

Volume 1, Issue 2

Kuwait Health

“Promoting Equitable Health Sector Reform”

www.q8health.org

KHI participates in "Green Caravan"

film festival...Read more on Page 7



Future Kuwaiti Doctors... Level of Job Satisfaction and Job Stability among Senior Medical Staff Working in Kuwait Public Hospitals...Read full research paper on page 4

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KHI Supports the "Earth Hour"

KHI turned off the lights for one hour on Saturday, 27 March 2010 from 20:30 to 21:30



KHI Poll...

Do you have enough knowledge of your health when you visit government facilities?

Yes, No, Some,

Please participate by sending your feedback to

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KHI Chairman talks at the Harvard Arab Weekend

KHI Co-founder & Chairman, Nadeem Al-Duaij served as Chair of the renowned Arab Weekend at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts last fall. This landmark event co-organized by the Harvard Arab Alumni Association united high profile speakers and hundreds of attendees to address key issues specific to the MENA region in the fields of politics, business, law, public health, and design.

Nadeem was also invited by the Harvard School of Public

Health MENA Student Group leadership to discuss the vision of the Kuwait Health Initiative and the importance of developing civil society initiatives in the GCC at a dedicated panel on human capital and social enterprise in MENA.



Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI) in partnership with Agility's Corporate Social Responsibility Department have organized RunQ8. RunQ8, a 10KM run, will take place on November 6, 2010. Dr. Manal Bouhaimed (KHI Board Member) has also partnered with FSRI to raise awareness and to increase support of Kuwait University's Community Eye Health Initiative. For all other event details, please check the following link: <http://www.runq8.org/>

In Kuwait Today:

Who should pay for cancer care treatments?

According to the Kuwait Times, payment of cancer care treatment is currently being debated. The debate also questions whether or not parents of children receiving cancer care should pay for treatment as stated in expatriate health care news. The Ministry of Health Kuwait is considering exempting certain Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis from having to pay for cancer treatment. Among this groups are included the Bedouin residents and expatriates. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Abdulhadi, according to the Kuwait Times, has disclosed that payment exemptions will include the cost of x-rays, lab tests, ultrasound treatment, medicines and all forms of therapy. Currently as the Kuwait health care system stands, Kuwaitis usually receive medical services at government clinics and hospitals free of charge. Expats pay nominal fees only for primary care visits. For diagnostic tests and interventions, they often pay out of pocket due to unregulated insurance coverage.

Nafeesa Ladha

July 2010 - Sources: www.kuwaittimes.net & www.expatriatehealthcare.com/news



GCC Health

DUBAI - More than 40 children's medications recalled for failing to meet quality standards are still being sold in pharmacies across the United Arab Emirates, local daily the National reported on Sunday.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday recalled the over-the-counter liquid products from 11 countries, including the UAE and Kuwait.

"McNeil Consumer Healthcare is initiating this voluntary recall because some of these products may not meet required quality standards," the U.S.-based company said in a statement.

"While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers who have purchased these recalled products to discontinue use," the statement added.

McNeil said some products could contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than is specified, while others could contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements.

Medications covered by the recall include Tylenol Infants' Drops, Children's Tylenol Suspensions, Motrin Infant Drops and Children's Zyrtec, McNeil said.

Pharmacies in the UAE said they had not yet been instructed to stop selling the products, The National reported.

"Children's Tylenol and Tylenol Plus are available. We haven't received any order to remove them from our shelves yet," Mohammed Peer, of Care Green Pharmacy in Dubai, was quoted as saying.

The National said the way recalls work is the FDA sends a memorandum to health authorities which then issue a circular to pharmacies. UAE government offices were closed on Friday and Saturday.



**KHI Strategic
Interests**

**Develop a universal plan to improve
the quality of health care services**

KHI Mission and Vision

Engage in alliances with local, regional and international non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies, civil society organizations, and leading academic and research institutions to better understand and analyze our health systems

KHI Articles**Level of Job Satisfaction and Job Stability among Senior Medical Staff Working in Kuwait Public Hospitals**

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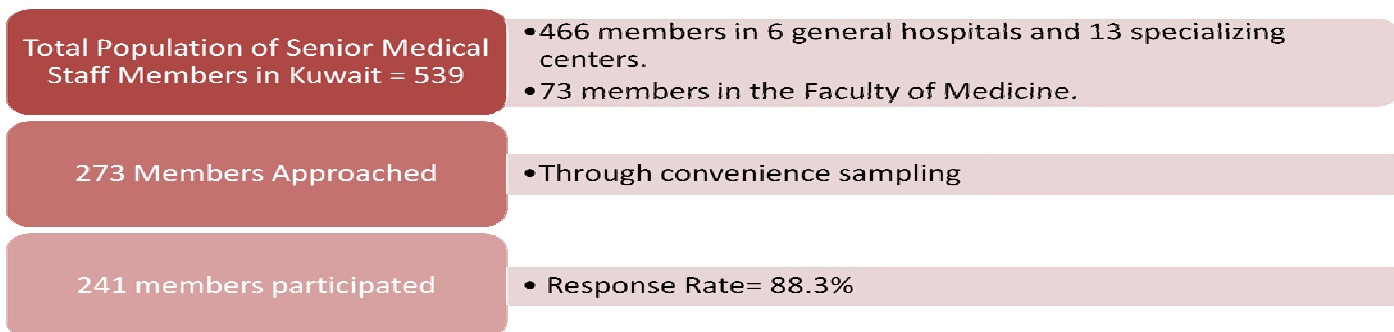
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Introduction:

Research shows that job satisfaction is associated with job performance and assuring it is essential from many aspects including the humanitarian and ethical ones. Objectives: To assess the level of job satisfaction and stability with identification of reasons of dissatisfaction among senior medical staff working in Kuwait governmental hospitals.

Methods:

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in 2009. Data was collected through questionnaire submitted in a sealed box.

**Results:**

A total of 241 senior doctors participated. General satisfaction was reported by 74%. Further principle component analysis identified 10 domains of satisfaction and stability. Workload and stress had the lowest satisfaction score while relationships with patients and other staff members had the highest. There were gender differences in satisfaction with hospital resources, and job standing and security. Non-Kuwaitis were less satisfied with finance than Kuwaitis. For most of the domains, satisfaction increased with age. There was no significant difference in satisfaction between hospitals or between specialties. In general, as the number of years of medical experience in Kuwait increases, the level of satisfaction with professional development and finance significantly increases. Those holding an academic position in Kuwait University did differ from those who did not. Specialists showed the lowest levels of stability across ranks. Pediatricians were the most stable among specialties. With the logistic regression, dissatisfaction with 3 out of the 10 domains showed a statistically significant association with instability. The main outcomes:

1. Global or general satisfaction level (Fig. 1)
2. Satisfaction about 41 specific job features. (Fig.2)
3. Satisfaction about 10 job related domains. (Table 4)
4. Instability potential. (Tables 5,6,and 7)

Conclusions:

To promote the retention of physicians in the government sector in Kuwait, our results suggest that finance-related dissatisfaction, leadership-related dissatisfaction, and workload and stress-related dissatisfaction should be looked at carefully by top Ministry of Health leadership.

Fig. 2 Percentage of Satisfied Senior Members about Specific Job Features

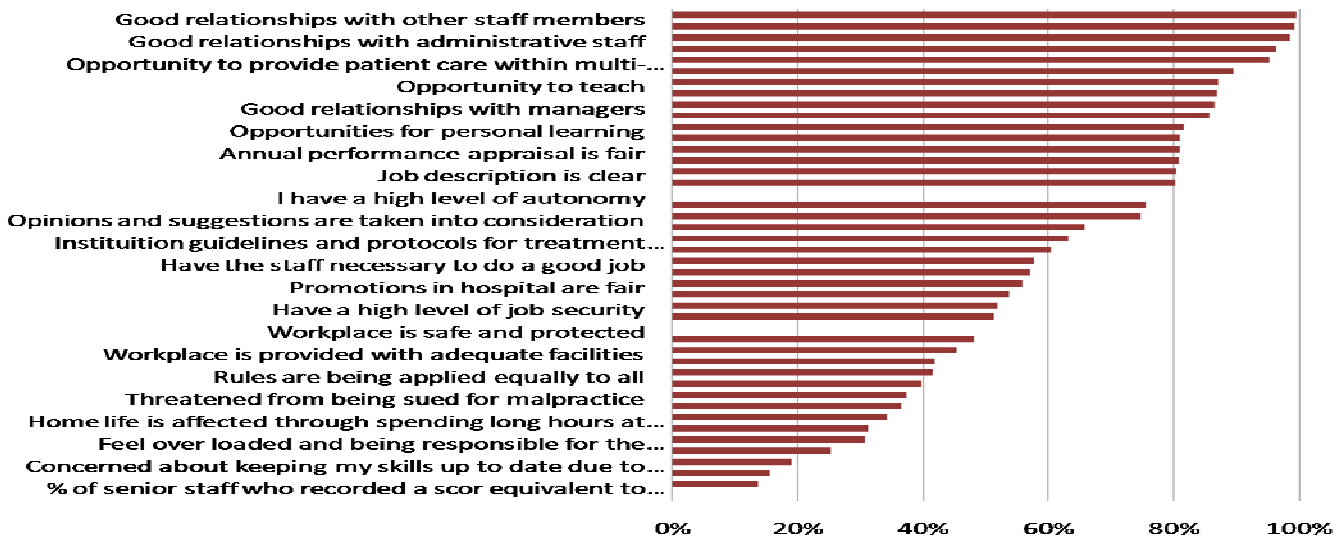


Table 4 Principle Component Analysis with Reliability test for questions within the 10 identified domains (Cronbach's alpha between 0.67-0.85)

The Ten identified domains out of the specific 41 job features	No. Of Items per domain	Cronbach's Alpha
Equity and management	7	0.854
Relationships	7	0.808
Work load and stress	7	0.683
Hospital resources	3	0.833
Leadership	4	0.735
Professional Development	4	0.770
Finance	2	0.665
Job standing and security	5	0.672
Academia	1	
Opportunity for private practice	1	

Table 6 Results of Logistic Regression exploring the relationship of job instability to job satisfaction domains and demographic variables among Kuwaiti medical staff members.

Disatisfaction from:	B	P-value	Odds ratio Of Instability	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Leadership	1.545	0.015	4.69	1.353	16.258
Finance	1.240	0.005	3.455	1.44	8.289

Table 7 Results of Logistic Regression exploring the relationship of job instability to job satisfaction domains and demographic variables among Non-Kuwaiti medical staff members.

Disatisfaction from:	B	P-value	Odds ratio Of Instability	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Academia	- 1.783	0.014	0.17	0.04	0.701
Age	- 0.09	0.004	0.91	0.86	0.973

Fig.1 Global Satisfaction Level Among Senior Medical Staff Members

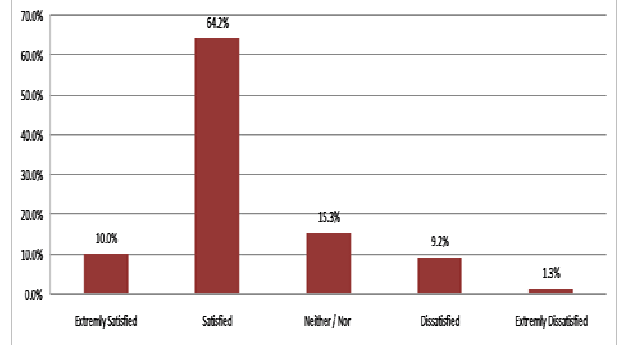


Table 5 Results of Logistic Regression exploring the relationship of job instability to job satisfaction domains and demographic variables among all senior medical staff members.

Disatisfaction from	B	P-value	Odds ratio Of Instability	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Finance	1.136	<0.001	3.12	1.716	5.673
Leadership	1.085	0.019	2.961	1.197	7.321
Workload	0.674	0.068	1.961	0.952	4.011
Academia	-0.689	0.083	0.502	0.23	1.084



Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice



Bayt Abdullah (BACCH) is a children's hospice commissioned by KACCH and licensed by the Ministry of Health to provide palliative care for children in Kuwait free of charge without regard to nationality or religion. The premises of the hospice is a 20,000 square meter land in Sulaibikhat bay area was authorized by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and leased from the Ministry of Social Affairs for a nominal sum per annum.

The facility will provide professional services free of charge for all children in Kuwait who meet the criteria for admission to the hospice. Children and families will have the choice to receive care either in their home, at the hospice or a combination of all three depending on their needs. Families will also be able to use a 24-hour support network that will be provided over the telephone or in the home. The BACCH professional team will consist of specialists in pediatric palliative care that are experts in treating children with complex conditions that may restrict their activities and limit their daily livelihood.



Alia Al Ghunaim, architect, designed the hospice as her graduation project at Kuwait University. She studied all aspects of children's wellbeing and the possibility to create a friendly environment geared towards helping all the family.

Playrooms, a theater, individual chalets, suites for mother and child; she tried to think of all the needs that might arise. She spent time researching the subject to come with the final project. Using this project and in consultation with various other design experts from around the world a suitable design has been created for this hospice. The design of Bayt Abdullah has focused on the needs of children and their families with the emphasis on an attractive, child-friendly, inter-active environment supported by highly trained pediatric staff. The facility will be surrounded by gardens and terraces and will be near the inlet of the Arabian Gulf. The hospice will incorporate a small Ferris wheel, magic carpet and roof top walkway. It will also contain an observation tower, a kid friendly play area and all areas will be accessible curving ramps and stairs.

This project is non governmental and is based on individuals' contributions. The hospice will rely on donations. If you would like to donate please go the BACCH website for more information.

Nafeesa Ladha
July 2010
Sources: www.bacch.org



KHI collaborates with HSPH investigator on cancer screening

The KHI and Harvard investigator Dr. Athanasios Zavras completed a pilot study to better assess the knowledge of cancer screening practices among primary care providers in Kuwait and their perceived barriers to implementation. Kuwait, a high-income developing nation of the Arabian Gulf, continues to lack standards in preventive care and screening practices. To date, the nation does not enforce screening for the most common preventable diseases, including cancer, hyperlipidemia, hypertension and diabetes.

In an effort to gauge the distribution and variability of knowledge of current, internationally recognized practices in cancer screening among a sample of primary care physicians in Kuwaiti MOH clinics, KHI investigators Nadeem Al-Duaij and Manal Bouhaimed collaborated with Harvard School of Public Health investigator Athanasios Zavras to develop a customized survey that seeks to capture critical information on their basic knowledge of necessary interventions and their perceived socio-cultural barriers to implementation. The knowledge gaps and barriers identified through this study will support policy-making efforts when time comes to adopt much-needed legislation and nationwide programs.



Dr Amna Shaghouli



Dr. Aliaa Tayea

KHI participates in "Green Caravan" film festival

The KHI Environmental Health team last fall partnered with leading environmental consultancy Equilibrium to expose the health effects of pollution at the "Green Caravan" film festival.

A KHI stand was led by environmental health expert Dr. Aliaa Tayea who show cased a presentation on this topic and, with the help of other members, distributed informational leaflets about the KHI to the participants. This event provided information to attendees about the impact of environmental pollution on the health of individuals and populations. There has been much interest in our mission and over 60 brochures were picked up during the event!

Kuwait suffers a tremendous burden of pollution due in part to the petrochemical industry and to the lack of proper environmental regulations and advocacy. The KHI team distributed over 60 brochures to visitors of the event.

GREENCARAVAN
Film Festival 2009



Upcoming Events

- EnviroCities 2010 International Conference
 “Green Cities” InterContinental Hotel - Dubai
 Festival City - UAE <http://www.ecat.ae/en/> November 28 - 29
- Kuwait Occupational Health & Safety Conference—Hilton Kuwait Resort. <http://kuwaitohs.com/> December 6 - 7
- 1st Middle East Conference on Biomedical Engineering. Sharja– UAE. <http://mecbme.org/> February 21 - 24
- Gulf Environment Forum 2011 - Hilton Jeddah—KSA <http://www.gulfenvironmentforum.com/welcome/> March 6 - 8

More events at www.q8health.org/events/



Friends of KHI:



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"Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter"



Kuwait Health Initiative

Become a health activist, make a difference. Join the KHI today at

[**KHI membership**](#)



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