By Dental Tribune MEA

Dr. Mohammed Sultan Al-Darwish: Before 2006, we dreamed to have an organization covering all dentists in Qatar under one umbrella. We dreamed to have a dental conference in the country. We dreamed to have a dental society similar to our neighboring countries. Then, a group of 20 dentists held a small meeting and after a 3 hours discussion on all of the challenges, the decision was to establish a dental society in the country. Now, after 6 years we reach some of the targets we had set ourselves.

As President of the Qatar Dental Society, how have you seen dentistry develop in Qatar during your current term as leader of the ODS?

When I started my term as the first president of Qatar Dental Society, the number of dentists in Qatar were 657. Now in 2014 we reached 1228 dentists. We organized the first, second and third Qatar International Dental Conference. Also, more than 12 small dental symposiums, workshops and seminars have been organized.

In 2009 you organized the First Qatar International Conference, in 2011 you organized the second. How important is the Qatar Dental Society to have your annual conference? What has improved since last conferences?

On December 15 – 16, 2009, we organized the 1st Qatar Dental International Conference. It was part of Qatar Health Medical Conference with 15 lectures and small exhibition area (6 booths).

On 12 - 15 April, 2012, we organized the second Qatar Dental International Conference & the 8th Gulf Dental Association conference. The scientific program of that conference had 19 lectures and 2 workshops. The exhibition area consisted of about 19 booths. On 11 - 12 December, 2014, we organized the 3rd Qatar Dental International Conference. The conference has grown over the years and the scientific program included 26 lectures with 8 workshops. The exhibition area consisted of 20 booths.

More than 12 Deans of dental schools attended this conference. As I mentioned during the opening ceremony of this conference, the supreme council of health in Qatar decided that a dentist must have 40 CME each year to renew the license and 15 CME out of 40 must be local. At this point we are looking forward to make the conference annually.

Are there plans for a Dental University to open up in Qatar any time soon?

Yes, there is a plan to open a dental school in Qatar, and now we are in the preparatory stages of making this happen.

Are the number of dentists in Qatar increasing? Are there a small number of Dental Technicians, how do you go about increasing these numbers?

Yes, the number of dentists in the country are increasing as I mentioned before. As you know we have North Atlantic College – Qatar, and in this college we have a dental assistance program and this year we started a dental hygienist program. Regarding the dental technicians, we have plans to coordinate with other dental institutes to recruit dental technicians in Qatar.

How can dentists in Qatar stay up to date with the latest in dentistry?

By organizing the conferences, seminars, workshops and symposiums we keep our dentists updated with the new dental technology. Also, all government sectors, such as Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, Aspetar, Qatar Petroleum, Dental Services in the Army and others always send the dentists to international conferences and workshops that are organized in other countries.

Has Digital Dentistry had a strong influence in Qatar?

Yes, Digital Dentistry has a strong influence in Qatar. Majority of dentists in Qatar have started to use CAD/CAM and dental laser in their clinics.

What advice do you have for the young generation of dentists in Qatar?

Work hard, continue your study with an advanced program and master degree, involve yourself in dental researches and do not forget to attend dental conferences and workshops to keep yourself updated with the new dental technology.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the readers?

Qatar Dental Society would like to thank Dental Tribune MEA/

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EVENTS 21

3rd Qatar Dental International Conference
11-12 December 2014, Doha, Qatar

Dental Tribune MEA: How do you reflect back the time since Qatar Dental Society was established in 2007?

Dr. Mohammed Sultan Al-Darwish: 2012

Qatar International Conference & the 1st Qatar Dental International Conference on 11 - 12 December 2014. We find out more from the President of Qatar Dental Association – Dr. Mohammed Al-Darwish on the developments in Qatar.

Dental Tribune MEA: How do you reflect back the time since Qatar Dental Society was established in 2007?

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The Scientific Conference

Regional Dental Associations, Societies and Universities attending the Event

Contact Information

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