

## **G-I-N Arab minutes meeting**

**G-I-N 2016, Philadelphia, 29/09/2016**

After being approved in July 2016, G-I-N Arab regional community held its first meeting during the Philadelphia conference. The meeting was attended by Dr Samia Al-Habib and Dr Mazen Farwana (Saudi Arabia), Dr Abdul Ali Shah (Qatar), Dr Reem Mustafa (UMKC/McMaster Univ), Dr Brian Alper (DynaMed) and chaired by Prof Lubna Al-Ansary (Saudi Arabia).

After welcomes and introductions, a PowerPoint presentation was delivered addressing the following points: why G-I-N Arab? ; aims and objectives; governance with highlights on ToR and the steering committee composition; how G-I-N can help; and possible deliverables for the first year. The floor was then open for discussion.

All the participants were happy that G-I-N Arab became a reality and asserted that it could be the seed towards disseminating and implementing the culture of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in the 22 Arab countries.

Various issues, concerns and suggestions were raised which included the following:

- The current situation of CPGs in the Arab world. The process of development / adaptation / adoption of CPGs in Saudi Arabia in particular and in the Arab world in general is scattered, fragmented and unsystematic with a great deal of resistance from health care practitioners in adaptation of guidelines which calls for a sensitive approach towards tackling this matter.
- Few G-I-N members from the Arab world and that possibly relates to unawareness of what G-I-N can offer. Increasing G-I-N's regional visibility and membership should be the focus of the year targeting governmental health institutions, professional societies, colleges of medicine and medical cities (including health care professionals and students) in addition to representing G-I-N at events.
- The need to collaborate with international bodies (such as the WHO-EMRO and others) was emphasised on to unify the efforts towards developing, adapting, disseminating and implementing CPGs in the region.
- The idea of building a database of all the available CPGs in the Arab countries in order to make it accessible to the whole of the Arab world members in one stop shop was entertained and would be considered later on. It was also suggested to upload the local CPGs in Dynamed making them available to everyone thereby serving G-I-N and Dynamed.
- The thought of scoping of CPGs activities in the Arab World (*Survey and key informant interview*) was also thought relevant and would be discussed further in the next meeting.
- The website of G-I-N Arab should be invested on to be an important interactive tool that would help in realising its aims and objectives.

It was concluded that there is a great potential for inter-country collaboration in the region under G-I-N's umbrella. It is a fertile ground and G-I-N Arab can reap fruits soon if seeds are carefully sown. The next meeting should be in mid-late November 2016 to finalise the plan for the year 2016 / 2017.