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Cultural Adaptation in Rehabilitation Education: A Key to Effective Local Guidelines

Topic: Organizational Development (International Associations)

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BACKGROUND

Continuing medical education (CME) in rehabilitation is vital for improving patient care and clinical expertise. However, standardized international guidelines often fail to address region-specific cultural and systemic challenges. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faces unique barriers, including a shortage of trained professionals, limited rehabilitation centers, and cultural sensitivities that influence both patient care and education.

METHODS

To bridge this gap, the Middle East North Africa SCI (MENASCI) Network was established in 2017 at the Pan Arab Rehabilitation Conference in Amman, with the presence of the former ISPRM President (Prof. Jorge Lains) and other key members. The official launch was in 2019 attended by the chief and some Educational Committee members of ISCoS at a conference in Fez, Morocco as MDT Network. Since then, MENASCI has focused on culturally adapting rehabilitation education through translated e-learning resources, regional training workshops, and interdisciplinary collaboration and developing an annual university course for comprehensive SCI rehabilitation in collaboration with a medical faculty in Tunisa for MDT and Rehabilitation residents.

RESULTS

By integrating international best practices with regionally tailored training, MENASCI enhances professional competency, improves patient outcomes, and supports sustainable rehabilitation frameworks. As shown in the presentation, pictures can illustrate the progress and impact of these initiatives better than words. This session will highlight successful strategies for cultural adaptation in CME, reinforcing the need for local guidelines that align with regional realities.

CONCLUSION

Establishing specialized networks like MENASCI has proven essential in developing comprehensive protocols, guidelines, and training tailored to regional needs. By addressing common challenges through culturally adapted education and interdisciplinary collaboration, these efforts lead to optimal rehabilitation outcomes, ensuring sustainable and effective healthcare solutions across the MENA region.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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