CALL For ABSTRACTS

7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on HEALTH ISSUES in ARAB COMMUNITIES

MARCH 1-7, 2015
AL BUSTAN PALACE, MUSCAT, THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

Organized by:
ACCESS
ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL SERVICES
Community Health & Research Center
&
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, the Sultanate of Oman

AFFILIATED SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS

[Logos of Wayne State University School of Medicine, and others]
ACCESS (previously known as Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) is pleased to present the 7th International Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities. This scientific forum continues the fine tradition established in 1998 and reaffirms our strong commitment to prevent disease, reduce health disparities, and promote wellness in the community at large. ACCESS has strategically designed this conference to enhance its partnership with the Ministry of Health of the Sultanate of Oman.

Arab Americans share a cultural and linguistic heritage, as well as common risk factors and disease patterns tied to their Arab ancestry. As is the case for other immigrant groups, when Arab populations settle in areas such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe, they experience socioeconomic transformations, changes in lifestyle, and educational factors that lead to a change in the prevalence of disease, marked by the emergence of chronic illnesses. The upcoming conference, which will be held in Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman, adds an international perspective by offering medical practitioners, public health and mental health professionals the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the Arab region. This academic forum will allow participants to discuss research findings, health programs and activities, and to develop collaborative initiatives across countries.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
This conference addresses topics of interest to a diverse audience of:
- Physicians and Nurses
- Public health professionals
- Epidemiologists
- Mental health professionals
- Health administrators and policy makers
- Research and health analysts
- Environmental experts
- Students
- Community advocates and representatives
- Other health care interest groups
CONFERENCE THEMES

CAPACITY BUILDING: How can we raise awareness and support for research, literacy, higher education and innovation in health and science, and build enduring bridges between experts (physicians, nurses, public health, mental health, epidemiologist, etc.) in the global Arab community?

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: What are the primary cultural, social and biological determinants of health inequities in Arab populations, and how can we develop and share culturally sensitive tools to reduce these health inequities?

INFECTIONOUS DISEASES: What are the strategies to improve efforts at prevention, surveillance monitoring, and management of communicable diseases?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, TRAUMA AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: What is the particular role of trauma in Arab health, especially trauma related to motor vehicle crashes, construction site accidents, health care-related falls, and environmental and occupational health related hazards? How can we share information about prevention and technological advances with the community, health care providers and policy makers?

MENTAL HEALTH AND CHRONIC DISEASE: What are the major mental health and chronic disease challenges in Arab communities around the world?

ETHICS AND PALLIATIVE CARE: How do we develop effective palliative care models that are sensitive to the cultural contexts and ethical concerns of the Arab patient population, and how do we raise and manage the health care resources necessary to implement these palliative care models?

OBJECTIVES

TO ENHANCE understanding of the cultural and social factors that influence relevant health behaviors and physical and mental health conditions in Arab populations.

TO SHARE knowledge about the social and environmental determinants of disease, and leverage resources to address these determinants for the purpose of improving health in Arab populations.

TO IDENTIFY barriers and solutions to effective health promotion and disease prevention in Arab and other immigrant communities.

TO ESTABLISH links between scientists and other stakeholders in the Arab world and their counterparts in countries with Arab immigrants.

TO CREATE collaborative initiatives aimed at improving the management of mental health and chronic disease conditions in Arab patient populations around the world.
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

A. Abstracts may be submitted by:
   • Individuals referenced in the section describing the conference’s target audience
   • Organizations representing or belonging to the conference’s target audience

B. Format
   • All abstracts must be submitted electronically online at www.arabhealthconference.org
   • Selected presentations will be organized in the following formats:
     – Oral presentations should be in PowerPoint format not to exceed 15 minutes of verbal presentation followed by a Q&A session. An LCD projector, laptop, and microphone will be provided in all session rooms.
     – If you have special audio/visual needs you must contact the conference coordinator once your abstract is approved.
     – Poster presentations will be displayed at a designated area with planned time for viewing by the audience and discussion with authors. Presentation should fit entirely on 4 foot x 3 foot poster boards.
   • Multiple submissions by the same individual, institution or organization are allowed.
   • Abstracts, including footnotes, must be 500 words or less. The program chairperson and the editors reserve the right to edit abstracts, if necessary, for clarity, grammar, style, and length. The final copy will be shared with the abstract author.
   • Each abstract must have the following sections:
     – Title — Must be limited to 10 words or less
     – Authors — Must include names and affiliations
     – Introduction
     – Objectives or hypothesis
     – Materials and methods
     – Results
     – Conclusions

C. Presentation Topics
The scientific committee encourages the submission of abstracts related to the following general themes of the conference:
   • Social Determinants of Health
   • Genetics and Health with Emphasis on Chronic Disease
   • Mental Health
   • Ethics and Palliative Care
   • Prevention in trauma and mitigation of its complications
   • Infectious Diseases
   • A number of examples are listed below. The scientific committee invites work conducted in or related to the above themes in the areas of:
     o Mental Health
     o Nursing
     o Post-traumatic Stress
     o Cancer
     o Diabetes
These examples are not all-inclusive. Prospective attendees are encouraged to submit for consideration any related work that is aligned with the six conference themes and will benefit the target audience.

D. Selection Process

- An abstract review committee appointed by the scientific advisory committee will review all submissions.
- Accepted abstracts will be assigned to an oral or poster presentation by the abstract review committee.

E. Payment: There is no fee for abstract submission.

F. Meeting Registration

- Final acceptance to present an abstract is contingent upon completing registration for the conference including the full payment of applicable registration fees.

G. Deadlines

- Abstract Submission Deadline: Sep. 1, 2014
- Acceptance Notification: Nov. 1, 2014
- Speaker Commitment: Nov. 15, 2014
Hotel Accommodations

AL BUSTAN PALACE, A RITZ CARLTON HOTEL

Complete information about special hotel rates and social program activities will be published in the call for registration brochure, released Oct. 15, 2014.
The social/cultural program will complement the scientific importance of the conference by introducing attendees to the origins of Arab Americans, their history, culture, environment and religions.

Muscat Governorate is considered the pulsating heart of Oman. It is linked to Port Sultan Qaboos by Muttrah Corniche, where the visitor to Muscat can view the wonderful variety of nature: golden beaches, mountainous heights, and golden sand dunes (Bawshar Sands).

What is striking about Muscat Governorate and its states is the breathtaking intermingling of ancient cultural heritage and modern style. You will see houses, gates, old markets, small shops and winding roads redolent of authentic history, side-by-side with modern markets, shops, buildings and streets stamped with modern architecture. This allows Oman to preserve its historic character, while at the same time enjoying its contemporary spirit. Muscat is renowned as one of the cleanest Arab capitals, and has gained the honor of winning the “Cleanest Arab City” contest several consecutive times.

Muscat, as a city, has played a prominent historical role due to its strategic location.

**BAIT AL ZUBAIR**

Bait Al Zubair (House of Al Zubair) is a private museum that opened its carved wooden doors to the public in 1998. Its founders, the Zubair family, fund it. The museum displays the family’s collection of Omani artifacts. With the variety of exhibits, modern display methods and information provided, the museum serves as a window to Oman’s rich heritage and culture. Since it opened, the museum has expanded into a cultural complex that continues to evolve and is internationally recognized.
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT
Royal Opera House Muscat is the leading arts and culture organization in the Sultanate of Oman. Located in Muscat, the vision of the Opera House is to serve as a center of excellence in global cultural engagement. The organization strives to enrich lives through diverse artistic, cultural and educational programs.

The multidisciplinary work of Royal Opera House Muscat showcases rich and diverse artist creations from Oman, the region, and the world. It provides a space for culture and socioeconomic development reflections and actions; inspires audiences and nurtures creativity with innovative programs; fosters cultural vitality and unleashes talent; promotes cultural tourism; and puts cultural diplomacy into practice by reinvigorating global and multi-disciplinary collaborations and exchanges.

MUTRAH SOUQ
Every place has its distinctive flavor and every city has a market that relates its stories, embraces its history and accompanies its evolution. If you enjoy visiting public markets, you must see Mutrah Souq, the most beautiful market your eyes will ever see. Mutrah Souq is one of the oldest markets in Oman, dating back about 200 years. Its antiquity has perhaps increased the extent of its beauty, magic and allure. You cannot see Mutrah Souq from the outside, as it is stretched deep within the city. The market starts at a gate facing the Sea of Oman and Mutrah Corniche, and ends with another gate in the city’s old quarters that usually receive the majority of visitors coming from other Omani towns and villages.

Mutrah Souq is a prototype of old Eastern markets, characterized by narrow winding alleys roofed with wood. This souq goes by another name among the Omani: the Market of Darkness, due to its myriad alleyways and roads lined by shops that block the sun during the day. This name applies specifically to the section that extends from the Prophet’s Mosque to Khawr Bimbah. And as if two names were not enough for this souq, the east and west parts of Mutrah Souq, separated by Khawr Bimbah, are also known as “the small market” and “the large market.” The Market of Darkness is the small market, whereas the large market is the wholesale market.

When passing through this souq, your senses are tantalized by the aromatic smells of frankincense, incense and Arabian perfumes. Mutrah Souq is known for its handicrafts like silverware, daggers, traditional cloth, new apparel and shoes, in addition to the famous Omani sweets (Halwa), spices and braziers (receptacles in which incense or frankincense is burned).
**AL JALALI FORT**

Al Jalali Fort lies in old Muscat and overlooks the Sea of Oman. It is also known as the Ash Sharqiya Fort. Some say that the fort’s name origin is “Al Jalal”, meaning “great beauty”; while others say the name is that of the Persian leader “Jalal Shah”.

The fort consists of two towers connected by a wall punctuated by holes for cannons. The building is completely isolated and cannot be accessed from its rocky façade; instead there is a small bridge and stairway ending at one of the holdouts for safe exit. Visitors can only view the castle from the outside.

**MAJLIS AL JINN CAVE**

(SALMA PLATEAU)

Out of sight in the heart of brown hills located at the foothills of the eastern Al Hajar Mountains hides one of the greatest and most beautiful natural wonders. It is the Majlis Al Jinn Cave or Salma Plateau as it is commonly known, and is considered one of the largest underground caves in the world.

The area of this enormous cave is 58 thousand square meters and its capacity is 4 million cubic meters. The length of Majlis Al Jinn Cave is 310 meters and its width is 225 meters. A dome-shaped ceiling tops the cave at a height of 120 meters. Despite the enormity of this cave, it is difficult to detect it from the outside in this vast area, as the only evidence of its existence is a scant three openings that seem of no importance to the viewer.

**DINNER CRUISE ON THE GULF OF OMAN**

Join us as we take a dinner cruise on the Gulf of Oman. It will depart from Port Sultan Qaboos and enjoy a peaceful night cruise on the captivating azure waters of the Gulf of Oman.
SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE

Close to the road leading to the heart of the capital, Muscat stands the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Wilayat (district) Bawshar, beaming like a radiant lighthouse attracting its visitors to interact with the spirit of Islam as a religion, science and civilization. This mosque highlights its role as a scientific and intellectual source of knowledge across the Islamic world.

An architectural competition was held to select the best design for the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the construction of the mosque took six years. The mosque’s total capacity is 20,000 and it covers an estimated area of 416,000 square meters. The main square-shaped prayer room can accommodate 6,500 worshipers and has a central dome, which rises 50 meters above the floor. The mosque’s distinctive minaret lends it its individual style. Connecting the top of the mosque’s walls and the internal courtyard is a bar inscribed with verses from the Koran in Thuluth script, with Islamic geometric frameworks filling the corridor archways. The names of Allah are inscribed in Diwani script on the corridors’ front walls.

The walls of the south corridor constitute a visible screen that houses the mosque’s various facilities, including a library that contains 20,000 reference volumes in science, Islamic culture and humanity, in addition to the Institute of Islamic Sciences where young people learn the disciplines of religious knowledge, and a hall dedicated to meetings and seminars that accommodate 300 people. The mosque’s prayer hall floor is topped with a single piece Persian carpet composed of 1,700 million knots, which took about 27 months to make, covering an area of 4,200 square meters, and weighing 21 tons. The carpet’s weaves were made from 28 different colors from plant or natural dyes.
Sponsorship Opportunities

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIPS

DIAMOND (1 available) – $250,000
- Recognized as main partner of the conference
- Host of Black-Tie Gala on day three of the conference
- Host of Political Thought Leaders Reception
- Member of Conference Steering Committee
- Participation in joint press release and press conference
- Speaking opportunity at Gala Dinner
- Opportunity for organizational video at Gala Dinner
- Promotional opportunities in all advertising (TV, Radio, Internet, Social Media)
- Premiere logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 35 representatives and 35 Gala Dinner tickets
- Promotional material distributed to Gala guests
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name recognition on ACCESS Sustainer’s Wall

SAPPHIRE (1 available) – $200,000
- Recognized as main supporter of the conference
- Host of Cultural Night on day two of the conference
- Host of Scientific Thought Leaders Reception
- Member of Conference Steering Committee
- Participation in joint press release and press conference
- Speaking opportunity at Conference Reception
- Promotional opportunities in all advertising (TV, Radio, Internet, Social Media)
- Prominent logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 25 representatives and 25 Gala Dinner tickets
- Promotional material distributed to Gala guests
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name recognition on ACCESS Sustainer’s Wall

PLATINUM (1 available) – $150,000
- Host of Welcoming Reception on day one of the conference
- Member of Conference Steering Committee
- Participation in joint press release and press conference
- Promotional opportunities in all advertising (TV, Radio, Internet, Social Media)
- Logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 15 representatives and 15 Gala Dinner tickets
- Promotional material distributed to Gala guests
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
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GOLD - $100,000
- Promotional opportunities in all advertising (TV, Radio, internet, social media)
- Logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 10 representatives and 10 Gala Dinner tickets
- Promotional material distributed to gala guests
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name recognition on ACCESS sustainer’s wall

SILVER - $50,000
- Promotional opportunities in all advertising (TV, radio, internet, social media)
- Logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 5 representatives and 5 gala dinner tickets
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name recognition on ACCESS sustainer’s wall

BRONZE - $25,000
- Logo display in all event promotion
- Conference registration for 3 representatives and 3 gala dinner tickets
- Exhibit space
- Name recognition on ACCESS annual report (distributed to over 5,000 people)
- Name recognition on ACCESS sustainer’s wall

CONFERENCE PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE SPONSORSHIP (1 available) - $10,000
- Sole sponsor of all conference merchandise

EXHIBIT SPACE - $2,500
- Exhibit space
- One conference registration

MEAL SPONSORSHIPS

DINNER SPONSOR (4 available) - $20,000
- Recognized as sole sponsor of one dinner

LUNCH SPONSOR (5 available) - $10,000
- Recognized as sole sponsor of one lunch

BREAKFAST SPONSOR (5 available) - $5,000
- Recognized as sole sponsor of one breakfast

COFFEE BREAK SPONSOR (10 available) - $2,500
- Recognized as sole sponsor of one coffee break
Conference Committees

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Live conference updates are available at www.arabhealthconference.org
SELECT CONFERENCE PARTNERS

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