



Contact:

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U.S.-Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research Holds Training for Nurses Treating Breast Cancer Patients

Partners with Oncology Nursing Society (USA) and King Hussein Cancer Center to
develop curriculum tailored to the region.

Amman, Jordan – Today the U.S.-Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research, in partnership with the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), King Hussein Cancer Center, and Jordan Breast Cancer Program, launched a three-day pilot training workshop for 40 public and private sector nurses who treat women with breast cancer in Jordan. The Partnership created the curriculum in direct response to requests from nurses in the Middle East who said that further training was needed to better understand breast cancer and the special considerations for caring for women with breast cancer.

“Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among Jordanian women” says Dr. Mahmoud Sarhan Director General and CEO of the King Hussein Cancer Center. “This innovative training program will provide our nurses with additional knowledge and experience specifically in the multidisciplinary approach to the management of Breast Cancer.”

The pilot program training curriculum was developed with support from nurses in the Middle East and North Africa to build knowledge of how to treat breast cancer patients. ONS Trainers, Laila Mansoori, Advanced Registered Nurse (RN) Practitioner at the University of Washington’s Breast Health Center in Seattle, and Rana Obeidat, RN, CNS, from Buffalo, have been working with Jordanian nurses and local experts to localize the training, ensuring that it is relevant to the nursing community. Both the Chief of Nursing as well as the Director of Nursing at the King Hussein Cancer Center served as members on the international advisory committee for the development of the curriculum.

In addition to designing this localized nursing curriculum, ONS donated its comprehensive text on breast cancer care, *Site Specific Cancer Series: Breast Cancer*, for use and adaptation by the U.S.-Middle East Partnership. The text has been translated into



Arabic and will be made available on the Partnership's website for workshop participants and other nurses in the region to have as a resource. See www.bcpartnership.org.

“Once a diagnosis has been given, nurses play an essential role in caring for people with breast cancer,” says Paula Rieger, RN, MSN, AOCN®, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer for ONS. “We are excited for the opportunity to both teach and learn from our colleagues in Jordan as they strive to enhance the care they provide to their patients.”

The Partnership held the first pilot workshop for nurses in Bethlehem, November 2-4, followed by this workshop in Jordan, November 7-9 and is planning a third workshop in Morocco in the new year. The core curriculum will be made available on the Partnership website after feedback from the pilot workshops has been incorporated.

The U.S.-Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research was created in direct response to calls from women in the Middle East who are leading the fight against breast cancer. Through the Partnership, launched in June, 2006, participants have increased clinical research collaboration efforts, public awareness about the importance of early detection, implementation of outreach strategies, and distribution of treatment information. In addition to ONS, key U.S.-based partners include Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Learn more at www.bcpartnership.org. This project is funded through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). MEPI supports efforts to expand political participation, strengthen civil society and the rule of law, empower women and youth, create educational opportunities, and foster economic reform throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In support of these goals, MEPI works with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academic institutions, as well as governments. More information about MEPI can be found at: www.mepi.state.gov.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a professional organization of more than 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals. ONS is committed to excellence in oncology nursing and to leading the transformation of cancer care by initiating and actively supporting educational, legislative, and public-awareness efforts to improve the care of people with cancer. ONS provides nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. Learn more at www.ons.org.

ICF International facilitates the U.S.-Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research through a cooperative agreement with MEPI. Through this agreement ICF International develops and implements cutting-edge models for U.S.-MENA public-private partnerships intended to engage women throughout the MENA region. As the Partnership provision of health education and awareness information to



women of this region grows, ICF continues to unite breast cancer advocates, doctors, nurses, researchers, and survivors, and increase breast cancer awareness and research opportunities

The King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit institution founded in 1997 by a Royal Decree to combat cancer in Jordan and the Middle East region. KHCF is the legal umbrella organization responsible for the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), the Foundation's medical arm. The Foundation is comprised of a Board of Trustees, a dedicated group of prominent volunteers chaired by HRH Princess Ghida Talal.

The King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) is the only comprehensive cancer center in Jordan that treats both adults and pediatric patients. Founded in 1997, KHCC is a non-governmental, not-for-profit comprehensive center dedicated entirely to cancer care. It has a capacity of 180 beds and currently treats more than 3,000 new patients a year. In February 2006, KHCC achieved the much sought after international accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), thus becoming the first hospital in Jordan, and the fourth in the region, to receive this valuable recognition. The Director General of KHCC is Dr. Mahmoud Sarhan.

THE JORDAN BREAST CANCER PROGRAM (JBCP) AIMS TO ENSURE QUALITY SERVICES FOR SCREENING AND TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE RISK FACTORS, SIGNS, AND SYMPTOMS OF BREAST CANCER, IN ADDITION TO THE BENEFITS OF EARLY DETECTION AND SCREENING. THE JORDAN BREAST CANCER PROGRAM IS GOVERNED BY A NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE WITH MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, KING HUSSEIN CANCER FOUNDATION AND CENTER, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY, ROYAL MEDICAL SERVICES, KING ABDULLAH HOSPITAL, USAID'S PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, JORDAN UNIVERSITY, HASHEMITE UNIVERSITY, AND THE SYNDICATE OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS.