

## Editorial

Volume 13 Number 1, June 2014

### IIUM Teaching Hospital: The Way Forward?

Kulliyyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) was created with the intake of its first batch of students in 1997. It is one of the youngest public medical schools in Malaysia and was initially housed temporarily in the building constructed adjacent to Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan (HTAA), Kuantan. The Kulliyyah from inception has had an excellent relationship with the hospital and this has benefitted the public having access to high quality health care services. Subspecialties were established in 2002 with the support of IIUM in the fields of Respiratory Medicine (Internal Medicine), Intensive care (Anesthesia) and arthroplasty (Orthopedics). The subspecialty training in medical and surgical based specialties are a continuous commitment by IIUM.

In 2004, the new Kulliyyah of Medicine complex (IMC) in Bandar Indera Mahkota, Kuantan was officiated by DYMM Sultan Ahmad Shah, Sultan of Pahang who is also the Head of Constitution of IIUM. All activities of the Kulliyah were shifted to the new complex except the clinical departments that are still located in the old building currently referred to as Jalan Hospital campus (JHC). This helps IIUM to maintain the clinical activities in HTAA to continue to serve the people of Pahang. The intention of the IIUM fraternity from the early days of the development of Kulliyyah of Medicine was to have a teaching hospital.

This became a reality when the University was granted a hospital project under the government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) program. The agreement is to build a 350-bed tertiary care teaching Hospital. Work commenced in July 2012 and the hospital is expected to be ready for operation by January 2016.

In addition to specialty care, the hospital will support and enhance the process of teaching, learning, and research for undergraduate, postgraduate, and sub specialization training. The hospital will continue to deliver the excellent services rendered by IIUM specialists to the general public. It will be a great win-win concept for both the university and the population of Pahang.

The scope of the hospital includes 20 clinical based areas such as medical, surgical, orthopedics, Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology, ENT-Head & Neck Surgery, Ophthalmology, Rehabilitation, Nursing, Nutrition, Emergency etc. and 17 support area such as security, waste management, linen and laundry, finance, human resource, public relation office, engineering, social welfare etc. The task is to establish a teaching hospital that will be able to function as a tertiary referral center and a training center for Medical and Allied based clinical specialties.

The hospital project will be in line with the vision of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in leading the way of Islamization of knowledge. The hospital will conform to the shari'ah compliance and ibadah friendly concept by incorporating these principles in the standard operating procedures and daily activities of the hospital. The Hospital will also follow the quality hospital management process as stipulated by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Its services will be available to all patients irrespective of race or religion.

Shari'ah compliance is nothing new. As noted by Kasule (2011), seven criteria for Hospital shari'ah compliance includes:

1. Architectural design
2. Having strong financial status
3. High technology and high quality
4. Services that open to all regardless of religion or creed
5. Provision of wholesome modern up to date scientific medical care
6. Holistic patient care in respect to physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social needs
7. Services and procedures that do not contradict to the principles of shari'ah

According to Kamaruzzaman (2013) the broad guidelines for shari'ah compliance hospital will include the following:

1. Quality hospital management process
2. Financial management with shari'ah principles
3. Adequate facilities for a quality patient care
4. Adequate facilities and policies for patients and staffs to perform ibadah (compulsory Islamic ritual) and other religious obligations including dress code covering the awrah.
5. All products (foods and medicines) and procedures used are halal
6. All procedures especially nursing procedures (SOP) must incorporate shari'ah needs
7. Having guidelines to handle Muslim and other patients
8. Having trained staffs to advise Muslim patients regarding ibadah and ruksah
9. Having a panel of expert to advice the hospital management on shari'ah compliance
10. Having a regular assessment including clients' feedback to ensure shari'ah compliance.

The implementation of the ideal concept of a shari'ah compliance hospital will be a challenging task to the IIUM fraternity. Fortunately the university has the support of medical specialists, surgeons, pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals, experts in fiqh and

usul fiqh, experts in muamalat, quality management personnel and lawyers to make this a reality.

The University is in the process of establishing a task force to integrate the requirement of Hospital Shari'ah compliance in the standard operating procedures of the IIUM hospital. Our aim is to have a hospital with a soul that will have a multidisciplinary approach to patient care, teaching and research.

This new concept is the way forward and the faculty members, administrators and support staffs of the IIUM are ready for the challenge.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kasule OH: Concept of a Hospital in Islam. Paper presented at the 7th International Seminar and workshop on Understanding and Application of Quranic Principles and Values in Healthcare, Kuala Lumpur 2011 (<http://omarkasule-tib.blogspot.com>)
2. Kamaruzzaman WS: Ideal Islamic concept of IIUM hospital. Paper presented at a Seminar on Islamization of Medical curriculum and Practice, IIUM Kuantan. 26th August 2013

**Prof Dr. Ahmad Hafiz Zulkifly**  
*Director*  
Office of IIUM Teaching Hospital Management  
Kuantan