

Adjournment of Saudi Ophthalmology 2009 Meeting

In the adjournment of the Saudi Ophthalmology 2009 meeting ceremony, the 25th annual scientific symposium of KKESH and the 21st annual scientific meeting of SOS, the organizing committee and participants expressed their content with the success of this year's meeting which was patronized by HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz, SOS President. They highlighted the fact that it promotes health and education in ophthalmology.

In the adjournment meeting, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hasan Al-Dhibi, Chair of Public Relations Committee at SOS and Chief of Uveitis Division at KKESH, the meeting committees and participants expressed their gratitude to HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz, SOS President, and to His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al- Rabeiah, Minister of Health, for their patronage of the meeting. Dr. Al-Dhibi thanked the Scientific Committee chaired by Dr. Sawsan Nowailaty and Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Muammar and the rest of the members for their efforts. He also thanked the members of the Steering Committee: Dr. Emad Abboud, Dr. Saleh Al-Obaidan and Dr. Othman Al-Omar as well as the rest of the SO 2009 committees, namely Public Relations, Registration, Audio-Visuals, Transportation, Medical Exhibition and Security. He also expressed thanks to HRH Princess Sara bint Nayf bin Abdullah bin Saud bin Abdulaziz for her role in the Social Program where she served as a tour guide to Riyadh City to the visiting guests' wives.

In his speech, Dr. Abdulelah Abbad Al-Towerki, KKESH General Executive Director, congratulated HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz and His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeiah, Minister of Health, for the success of the meeting. He also thanked all the medical and administrative committees in KKESH and SOS who worked all year to present this meeting splendidly and to showcase the achievements made in ophthalmology as well as the position held by KKESH in the Kingdom and in the world. Dr. Towerki also emphasized that the 11th meeting of KKESH in collaboration with SOS and the College of Medicine, KSU was a success and met all its scientific goals as acknowledged by the participants.

Dr. Sawsan Nowailaty, Director of Medical Education, KKESH, and Co-Chair of Scientific and Organizing Committees of the meeting said that the success of Saudi Ophthalmology 2009 adds a new success to KKESH as a renowned medical center and an international resource of scientific research. The success of SO 2009 also celebrates another year of the 26th Annual Symposium conducted successfully by the Hospital, and adding to the national achievements attained under the care of the Government. She added that the number of participants reached 1,300 from 24 countries and 26 capital cities around the world. Also, 135 scientific research papers were discussed during the 4-day meeting and 18 sessions and workshops were held and credited for 27 continuing medical education hours by Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. Dr. Nowailaty expressed her thanks to all the local and international speakers who enriched the meeting program and all the committees who helped achieve this success.

Dr. Othman Al-Omar, Deputy President, SOS, expressed his gratitude on behalf of all the committees to the Ministry of Culture and Information and to King Fahad Cultural Center, represented by Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Olaiq, General Director, Mr. Humaid Al-Shwaysh, Associate Director, and all technicians and workers in the Center for their cooperation. He mentioned that 27 local and international companies have participated in the medical exhibition and at the end of the meeting, the most supporting company was honored. He also stressed that the most important issue during the meeting was the announcement of establishing a GCC Ophthalmological Society, as declared by HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz, the headquarters of which will be in Riyadh, in addition to the study of establishing eye hospitals in different regions in the Kingdom.

Dr. Al-Omar congratulated Dr. Ali Al-Hazmi for receiving the SOS shield this year, Dr. Amal Al-Humaidan for winning the award for best scientific research this year, and Dr. Ali Al-Shehri for winning the shield for best scientific poster out of 22 posters in the meeting. He also congratulated AMICO for winning the shield for the best medical company, Dr. Hugh Taylor who received the Prevention of Blindness Shield of HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz and Dr. Demitri Azar who received the SOS

Gold Medal. Then, he thanked Dr. Jerry Richard for presenting King Khaled Memorial Lecture this year.

In addition, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Muammar, Co-Chair of the Scientific and Organizing Committees, said that the most important aspect in this meeting is the SOS announcement regarding the establishment of an optometry club among the specialized clubs that serve continuous medical education. This club follows the success of the Glaucoma Club, established under the SOS umbrella and Chaired by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jadaan. SOS thanked Dr. Ali Al-Rajhi, Editor-in-Chief of Saudi Journal of Ophthalmology, which is the first Saudi medical journal peer-reviewed at KSU and issued by SOS since its establishment 23 years ago.

Mrs. Dina Al-Ismael, Optometrist and Director of Training and Scholarships Department, KKESH, thanked HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad, SOS and KKESH for this step that will remarkably promote the field of optometry. Mrs. Dina also congratulated and urged her colleagues to join the new established Saudi optometry club. She added that there will be a webpage for the club hosted on the SOS official website populated with information about optometry. Moreover, a semi-annual optometry symposium will be organized by SOS.

Saudi Ophthalmology 2009 meeting was adjourned with participants' wishes for more success in next year's meeting which will be held from 28 February to 3 March 2010.

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