

Tajuk : Healthcare practitioners urged to update themselves

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BY CHRISTOPHER LIDOM

KUCHING: Healthcare practitioners are urged to equip themselves with the relevant medical knowledge so as to be in line with the advancement of medical technology and the demand of society.

Assistant Minister of Public Health Datuk Dr Jerip Susil said with the advancement of medical technology, the use of the social media to disseminate knowledge, and society's demand for excellent healthcare service, nurses, as the front liners, were expected to cater to such demands.

"With the growing population and increasing need for healthcare at all ages, providing manpower and adequate staffing is essential to meet the desired healthcare practitioner-to-client ratio. This in turn, also helps to reduce fatigue among healthcare practitioners, which will result in better decision making, less error, and ultimately better outcomes and client satisfaction.

"This is not an easy feat for the government and the healthcare establishments to deal with, and cooperation from all sides is needed in order to cope with staffing issues," said Dr Jerip when officiating at the 7th Unimas Nursing Students' Conference (UNSC) 2016 at CTF1, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in Kota Samarahan.

He said this would include to ensure that the working environment was safe for nurses to continuously deliver high level care, and for clients to continuously receive the services.

He said staying current and well informed about nursing knowledge and skills as well as technology, also needed to go hand in hand in providing care for society.

"I am glad that the Unimas allows our nursing students to organise such conference on a regular basis. Not only will

it update the students themselves to prepare them for their careers, it also updates the already registered nurses who are currently servicing the community," said Dr Jerip.

He said the conference serves as a platform for nurses and allied healthcare professionals to share knowledge, experiences and innovations which then could be disseminated to drive evidence-based practices and promote improvements in healthcare services as well as promoting the well-being of clients through optimal quality, safety and staffing.

He congratulated the final year nursing students of Unimas (organising committee) for continuing the tradition of sharing knowledge with others.

He later presented a grant of RM20,000 to the Unimas Medical and Nursing Alumni Association.

Also speaking at the event was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Mohd Fadzil Abd Rahman, who represented the Vice Chancellor Dato' Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi.

Dr Kadim said the theme 'Connecting Quality, Safety and Staffing to Improves Nursing Outcome' was very relevant in the face of economic uncertainties and the increasing needs to cater for the demands of the community.

"Being the largest group of healthcare professionals, the contribution of nurses to the health and well-being of the community is almost incalculable, and in this conference, three main elements, which are quality, safety and staffing, will be discussed deeply to explore their relationship with nursing outcomes.

"Optimal quality care starts with effective staffing and when this is achieved, nurses are more ready to engage in delivering high quality care. I hope through this conference, it will bring you the latest strategies,

research as well as best practices to promote improvements in nursing outcomes through quality, safety and staffing," he said.

He said conference serves as a platform to gather academic and health community to promote self-actualisation in nurses of their roles as health resources, to promote change and improvement in quality of care and to nurture leadership skills.

"I would like to urge all delegates to make full use of this conference by actively and inclusively participating, and establish new friendships and expand your network with the other participants," said Dr Kadim.

The 7th Unimas UNSC, sponsored by the National University Hospital Singapore



DATUK Dr Jerip Susil (second left) presents a mock cheque to Prof Dr Ahmad Hatta during the 7th Unimas UNSC 2016, as Prof Mohd Fadzil (right) and Dr Zabidah Putit (left) look on.

and Zafora, attracted 558 delegates from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Also present were Unimas Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit

and head of Nursing Department, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science Dr Zabidah Putit.