

Exchange of Expertise:

A UICC Fellow Enhances his Skills in the Smoking Cessation Clinics at King Hussein Cancer Center

About the Visit

The King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) hosted a visiting physician through the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) technical fellowship grant. The physician participated in a structured two-week program in January 2024 aimed at advancing knowledge and skills in tobacco dependence treatment (TDT) by providing hands-on experience within KHCC's ongoing TDT services.

”

“We must not give up on our efforts against tobacco. A successful Tobacco Treatment Specialist program involves developing skills, enhancing knowledge, and, above all, applying what we have learned in real-world situations. We recently hosted the first tobacco treatment specialist at our TDT clinic, where we exchanged experiences and learned from each other. We would be happy to continue this experience in the future.”

Dr. Naser Mahmoud, Head of Pulmonary Medicine Section and a Tobacco Treatment Specialist at King Hussein Cancer Center

Meet our Visiting TTS

Dr. Ayman Al-Dahshan is a well-experienced community medicine practitioner committed to establishing sustainable lifestyle health programs. He is a graduate of Misr University for Science and Technology and holds certifications from the Arab Board of Health Specializations. Dr. Al-Dahshan obtained his certification as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) from KHCC's TDT training program in 2021 and subsequently completed a 16-month field training program during which he contributed to wellness clinics, smoking cessation programs, and community health initiatives. Currently, Dr. Al-Dahshan works at Hamad Medical Corporation and is certified in Lifestyle Medicine and Clinical Informatics. He was awarded the technical fellowship grant by the Union for International Cancer Control to visit KHCC's TDT clinics in January 2024.



”

“As the Chairman of UICC Technical Fellowship Programs, UICC has always aimed to unite and support the cancer community. Dr. Al-Dahshan’s visit at the KHCC’s smoking cessation clinics was extremely productive, it is essential to continually seek capacity building to keep up with the fast-developing world”

Dr. Jamal Khader. Consultant Radiation Oncology and the Chief of the Training Academy at King Hussein Cancer Center.

The Experience

The visit spanned two weeks and combined both theoretical learning and practical tasks. The applied activities included conducting an initial assessment, using behavior change techniques to counsel patients, suggesting appropriate medication regimens based on pharmacological knowledge, assessing individual cases, developing customized treatment plans, and understanding the key components of a patient tracking database.

During his visit, Dr. Al-Dahshan attended multiple clinics and was able to counsel a unique patient population, specifically cancer patients. In addition, the visiting TTS was tasked with assignments related to critically reviewing interventions for smoking cessation, and delivering presentations on these topics. The visit culminated in a comprehensive discussion of the assignments, allowing Dr. Al-Dahshan to reflect on his experiences and contributions.

In addition to the core activities within KHCC's TDT services, the visit featured a journal club discussion that aimed to promote collaborative learning. The discussion revolved around topics related to tobacco dependence treatment in cancer care. Dr. Al-Dahshan had the opportunity to share insights with medical residents, emphasizing the significance of TDT within clinical settings from the perspective of a TTS.



”

“After completing our CTTTP-accredited TDT training, many tobacco treatment specialists have valuable information that they want to start using in real-world settings. There are various ways to put the knowledge gained in TDT training into action, and this is what makes hands-on experiences gained through short-term placements so exciting. The visiting TTS program provided an opportunity for both KHCC and the visiting TTS to observe how others apply TDT knowledge and gain insight from a different setting.”

Dr. Nour Obeidat. Director of the Cancer Control Office and the TDT Training Program at King Hussein Cancer Center.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Dahshan was responsible for leading a community outreach event aimed at strengthening community ties and raising awareness about tobacco dependence and its treatment. This event provided him with the opportunity to utilize his knowledge and skills to serve the community and create a positive image of TDT among the public.



”

This program at King Hussein Cancer Center was transformative, equipping me with invaluable skills and insights that will undoubtedly elevate our institution's tobacco dependence treatment initiatives. The experience has not only broadened my clinical expertise but also fostered lasting collaborations, enriching both personal and professional growth. I am confident that the knowledge gained will significantly enhance patient care and contribute to advancements in our institution's research goals.

Dr. Ayman Al Dahshan, Community & Preventive Medicine Physician, Hamad Medical Corporation.



For more information about training and capacity-building opportunities in tobacco dependence treatment offered by KHCC, check the program page
<https://www.khcc.jo/en/tobacco-dependence-treatment-training-program>