2012. He is taking over Dr. Hussein Abdel Razzak Al Gezairy, outgoing Regional Director.

Dr. Alwan is a native of Iraq and was a Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq. From 2008 until the end of 2011, he was Assistant Director-General for Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health at WHO Headquarters, where he led WHO's work that resulted in the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011 of the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control Non-communicable Diseases.

## AMEE 2012 Lyon, France 25th - 29th August 2012

AMEE 2012 in collaboration with SIFEM would like to invite anyone with an interest in medical education, health care professions, i.e. veterinary medicine, nursing, and dentistry, interest in the continuum of education, those who would like to find out who is doing what in medical and health care professions education, and those wishing to present their work and to share their results with others to register for their upcoming conference in Lyon, France.

# 15th Ottawa Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 9th – 13th March 2012

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The 15th Ottawa Conference 2012 “Assessment of Competence in Medicine and the Healthcare Professions ” will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from the 9th to 13th March 2012. This event is sponsored by the International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and AMEE. This conference provides a forum for medical and other health care professions educators to network and share ideas on all aspects of the assessment of competence in both clinical and non-clinical domains, throughout the continuum of education.

Prof. Mohi E. Magzoub, Secretary General of AMEEMR and Dr. Ahmed Al Rumayyan, appointed Treasurer for AMEEMR will attend this conference. AMEEMR will have a booth available to this conference to disseminate information in regards to the activities of our association.



# Special Feature

## About Group on Social Accountability

The Group on Social Accountability (GOSA) is one of the taskforce created under the umbrella of AMEEMR to execute its activities among the medical schools and health professions in the eastern region. As medical schools are now being considered as the main stockholder in the health industry, the concept of social accountability was suggested to be adopted in the medical education.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined social accountability as the “obligation of the medical schools to direct their education, research and service activities towards addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region, and/or nation they have a mandate to serve.” The priority health concerns are to be identified jointly

by governments, health care organizations, health professionals and the public. Medical schools need to address the society needs and to be socially accountable, for the following primary reasons:

- The ethics of medical profession establishes the obligation to serve the needs of patients and community at large.
- Public funded medical schools are accountable for the support received to serve the national community. Privately funded schools, which are now blooming worldwide, must also demonstrate their capacity to impact sustainably on people’s health.

In considering social accountability of medical schools, the values of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and equity, must be addressed in education, service and research, as main functions taken care of by medical school. These values must be addressed in the planning, implementing and evaluating the impact of medical education on the graduates, health services and society.

Many initiatives were developed to promote the concept of social accountability all over the world which resulted in the development of the Global Consensus for Social Accountability of Medical Schools in December 2010.

The WHO and the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) are among the organizations that participated in the development of the consensus. WFME through its steering committee and regional association is dedicated to the promotion of the concept in the medical schools. This creates a need for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) a chapter of WFME to be dedicated to this concept, too.

### **Mission**

To promote adoption of social accountability by medical school and health professions and accreditation bodies in the EMRO region.

## Objectives

- To disseminate the Global Consensus of Social Accountability of Medical Schools among all medical schools and accreditation bodies in the eastern region.
- To assess the relevance of the ten areas of the Global Consensus document to medical schools in the region.
- To measure the current degree of application of the ten areas by the different medical schools in developing standard tests for social accountability inspired by the ten areas of the consensus.
- To encourage accrediting bodies to incorporate SA standards among their accreditation standards.
- To evaluate the impact of adopting the social accountability concept by medical schools on the medical education, health system and the community development.

## Strategies

### Awareness

- Dissemination of the electronic version (English and Arabic versions) of Global Consensus document to all medical schools in the region.
- Development of a discussion forum and encourage inter-country working groups of social accountability in the region in collaboration with WHO/EMRO and other agencies of interest.
- Conduction of national/inter-country seminars about social accountability of medical schools.
- Design of materials to be used in discussion groups and seminars.
- Regular information sharing through the AMEEMR newsletter made available to all medical schools in the region.

### Relevance

- Conduct a regional survey to assess relevance of the ten areas of social accountability to medical schools and medical education

organizations in the region.

- Detailed survey on strengths and weaknesses of a sample of medical schools regarding the compliance to the 10 areas of the Global Consensus.

### Measurement

- Conduct a situation analysis in the region to examine whether accreditation bodies address social accountability in its standards and the accreditation processes.
- Creation of a task force to develop and validate standards addressing social accountability of medical schools.

### Accreditation

- Promotion of the use of newly developed social accountability standards by accreditation bodies in the region and of processes compatible with social accountability principles.

### Impact Evaluation

- Suggestion of instruments and procedures to assess achievements of short term, medium and long term goals.
- A plan of action has been endorsed to achieve the group objectives; the implementation of this plan needs to expand membership of the group from medical schools and individuals.
- To know more about the group and to apply for membership, please contact: Dr. Mohamed Elhassan Abdalla, Chairman, GOSA; email address hason75@yahoo.com.

# News around Eastern Region Medical Schools

Faculty of Medicine

University of Gezira, Sudan



The Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira is now a member of the group Training for Health Equity Network (THE Net), a community of health and medical schools striving towards social accountability which comprises the following institutions:

Ateneo de Zamboanga University School of Medicine (Philippines)

The School of Health Sciences at Leyte, University of the Philippines (Philippines)

The Faculty of Health Sciences, Walter Sisulu University (South Africa)

Flinders University School of Medicine (Australia)

James Cook University Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Science (Australia)

The Latin American School of Medicine (Cuba)

Northern Ontario School of Medicine (Canada)

Gezira University Faculty of Medicine (Sudan)

Ghent University Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (Belgium)

Jimma University, College of Public Health and Medical Sciences (Ethiopia)

Patan Academy of Health Sciences (Nepal)

The University of New Mexico, School of Medicine / Health Science Center (USA)

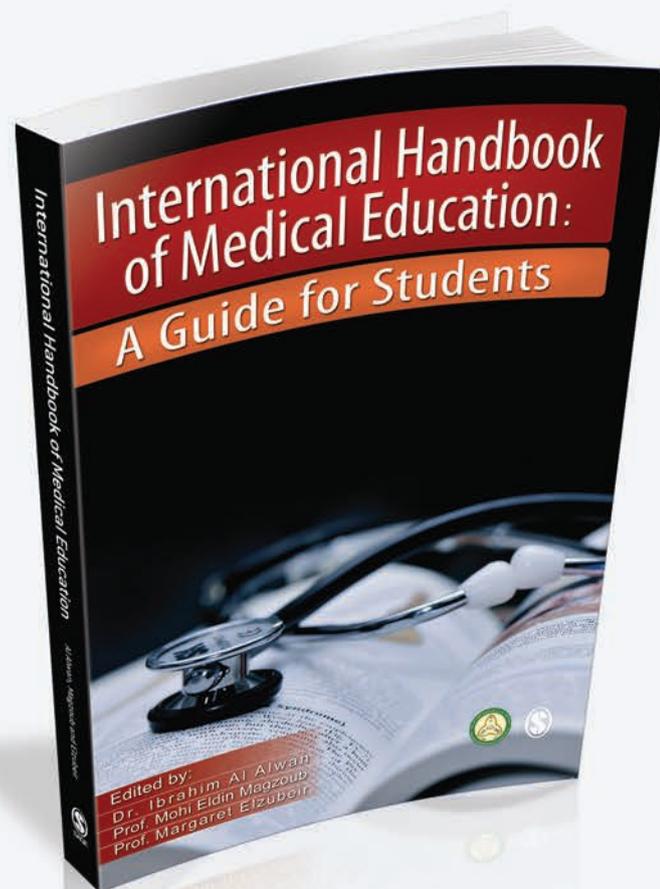
The THE Net group will have a conference in May 2012 in Gezira, Sudan and is also scheduled to have a research work in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2012. Dr. Salwa Elsanousi will represent Gezira University Faculty of Medicine in this meeting as she is a member of the THE Net research group.

Another news of interest, five hundred medical students of Gezira are now in the rural hospitals and the villages as part of their community courses field training. They will spend four weeks in the rural hospitals exposing themselves to hospital administration health economics and the pattern of diseases presented to the rural hospitals. The objective of this course is to expose the students to the future site in which they are going to work after graduation.

The village programme course is to involve the students in community problems whether social health of economic problem and to discuss with the community leaders their priorities and how can the student help in solving these problems by mobilizing the community and raising the community problems to the local authorities. This is a three-step course where students first visit the village where they do demographic study and agree with the community leaders about the project which they would like them to implement. Stage two is the implementation of the project and stage three is to evaluate the impact of the project on the village community. The student spend one week in the village in each phase.

By: Prof. Ali Haboor, Dean  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira

**Available in the market 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**  
for pre-order, check [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)



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