

# Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter Launched in UAE

The ACRP Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Chapter was launched in May in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), during an event attended by nearly 40 local and regional government officials and professionals in the clinical research industry.

Presentations were given by Carl Naraynassamy, director of the ACRP European Office, on the association's mission in the world today; Nadia A. Malek Younis, from the Regulatory Affairs Department of the Ministry of Health, UAE, on "Clinical Research for Evaluation of Medical Products: The UAE Regulatory Perspective"; Rudaina Al Refai, director of regulatory affairs for DuBiotech (Dubai Biotechnology and Research Park) on "The Regulatory Framework at DuBiotech"; and Shakhar Gothoskar, director for medical and drug regulatory affairs with the Middle East Regional Office of Boehringer Ingelheim Clinical Trials, on "The Industry Perspective."

The GCC Chapter earlier elected Maha Al-Farhan as chapter chair. A well-

known proponent of good clinical practices, she stated that the presence of ACRP in the region will have a positive impact on professional and personal development of local members; she encouraged attendees to help make the UAE a recognized hub for clinical research. The chapter will provide a readily accessible mechanism for regional program development, and will foster professional interaction, continuing education, problem solving, and discussion of local issues. Al-Farhan will prioritize networking to ensure that local clinical research stakeholders get to know each other and work hand in hand in order to advance the clinical research enterprise and good practices.

This chapter launch event was sponsored by DuBiotech, Wyeth Pharmaceutical, and Clintec International. DuBiotech has voiced its support for the new chapter through the involvement of its Department of Science Affairs and through specialized courses in clinical research.

