

Global leaders to address forum on Saudi-American health care



Riyadh Gov. Prince Faisal bin Bandar will officiate at the opening ceremony of the 2015 C3 Saudi-American Healthcare Forum, which is being held in Riyadh for three days from Monday. The event will be held under the governor's patronage.

Also participating in the forum are acting Health Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulmalik Al Al-Sheikh; Dr. Qasim Al-Qasabi, CEO of King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre-Gen. Org. (KFSH&RC); and Dr. Yagob Yousef Al-Mazrou, secretary general of the Saudi Health Council. In addition, speakers from the American side include Ambassador Joseph Westphal of the US Embassy to Saudi Arabia and John Duke Anthony, founding president and CEO of the National Council on US-Arab Relations. The keynote panel is titled "Innovation in vaccines" and will be led by Hassan Al-Damluji, head of Middle East relations for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Vaccines, by any measure, are among the most impactful public health strategies. For just \$25, a child can be protected for life against a range of deadly and debilitating diseases.

Reinforcing the 2015 C3 Saudi-American Healthcare Forum theme — Improving health care through bilateral knowledge — the focus of the forum will discuss the most up-to-date information on important health care topics, including infrastructure, the shift from communicable

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diseases, the future of primary health care, and cooperative assistance for knowledge transfer.

In collaboration with KFSH&RC, the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and Kuwait Cancer Control Center, Dr. Ghassan Abou-Alfa of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), will moderate a panel titled "The benefits of knowledge transfer between KSA and USA, including continuous education and training of manpower."

According to panelist member Dr. Khalid Al-Meshari of KFSH&RC, the panel will focus on both the exchange of knowledge and employment opportunities between the two regions.

Panelist member Dr. Hassan El Solh of KFSH&RC will speak on the importance of collaboration and partnership among institutions in relation to research, technology, and innovation in the field of cancer prevention and treatment in addition to the role of KFSH&RC in the fight against cancer in the Kingdom and the region.

Dr. Fadi Bitar from AUBMC will highlight the importance of establishing education and training programs in health care in the region, particularly in relation to tertiary care clinical services.

The C3 Saudi-American Healthcare Forum is described as an exclusive event dedicated to forging new business relationships, fostering existing partnerships and exchanging best practices by building a cohesive global community through bilateral cooperation.

According to Dr. Al-Qasabi, "The fight against disease is not a fight for glory. It is about resources and research, and about access to the best health care services in order to improve survival and quality of life. It is a fight for a better and healthier life for all of us, but most of all for our children who will live in this very interconnected world."