Interview: “Dentistry in the Middle East has evolved tremendously in recent years”

By Dental Tribune MEA / CAPPmea

DUBAI, UAE: Recently the Dubai Dental Clinic (DDC), Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), has received a major facelift and upgrading to a state-of-the-art dental clinic. The clinic which is situated in the heart of Dubai Healthcare City Building 34, boasts a total of eight specialty departments, a dental laboratory and its very own imaging department. The highly qualified dental team provides multidisciplinary dental healthcare treatments all under one roof. Dental Tribune MEA had the pleasure to interview Dr. Khawla Humaid Belhoul, Director of the Dubai Dental Clinic.

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, Endodontics, 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, Crown Prince and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council. We also treated more than 14,000 patients in 2016.

Challenges: We in DDC, just like any other business, are facing daily challenges and opportunities are increasing. We are constantly working towards improving the quality of the care we provide and we are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to provide the best possible care for our patients.

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, CAD/CAM 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 & 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 required. Also, there is a 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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Dr. Khawla Humaid Belhoul is the Director of Dubai Dental Clinic (DDC), Dubai Healthcare City Medical, the healthcare vertical of Dubai Healthcare City Authority. She has been leading the clinic’s operations since July 2013. With a Master of Science in Healthcare Management and a Bachelor in Dentistry and Oral Surgery, Dr Belhoul brings an impeccable skillset and a wealth of knowledge to DDC. Her vast experience of more than 20 years in the medical field has been the main driver in her role of managing DDC.

Dr. Belhoul’s commitment to the overall health of the community and her determination to provide quality comprehensive dental care is what enhances the overall experience of DDC’s staff and patients. She started her career in dentistry at the Dental Services Department at Dubai Health Authority (DHA). Dr Belhoul later occupied several positions in DHA including Head of Primary Health Care Centers in the District Dental and Healthcare Providers Professional Development Programs Manager at DHA Medical Education Department.

Prior to joining the Dubai Dental Clinic, Dr. Belhoul was also a member of the Global Scientific Dental Alliance (GSDA).

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