



AL-SAYER MEDICAL COMPANY AND BBRAUN SPONSOR THE SECOND GULF GROUP CONFERENCE ON DIABETIC FOOT

Al-Sayer Medical Company, one of Al-Sayer Group Holding and the local distributor of BBRAUN wound Care Products, sponsored the 2nd Gulf Group Conference on Diabetic Foot which was held in Kuwait under the patronage of Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi, with the presence of Dr Mohamed Al-Khashti, Assistant Undersecretary Private Medical Services Affairs, Ministry of Health and Dr Tawfeeq Khaja, General Manager of the Executive Office of Health Ministers Council of GCC.

About 400 doctors from inside and outside Kuwait participated in the conference. This conference presents a great opportunity to meet specialists in Diabetic Foot treatment field through seminars, workshops and update on the

latest medical products. A large booth was allocated for Al-Sayer Medical Company and BBRAUN Company to display the latest high quality products for wounds and diabetic foot which are used widely in Europe and America.

According to Dr Hossam Afify, General Manager of Al-Sayer Medical Company: "First of all we would like to congratulate Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi and Honorary President of Conference Dr Marzouq Al-Bader, Head of vascular Department at Mubarak Hospital and the Chairman of Gulf Group Conference of Diabetic Foot and Dr Salma Khraibit, Specialist Surgery, Wound Care and Diabetic Foot Care on the success of the conference which is one of the important specialized conferences in the region to

raise the awareness of Doctors and nursing staff."

"One of the most important goals of Al-Sayer Medical Company is to support the efforts of Ministry of Health in order to develop medical services and provide the latest high quality medical products through our partnership with many leading international medical companies, in addition to increase the medical awareness in society specially in relation to diabetes and its dangerous complications like diabetic foot leading to foot amputation if neglected. World Health Organization latest statistics found that Kuwait ranks third in diabetes worldwide which requires spreading medical awareness to early check and detection of diabetic foot." Dr Hossam added.



ENVIRONMENT BEHIND NEARLY QUARTER OF GLOBAL DEATHS

GENEVA: One in four deaths worldwide are due to environmental factors like air, water and soil pollution, as well as unsafe roads and workplace stress, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday. An estimated 12.6 million people died in 2012 as a result of living and working in unhealthy environments, 23 percent of all deaths reported globally, according to the new study. "If countries do not take actions to make environments where people live and work healthy, mil-

lions will continue to become ill and die too young," warned WHO chief Margaret Chan in a statement.

The report defines environmental causes broadly, drawing links between a long line of environmental risk factors like pollution, chemical exposure, climate change, ultraviolet radiation and access to firearms and more than 100 diseases and injuries. As many as 8.2 million of the deaths could be blamed on air pollution,

including exposure to second-hand smoke, responsible for heart disease, cancers and chronic respiratory disease, the report said. Among the deaths attributed to environmental factors were 1.7 million caused by "unintentional injuries", including road accidents. The report also counted 846,000 diarrhoeal disease deaths among environmental mortalities, adding that many were linked to pollution and unsafe drinking water.

STUDY REVEALS SCOPE OF WESTERN DRUG TESTING IN EAST GERMANY

BERLIN: Major Western drug companies conducted hundreds of clinical tests on citizens of communist East Germany during the Cold War, a report released yesterday said, but dismissed charges of widespread ethical abuses. The long-awaited report on a scheme designed to provide hard currency to the cash-strapped regime confirmed some allegations leveled in a 2013 article by news magazine Der Spiegel, albeit on a much smaller scale than first thought. But the Western companies "benefited from totalitarianism," and chronic drug shortages in the East, it said.

Rather, they saw the heavily centralized GDR as a more efficient testing ground, allowing quick completion of studies without the peering eyes of a critical public. "The companies benefited from totalitarianism," Hess said. Furthermore, the Western firms exploited chronic medication shortages in the East to offer experimental drugs. The Stasi secret police was particularly interested in the studies and kept close tabs on them, and a bureau under its auspices negotiated the contracts with Western companies. The first comprehensive study of its kind was financed by the German government and medical industry associations.

Berlin's Charite university hospital said it found that 320 clinical trials were carried out in the 1980s on people in the so-called German Democratic Republic. The research team led by medical historian Volker Hess found evidence of up to 900 studies by Western firms using East Germans between 1961 and 1990, the year Germany reunified. But Hess told reporters that the studies appeared to have been in line with the standards and laws of the time, noting that practices in the West were also more lax in those decades.

"What appears dubious to us today was not specific to the GDR, even though some of it appears ethically dubious now," he said. "We have seen no indication of a systematic violation of existing rules on consent." The tests were carried out for 75 companies from 16 countries, mainly from West Germany but also Switzerland, France,

the United States and Britain. Some of the biggest names in the industry were involved including Bayer, Pfizer and Roche. The study's authors dismissed speculation that the Western companies looked beyond the Iron Curtain for subjects because the trials would be cheaper there.

The researchers combed through Stasi and patient files as well as reports from the companies themselves and interviewed former test subjects. The Spiegel report had alleged that major Western drug companies used more than 50,000 people in the communist East as "human guinea pigs" for some 600 clinical trials, including for blood pressure and depression drugs, in the 1980s. It said many had been unwitting participants and some even died as a consequence of the tests-charges disputed in the findings presented yesterday. — AFP

BUSTED: FRANCE, CANADA HAVE MOST TEEN POT SMOKERS

PARIS: France and Canada have the highest percentage of 15-year-old pot smokers among 42 well-off nations surveyed by the World Health Organization, the UN agency said in a report yesterday. When it comes to policing marijuana, France is far from the most laid-back country in Europe, so the findings come as something of a surprise. Amsterdam flaunts its cannabis cafes and Barcelona its private reefer clubs, but neither the Netherlands nor Spain were among the top eight nations in which teens admitted they had used cannabis in the last 30 days, according to the study, based on data from 2014.

Fifteen percent of 15-year-olds in France—slightly more boys than girls said they had indulged, with Canada's young stoners close behind. Italy, Switzerland and Bulgaria rounded out the top five, with French-speaking parts of Belgium as well as Poland and Slovenia in low double digits for boys, and single digits for girls. "Young people in their teenage years are more likely to use cannabis if they have friends or older siblings who do so," the study found. Lax parenting or its opposite—"coer-

cive discipline"—also correlated with higher rates of marijuana consumption.

Conducted every four years, the WHO survey examines risky behavior and self-perception among 11-, 13- and 15-year olds in Europe, North America and Israel. In the most recent survey, France dislodged Canada as No. 1 nation for teen tokers, moving up from fourth place. The United States ranked second in the 2010 survey but was not included in the most recent edition. Among the countries with the fewest adolescent users was Sweden, with only two percent of 15-year-olds saying they had gotten high on ganja in the last month. "Scientific evidence proves that cannabis is a dangerous and harmful substance, especially for children and young people who use it regularly," the study notes. Marijuana is the most used drug in Europe, with 14.6 million young adults lighting up in 2014, according to the report. About a dozen countries in Europe have provisions for the medical use of marijuana, including Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. — AFP

Road accidents, suicides

The WHO reported 246,000 deaths due to intentional injuries, including suicides, which it linked to among other things the unsafe storage and access to firearms, but also to pesticides, which are used in a full third of the world's suicides. The report found that most environmentally-linked deaths happened in South-East Asia, which accounted for 3.8 million such deaths in 2012, followed by the Western Pacific region with 3.5 million. The least affected region was the Americas, with 847,000 deaths blamed on environmental conditions. Europe had 1.4 million environmentally-linked deaths while Africa reported 2.2 million.

The WHO said that better environmental management could prevent the deaths of 1.7 million children under five, who are especially prone to serious illnesses arising from respiratory infections and diarrhea. "There's an urgent need for investment in strategies to reduce environmental risks in our cities, homes and workplaces," said Maria Neira, WHO's public health chief. "Such investments can significantly reduce the rising worldwide burden of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, injuries and cancers, and lead to immediate savings in healthcare costs," she said. The report is the second of its kind and follows an initial WHO study a decade ago. — AFP

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