EDITORIAL

Healthcare in the Digital Era – Through the Lens of a Muslim Healthcare Provider

Alhamdulillah, we praise Allah SWT that the 21st Annual Scientific Conference (ASC) of the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM) had successfully commenced from the 17th-19th October 2019, with almost 370 participants in total. This year ASC was held together with collaborations from the Kelantan State Department of Health and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.

Medicine has advanced at such a rapid pace over the last 20 years, and now the digital age has come face-to-face with the profession. It has and will continue to affect us, as healthcare providers as well as our patients in ways myriad and profound. Information is now ubiquitous, and is literally at the tip of everyone's fingers. Our patients now come to us "educated" by the internet, matching their symptoms with diagnosis given by Dr Google. This results in unique sets of problems for us and the patients equally and we must be equipped to survive in this new landscape.

IMAM has benefited tremendously from the leaps of the digital era, and so have IMAM chapters. IMAM Response and Relief Team (IMARET) humanitarian activities rely heavily on online social media platform for assessment needs, and as with IMAM Children and Teens Super Team (IMACATS), promotion of activities and volunteer recruitments are done digitally. Preparations of programs such as this ASC is many hours done via the ease of social media and digital platforms

Thus, this conference addressed some of the pertinent questions of the Digital Era: How do we safeguard these increasing voluminous data which is private, personal and sensitive for patients? How can we use these modern, new cutting edge technologies to make us better caregivers, use them to benefit ourselves and the patients we look after? How do we embrace these new challenges and the new digital technologies available to us?

We had with us the Honourable Minister of Health who delivered the Az-Zahrawi lecture this year on "Malaysia's Digital Health Reform Agenda". Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, our respected Director General of Health presented a plenary on "Uberization of healthcare". There were also other plenary and symposia topics on the use of drones in healthcare, tech based social entrepreneurship, data safety, digital addiction, artificial intelligence (A.I.) in medicine, use of A.I. and media in medical relief work and so many other digital cutting edge topics for the contemporary practice of medicine and how we can benefit humanity from these technologies. These were all presented by experts in the respective fields. We also received abstracts from many researchers from different fields of medicine discussing contemporary topics ranging from molecular, diagnostics, patient care as well as primary and preventive medicine involving not only patients, but also healthcare workers. All presented and discussed to further move forward the ummah, insya Allah.

We hope the compilation of these selected abstracts will be of benefit to at least some, if not all who reads it. To quote a Hadith Hasan according to Al-Albani, "The best among you is he who is most beneficial to mankind" (Al-Mu'jam Al-Awsat 5947). In the words of Dato' Dr Musa

Nordin, Chairman of the FIMA Advisory Council-- Keep up the good work to mainstream all IMA and FIMA activities. Let us make our presence in cyberspace in a healthy, constructive and transformational fashion.

You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah (Surah Ali-Imran, 3:110)

Editors for Supplementary issue:

Dr Jeffry Abu Hasan

IMAM President &Respiratory Physician, Seremban Specialist Hospital, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

Dr Aneesa Abdul Rashid

Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia

Dr Elsa Haniffah Mejia Mohamed

Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dr Nur Aizati Athirah Daud

Discipline of Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Penang, Malaysia

Associate Professor Dr Irfan Mohamad

Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia Health Campus, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia