

The 14th International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care: Supporting and energizing the movement for health and health care improvement

17-20 March 2009, Berlin, Germany

The **International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care** is focused on the importance of the organization of care, as well as the clinician's responsibility for the care of individual patients. This can be obtained by benchmarking, shared decision making, training for patient safety, improving both cost and quality, improvement in primary care, mental health care, open disclosure...

The Berlin Forum aimed to integrate learning about quality improvement into the learning of a health professional's core discipline, by providing a forum where practitioners, educationists, academics, and leaders could meet and learn from each other through a series of sessions where participants could debate and argue about ideas at the leading edge of safety and quality improvement – on thinking of safety in a different way, on advancing understanding of the evidence for quality improvement activities, on what constitutes leadership for quality improvement...

The Forum took place over four days, Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 March. The first day consisted of five parallel full day mini-courses on »the basics« of various aspects of quality improvement, for participants new to the subject or who wanted a refresher on a particular aspect. On Tuesday afternoon there was an optional introduction to the German health service, followed by the welcome reception for delegates. The main program then went on from Wednesday to Friday. Each day opened with a plenary talk to all delegates and then divided up into a series of parallel sessions, some of these organized as half day mini-courses, with a strong emphasis on teaching skills and knowledge. The last time slot of each day included presentations selected from the call for papers, grouped into themed topics. Finally, a final plenary talk was held on the last day, so that all delegates could join together again before departing. Two special programs were also organized:

- for chief executives of health organizations, and
- a specific student-teacher program.

All together there were:

- 4 Plenary Sessions,
- 73 Parallel Sessions, and
- 16 Half day Mini-Courses.

The International Forum continues to grow in influence, and is a key meeting point for healthcare professionals with attendees from over 70 countries. The 15th Forum is taking place from 20-23 April 2010, in Nice, France. The 2010 theme of **Improving Quality, Reducing Costs** addresses the challenges brought about by global financial pressures.

Additional info: www.internationalforum.bmj.com

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