

The Saudi Epidemiological Association (SEA)

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Wednesday, 30 April 2008 will be an unforgettable day in the history of epidemiology in Saudi Arabia. Yes; it was the date that witnessed the birth of the Saudi Epidemiological Association (SEA). Following the great success of the 7th IEA/EMR scientific meeting which was held in Riyadh on November 2008 the environment was favorable for such a milestone in the field of epidemiology in Saudi Arabia. Many people were aware of the excellent progress of the establishment process and were expecting the SEA to be announced but only few of them were aware of the people behind the scene.

The SEA is established under the umbrella of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS), by an initiative from many epidemiologists and public health professionals all over Saudi Arabia. The SCFHS will provide the association with an office and a modest budget to cover initial running costs. Later on the association will depend on its members for financial support. All health care professionals are welcome to join the association but only those specialized in Epidemiology or related specialty from Saudi Arabia and GCC countries are allowed to be nominated and elected as Board members. The office of the SEA will be located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia but will have several branches as needed. The SEA is planning to organize an annual scientific meeting, to launch a website, to distribute a bulletin, and design and conduct short courses and hope to establish its official peer-reviewed journal: The Saudi Epidemiological Association Journal (SEAJ)

The Ad hoc committee of the SEA is responsible to set the stage for the first General Assembly during which the Executive Board will be elected from the nominated candidates. The committee is chaired by Dr Abdulaziz Al-Othaimen from Epidemiology Research Unit of KFSHRC, Riyadh, Dr Tawfeeq Al-Ghabra, Dean of Medical College, Tabouk University, Dr Abdulaziz Bin Saeed, Chairman of Department of Family and Community Medicine, King Saud University, Dr Bakr Bin Sadiq, Deputy Chairman of the Research Center, KFSHRC, Jeddah, and Dr Abdullah Al-Joudi, Epidemiologist from Ministry of Health. At the end of their first meeting the members of the Ad hoc committee agreed to call for the first General Assembly of the SEA in the last week of October 2008.