Dental Tribune Middle East: Dr. Khawla, can you please tell us about the future plans of the Dubai Dental Clinic?

Dr Khawla Humaid Belhoul: We are currently working on a major expansion project for the clinic which will include new clinical areas for Pediatric Dental Care, Endodontology, Periodontics, Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Cosmetic and Restorative Dentistry, General Dentistry and Oral Hygiene. The expansion will also include a radiology department equipped with world-class 3D imaging technology, an in-house dental laboratory and a centralized sterilization services department. This upgrade will further enable us to offer a comprehensive range of specialized services under one roof.

Having operated the clinic for several years now, what are some of the achievements, challenges and opportunities you have faced?

Achievements: We pride ourselves to have passed the Dubai Healthcare City Regulatory accreditation with a 97 per cent score. This is a clear indication of the clinic’s high quality care and patient safety performance.

Furthermore, DDC screened 3000 workers as part of the Oral Hygiene Initiative for workers which was launched in 2015 by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, Crown Prince and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

We also treated more than 45,000 patients in 2016.

Challenges: We in DDC, just like any other business of dental practices globally, are increasingly facing market competition. However, to overcome this challenge we constantly develop our operation and keep up with industry trends to ensure our competitive advantage in the market.

Opportunities: DDC provides the highest standards of dental care, for the community and serves as a primary and secondary referral center for simple and complex dental cases and oral diseases. The Clinic is the clinical partner of Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, the first college under Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine & Health Sciences (MBRU).

What sets the Dubai Dental Clinic apart from the many dental clinics in Dubai, particularly within Dubai Healthcare City?

Today DDC prides itself on being a multi-specialty service provider and having highly qualified specialists and clinical staff. The clinic has advanced equipment for 3D imaging, CADCAM and Nitrous Oxide. Furthermore, our affiliation with a strong academic institution (MBRU) allows constant improvement in healthcare delivery based on an evidence-based best practice approach. We also have individualized care and continuous feedback to patients starting from their first interaction with the DDC.

What role does the clinic play in the overall plans of Dubai Healthcare City?

DDC takes part in the overall plans of DHCC through different sectors. In the health sector, we provide quality patient centered dental healthcare services for the residents of Dubai and the region through developing a robust quality assurance mechanism to meet both national and international standards of quality care.

While, in the Health Education and Research sector we are supporting and facilitating specialized clinical training through our partnership with Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, the first college under Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU). DDC also supports MBRU’s dental research through providing quality clinical data as well as clinical facility support for MBRU students. The research is conducted in a safe and ethical environment leading to the development and improvement of dental services and technology in the UAE and the broader region.

What is your opinion on dentistry as-a-whole in the region? Is there a need for improvement?

Dentistry in the Middle East has evolved tremendously in recent years. The region is producing high quality general practitioners and specialists. State of the art equipment and procedures are also being well utilized. However, more emphasis on an evidence based approach in all undergraduate and postgraduate dental degrees is still needed. Also, there is need for local institutions to conduct high quality publishable re- search in the different disciplines of dentistry.

Thank you very much for the interview.

Dr Khawla Humaid Belhoul
Director of Dubai Dental Clinic
Dubai Healthcare City – Medical

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