

HEALTHCARE COSTS EXCEEDING INFLATION, SAYS STEPHEN BAKER AT ICLDC

(For more information log on to www.icldc.ae)



Abu Dhabi, September 2007: Recent forecasts (from a variety of sources) show healthcare costs are fast overtaking the rate of inflation and thus consuming a large portion of the nation's GDP, according to a UAE-based expert in healthcare management.

Stephen Baker, General Manager, Imperial College London Diabetes Centre (ICLDC) Abu Dhabi was speaking to sector professionals at the recent Healthcare Management Forum 2007 in the capital.

He highlighted the importance of prevention, early detection of disease and disease management, especially chronic conditions, citing these as ways of controlling the UAE's spiraling healthcare budget.

According to Baker, if left unchecked diabetes, hypertension, cancer, osteoporosis and other diseases can lead to serious health consequences which can often be mitigated by early detection and treatment.

“Individuals have not yet established the value of early detection on both the pocket and most-importantly on lifestyle.

“Early detection saves lives and helps reduce healthcare costs by reducing the need for many complicated and invasive therapies throughout life.”

He said that many analysts are questioning how much more the UAE can afford to spend on its medical care.

"Research proves that the only way to avoid spending unnecessary money on healthcare is by preventing sickness and disease in the first place. "If you are diagnosed early, without question, the cost to prevent is far less than the cost to cure, if at all, a cure is possible."

Baker suggested that, as a nation, we need to decide how to encourage the broad population to be pro-active not indifferent to symptoms.

He finished by saying: “by achieving the right balance between the medical funder and medical service providers, we’ll be able to cut treatment-costs while providing higher quality healthcare.”

(For more detailed information on ICLDC please log on to www.icldc.ae).

~Ends~

Notes to the Editor

About Imperial College London Diabetes Centre

The Imperial College London Diabetes Centre is a state-of-the-art specialized out-patient clinic dedicated to help detect, prevent and treat diabetes. The centre is a one-stop-facility that specializes in Diabetes Treatment, Research, Training and Public Health. Located in Abu Dhabi (next to the Zayed Military Hospital), ICLDC allows the highest level of specialized patient care, from first diagnosis to the continued management of all complications associated with diabetes.



مركز إمبريال كوليدج لندن للسكري
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON DIABETES CENTRE



مؤسسة الإمارات
Emirates Foundation

Imperial College London holds a renowned history and expertise in the study of diabetes, bringing one of the leading medical academic institutions in the world to Abu Dhabi as a core working partner. Under ICLDC practices, one of the Centre's primary objectives will be to provide continuing education for health professionals and the general public. For more details visit: www.icldc.ae.

For media enquiries:

Strategic Solutions for ICLDC

Anu Bhatnagar

Tel : 04 390 3018

Mobile : 050 7286803

E : anu@strategicsolutionsonline.com

Susan Furness

Tel : 04 390 3033

Mobile : 050 6556126

E : susan@strategicsolutionsonline.com