M | CHEPS
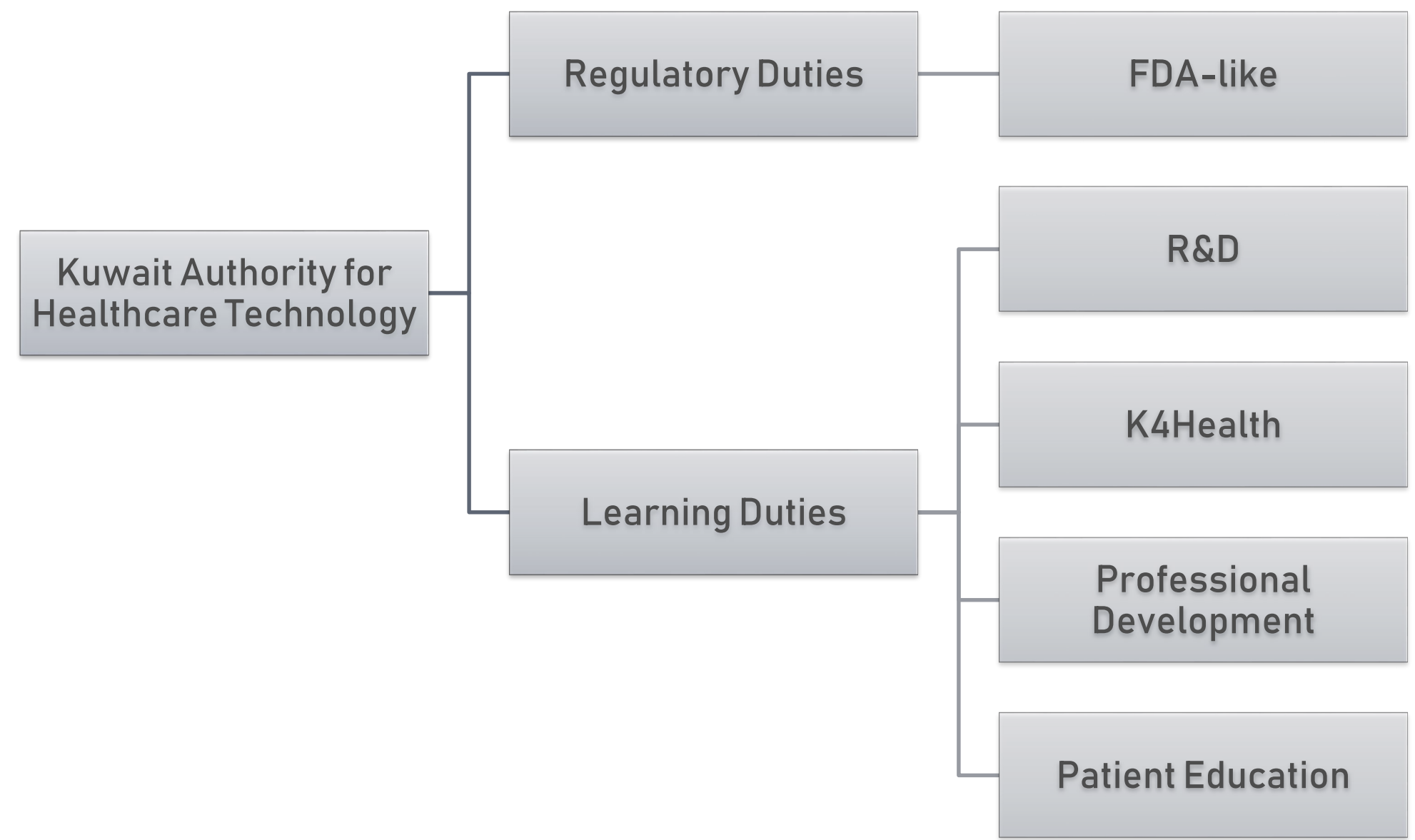**CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING & PATIENT SAFETY**

#Safe_Care Initiative
Hanan Al-Awadhi [1,2,3,4]

Safe Technology … #Safe_Care

- #Safe_Care is an initiative launched in 2012 jointly by the Kuwait Association for Biomedical Engineers & IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Kuwait Chapter to promote the use of safe healthcare technology in Kuwait.

- The initiative aims to establish an independent regulatory & learning body for healthcare technology in the country, the Kuwait Authority for Healthcare Technology
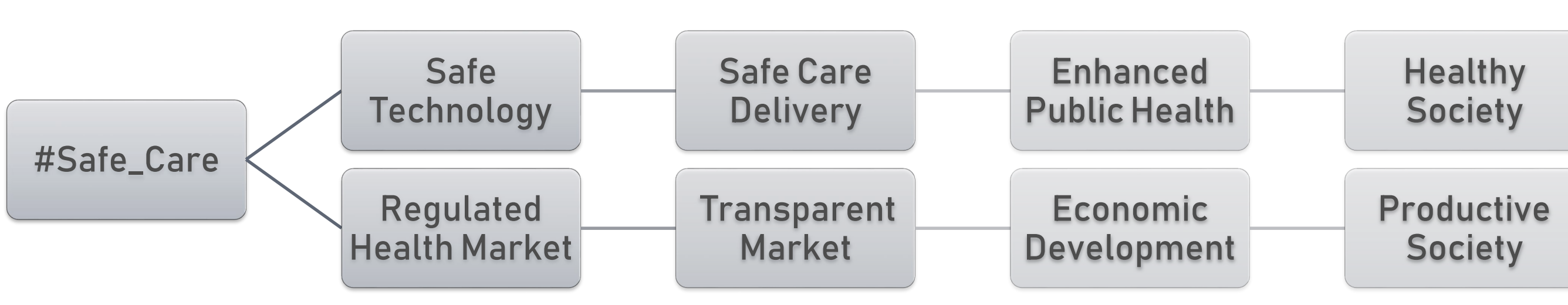
Kuwait Authority for Healthcare Technology
- Regulatory Duties
  - FDA-like
- Learning Duties
  - R&D
  - K4Health
  - Professional Development
  - Patient Education

Why #Safe_Care?

- Absence of medical device regulations in Kuwait.

- Counterfeit medical devices are widely spread across the country, especially home health devices.

- Today's innovations in healthcare technology demand a non-traditional regulatory approach. Our proposed approach *'We Learn'* is based on collaborative learning and knowledge sharing.
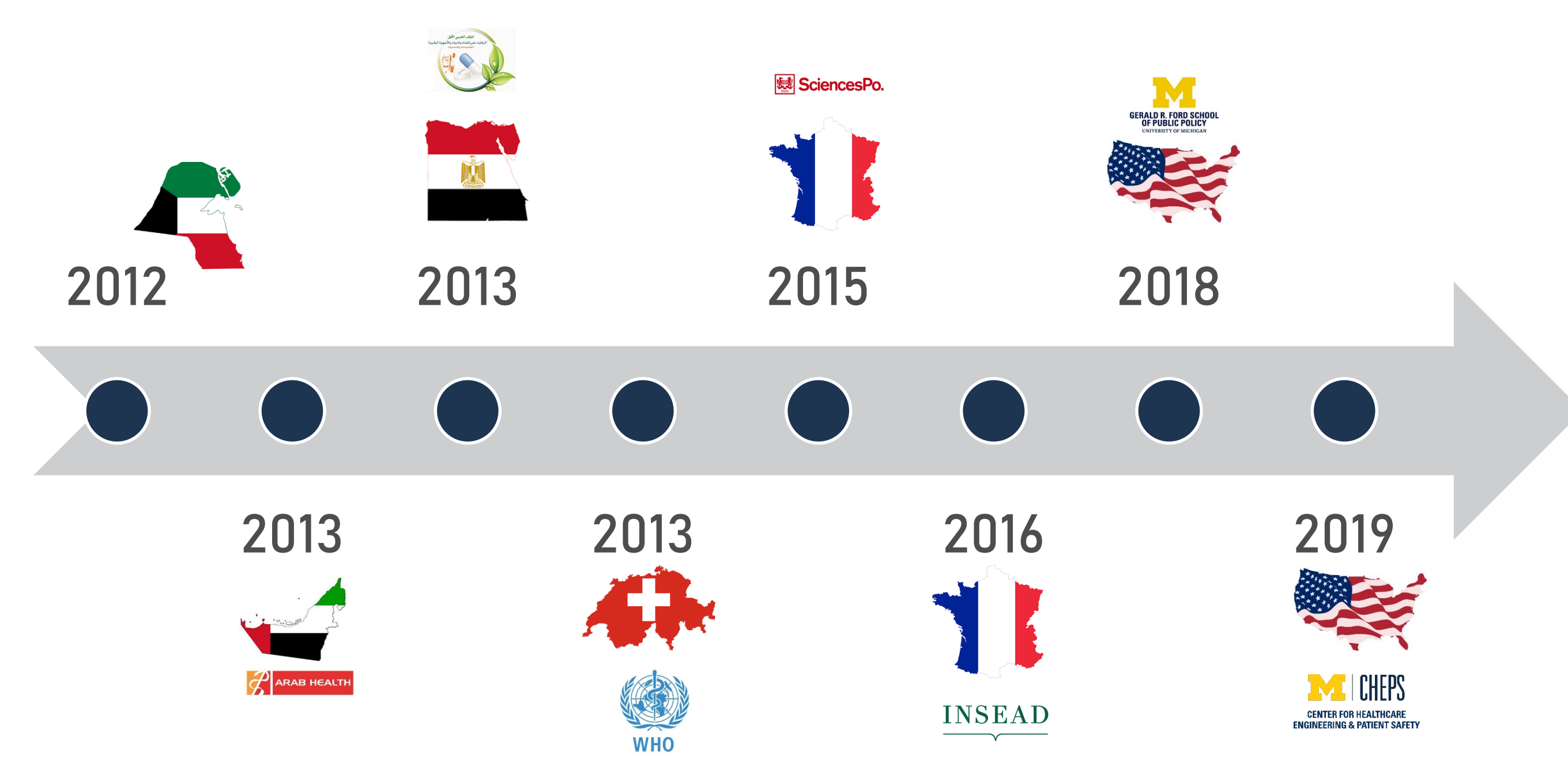
#Safe_Care … Everyone Wins

#Safe_Care
- Safe Technology → Safe Care Delivery → Enhanced Public Health → Healthy Society
- Regulated Health Market → Transparent Market → Economic Development → Productive Society

Promoting #Safe_Care

US FDA & EU Medical Device Recalls in Arabic
@SafeHealthTech

#Safe_Care Reaches the World

2012 — 2013 — 2015 — 2018
2013 — 2013 — 2016 — 2019

Journey Continued

- Since 2012, we have promoted #Safe_Care in +50 scientific and non-scientific functions in Kuwait and abroad.

- Our social media campaign has driven various medical companies in Kuwait to initiate their voluntary medical device recall programs.

- In 2015, we partnered with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Kuwait Public Policy Center to contribute to the Kuwait Vision 2035 – Healthcare white paper.

- In 2016, we started translating medical device recalls by the US FDA & the EU into Arabic. Our service is, now, a major pan-Arab resource for medical device safety.

- In 2019, we developed, in collaboration with Kuwait's Ministry of Health, the country's first Medical Device Vigilance Program.

- Our proposed *'We Learn'* approach for regulating medical devices including emerging healthcare technologies (e.g. 3D-printed medical devices, AI-technologies, e- and m-health products, etc.) remains the only call for knowledge based regulations worldwide.

Affiliations

1. Kuwait Association for Biomedical Engineers, Kuwait Society of Engineers
2. IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Kuwait Chapter, IEEE Kuwait Section
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Acknowledgements