

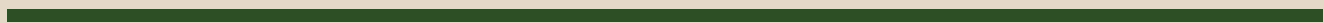


RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2025





تجمع الرياض الصحي الثاني
Riyadh Second Health Cluster
شركة الصحة القابضة



Acknowledgment

The preparation of this annual report was a comprehensive, multi-phase process led by the preparation team and required extensive coordination across departments, careful data validation, and multiple rounds of content development. Over several months, the team gathered and consolidated input from all Research Center departments and administrations, carried out structured review cycles, and oversaw the layout and design process. We would like to thank the Research Center directors and chairpersons for their valuable efforts in providing the information needed to compile this annual report.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Research Center Annual Report for 2025. As a strategic enabler of Riyadh Second Health Cluster (R2) mission to deliver an innovative and sustainable model of care for a better quality of life for all, the Research Center continues to play a pivotal role in advancing evidence-based practice. Through high-impact research, strategic partnerships, and a strong commitment to excellence, the Center remains dedicated to driving meaningful and measurable improvements in patient care and public health outcomes.

Grounded in rigorous scientific inquiry and guided by an unwavering commitment to improving patient outcomes, the Research Center collaborates closely with healthcare professionals and researchers to address the most pressing challenges facing the healthcare system. Through a robust portfolio of innovative research initiatives and strategic partnerships, the Center seeks to translate scientific evidence into actionable solutions, delivering measurable impact and lasting value for patients and communities across the region.

In 2025, the Research Center made significant progress in advancing healthcare excellence. Our research endeavors generated impactful scientific contributions, while national and international collaborations strengthened the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices. This report presents a comprehensive overview of the year's key achievements, challenges encountered, and the valuable insights gained, reflecting our continued commitment to learning, innovation, and sustained improvement.

As we reflect on our journey, we recognize and celebrate the progress achieved while maintaining a clear focus on the opportunities ahead. Our enduring commitment to innovation, collaboration, and patient-centered care will continue to guide our efforts as we strive for even greater impact in the years to come.

We invite you to explore the highlights of 2025 and join us in envisioning a healthier, more resilient, and brighter future for the communities we are privileged to serve.

Riyadh Second Health Cluster



Vision

Advancing care to elevate health and well-being for all.



Mission

Deliver an innovative and sustainable model of care for a better quality of life for all.

Message from the President of Riyadh Second Health Cluster

The Executive Administration of the Research Center in Riyadh Second Health Cluster (R2) continues to play a vital role in advancing healthcare through research and innovation, in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030. Through its support of scientific research, the Center contributes greatly to improving patient outcomes and promoting community health across the Kingdom.

As outlined in the 2025 Annual Report, the Research Center has enabled high-priority research projects, strengthened research infrastructure, and supported key research activities and clinical trials. These achievements demonstrate the Center's ongoing commitment to excellence and its alignment with R2's strategic direction.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Executive Administration and the Research Center team for their dedication and valuable contributions, and I look forward to continued advancement in healthcare outcomes driven by research and innovation.



Dr. Fahad S. AlGhofaili
President, Riyadh Second Health Cluster

Message from the Vice President of Riyadh Second Health Cluster

For more than two decades, the Research Center has played a pivotal role in fostering a robust and ethical research environment that supports scientific innovation and excellence. Since its establishment over 20 years ago, the Center has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing research by providing a supportive infrastructure, facilitating funding for high-quality scientific projects, and delivering efficient support services and innovative educational initiatives, all while adhering to the highest standards of research integrity and conduct.

The R2 Research Center has developed clear and strategic plans that align research priorities with national healthcare goals. As the Saudi healthcare system continues to evolve, the center recognizes its responsibility to strengthen research capacity across multiple disciplines and healthcare divisions. Accordingly, we remain dedicated to meeting immediate research needs while fostering sustainable research growth across all R2 healthcare entities.

This annual report highlights the Research Center's key achievements across its various administrations and reflects the collective efforts of our staff and researchers. It also provides an overview of the Center's services, resources, and human capital, all of which are designed to support researchers and enable impactful, high-quality research.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Research Center staff for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the Center's mission and vision. I am equally grateful to our researchers for their exceptional efforts and valuable contributions. I encourage them to continue their pursuit of excellence and innovation, as research remains a cornerstone for advancing healthcare outcomes and building a healthier future for our communities.



Dr. Dania H. Al-Jaroudi

Vice President, Riyadh Second Health Cluster, Research Center
Executive Director, King Fahad Medical City, Research Center

Research Center

Five-Year Strategic and Operational Initiatives:

The Research Center's Five-Year Strategic and Operational Initiatives are fully aligned with the Health Holding Company's (HHC) initiatives to drive innovation, operational excellence, and patient-centered, data-driven care. By strengthening research infrastructure, advancing digital capabilities, and elevating research quality, the Center enhances research capacity, knowledge translation, and measurable health outcomes. These initiatives position the Research Center as a critical strategic partner in delivering the Health Holding Company's vision for a resilient, innovative, and high-performing healthcare system.

Strategic Initiatives:

1: Develop Oncology Tissue Bank

Alignment with HHC initiative: Design and develop population health management tools and analytics

Description: The initiative aims to establish a robust, integrated tissue banking capability that enables the systematic collection, storage, and distribution of tumor and matched normal tissue to support high-quality basic and translational cancer research. It further seeks to contribute to the development of a national, multidisciplinary research network that aligns key stakeholders around shared priorities critical to accelerating the translation of cancer research into clinical practice. As tissue banking continues to evolve, this initiative positions the Research Center to leverage emerging innovations that will advance precision oncology, improve therapeutic development, and support future applications in cancer treatment and transplantation.

2: Translating innovative research outcomes into actionable healthcare interventions

Alignment with HHC initiative: Develop and guide implementation of a comprehensive program (incl. clinical outcomes measurement systems, patient-related measure systems, incentives set-up) to facilitate the transition towards value-based healthcare.

Description: Translational research bridges the gap between scientific discovery and clinical practice, transforming laboratory findings into improvements in patient care, treatments, and innovative models of healthcare delivery. Establishing a Translational Research and Precision Medicine initiative aligns directly with national health priorities by accelerating the integration of evidence-based practices, supporting precision healthcare, and informing health policy. This initiative will strengthen the country's capacity for research-driven innovation, promote multidisciplinary collaboration, and ensure that scientific advances translate efficiently into improved population health outcomes. The strategic plan outlines a clear roadmap for establishing, operationalizing, and sustaining the initiative to deliver measurable impact across the healthcare system.

3: Establishment of a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility for research and innovation

Alignment with HHC initiative: Establish Research & Innovation capabilities, through e.g., partnerships with RDI, life sciences

Description: This initiative seeks to establish a state-of-the-art Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility dedicated to vaccine development and targeted therapeutics, significantly enhancing the Center's capabilities in biotechnology and precision medicine. The initiative is designed to advance three strategic aspirations: positioning the Center as a regional leader in vaccine biotechnology, establishing a premier hub for novel therapeutics and precision medicine, and attracting top-tier visiting scientists and collaborators from leading universities and research institutes. By achieving these objectives, the facility will strengthen innovation, accelerate translational research, and elevate the Center's global scientific profile.

4: Advancing Research Technology Transfer in Riyadh's Second Health Cluster

Alignment with HHC initiative: Establish Research & Innovation capabilities, through e.g., partnerships with RDI, life sciences

Description: The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the commercialization of innovative healthcare research and technology. This initiative will prioritize strategic partnerships with government agencies, industry stakeholders, and investment entities to translate cutting-edge research into market-ready products and services. By leveraging these collaborations, the Department aims to position the Health Cluster as a regional and global leader in research-driven healthcare innovation, drive sustainable economic growth, and address critical healthcare challenges in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

5: Develop Medical Research in R2 Hospitals and Medical Centers

Alignment with HHC initiative: Establish Research & Innovation capabilities, through e.g., partnerships with RDI, life sciences

Description: This initiative is designed to elevate medical research capabilities across R2 hospitals and centers by cultivating a research-driven culture, securing sustainable funding, and establishing robust collaborative networks. Key strategic priorities include strengthening research infrastructure and capabilities, enabling multi-center collaborative studies, and enhancing data-sharing mechanisms to accelerate knowledge generation. The initiative also emphasizes expanding funding opportunities for healthcare professionals, promoting the adoption of innovative research methodologies and technologies, and ensuring rigorous oversight through ethical review boards and compliance frameworks to maintain the highest standards of research integrity and quality.

6: Automation and Digital Excellence of Clinical Trials

Alignment with HHC initiative: Detailed operating & governance model (incl. shared services design, clinical governance) across all relevant HHC entities (HQ, Corps, Clusters)

Description: This initiative seeks to restructure clinical research operations by establishing a centralized, integrated model grounded in governance, automation, standardization, and capacity building. Its objectives are to streamline processes, minimize inefficiencies, and ensure full compliance through the implementation of unified agreements, standardized communication systems, and paperless workflows, supported by comprehensive workforce planning. The program also emphasizes the training and development of postgraduate students, alongside the establishment of a continuous auditing and quality improvement mechanism, ensuring sustainable operational excellence and the delivery of high-quality, compliant clinical research across the Health Cluster.

7: Research Services and IRB Submission Automation

Alignment with HHC initiative: Run an effective change management program as the key to a smooth & effective migration

Description: The current Research Center and IRB service workflows—including funding requests, scientific writing support, outsourcing, and protocol submissions—rely heavily on traditional communication channels such as emails and paper-based processes. With increasing demand for these services, there is a critical need to optimize workflows to better meet researchers' needs and enhance overall user experience and satisfaction. The Automation of Research Services and IRB Submission initiative leverages advanced technology to streamline service utilization, reduce turnaround times, and improve operational efficiency. Key functionalities of the proposed system will include: seamless submission and tracking of research service requests (funding, scientific writing, outsourcing), streamlined creation and submission of research proposals and protocols, automated IRB review management, and enhanced communication among study team members, thereby supporting a more efficient, transparent, and researcher-centric process.

8: Automation of Grant Application Process

Alignment with HHC initiative: Run an effective change management program as the key to a smooth & effective migration.

Description: This initiative is designed to implement a cloud-based digital platform to streamline the grant application, review, and approval processes. It encompasses the development of standardized workflows, comprehensive training for staff and applicants, and a structured approach to transitioning from manual to fully automated systems. By enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility, the platform will support timely decision-making, improve user experience, and strengthen the overall management of grant administration across the Research Center.

Operational Initiatives

1: Building a Disease Registry for Rare Mendelian Disorders in Riyadh Second Health Cluster

Alignment with HHC initiative: Design and develop population health management tools and analytics

Description: This initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive disease registry for Rare Mendelian Disorders, enabling the systematic collection of high-quality, anonymized clinical data. By integrating advanced data analytics, the initiative will identify demographic and epidemiological trends, support evidence-based decision-making, and optimize resource allocation, thereby enhancing patient care, guiding research priorities, and strengthening the Health Cluster's capacity to address rare and complex diseases.

2: Enhancing Research Quality and Grant Sustainability

Alignment with HHC initiative: Establish Research & Innovation capabilities, through e.g., partnerships with RDI, life sciences

Description: This initiative is designed to empower researchers to deliver high-quality, impactful projects by providing dedicated resources, expert guidance, and streamlined processes. To secure funding for 40 grants annually, the initiative ensures that all supported projects align with institutional priorities, advance scientific excellence, and generate meaningful contributions to healthcare outcomes and innovation.

3: Implement Riyadh Second Health Cluster Publications Dashboard

Alignment with HHC initiative: Run an effective change management program as the key to a smooth & effective migration

Description: The Scientific Writing and Biostatistics Department oversees the compilation and preservation of R2's extensive body of scientific publications. This initiative aims to develop a centralized, user-friendly publications dashboard, enabling researchers, administrators, and stakeholders to efficiently track, analyze, and visualize scientific outputs. By providing actionable insights and enhancing transparency, the dashboard will support strategic decision-making, foster research excellence, and showcase the Health Cluster's scientific impact.

4: Implement R2 Scientific Research Days

Alignment with HHC initiative: Strengthen company culture through targeted programs, workshops, and communication strategies to foster an inclusive, collaborative, and high-performance workplace

Description: Scientific Research Days are flagship events designed to bring together researchers, scholars, and scientists to present, share, and discuss their latest findings. Organized collaboratively by the Research Center, R2 hospitals, medical centers, and administrative units, these events provide a dynamic platform to showcase cutting-edge research, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and stimulate the exchange of ideas. Key features include expert presentations and talks, interactive poster sessions, structured networking opportunities, and awards recognizing outstanding contributions, all of which reinforce a culture of scientific excellence and innovation across the Health Cluster.

5: Collaboration with Universities and Research Institutes

Alignment with HHC initiative: Build the case to HSTP and VRO for HHC to take over execution and associate funding of relevant initiatives

Description: This initiative is designed to establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with leading universities and research institutes, fostering innovation, research excellence, and sustained knowledge exchange. Over a three-year horizon, the program will advance collaborative projects, joint research programs, and shared platforms to generate high-impact outcomes. Key components include formalizing institutional partnerships, promoting joint research in priority focus areas, providing dedicated funding and resources for collaborative initiatives, developing internship and talent development programs, and organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops to facilitate continuous knowledge sharing and capacity building.

6: Implement the PROMs and PREMs research group program

Alignment with HHC initiative: Develop manuals and toolkits (incl. clinical guidelines & others) to operationalize the full model of care

Description: The PROMs (Patient-Reported Outcome Measures) and PREMs (Patient-Reported Experience Measures) Research Group is dedicated to capturing and leveraging patients' perspectives to enhance healthcare quality and outcomes. PROMs assess patients' health status, including symptoms, physical and mental functioning, and overall quality of life, providing critical insights into clinical outcomes from the patient's viewpoint. PREMs evaluate patients' experiences with care, encompassing service delivery, communication, accessibility, and overall satisfaction, thereby informing improvements in healthcare service quality. The overarching goal of this initiative is to strengthen the collection, analysis, and application of patient-reported data to support evidence-based clinical decision-making, optimize patient care, and drive measurable improvements in health outcomes.

Research Center Services

The Research Center supports R2 staff by providing the following services:

I. Research Education and Awareness (Workshops and Courses):

- Annual educational and training calendar featuring lectures and workshops designed to reinforce the research culture and enhance research skills across various disciplines.
- Outreach educational program delivering on-site, practical research lectures for residents, fellows, nurses, and other healthcare staff. Each program is customized to meet the specific needs of different hospitals, centers, and administrative structures.
- Annual Research Conference to showcase progress and success stories from ongoing research projects, while fostering a collaborative networking environment for researchers to share insights and build connections.
- Research Awareness campaigns aimed at engaging R2 staff, enhancing their knowledge, attitudes, and active participation in research initiatives.

II. Research Conduct Support

- Provide comprehensive support for industry-sponsored clinical trials, ensuring efficient coordination, regulatory compliance, and optimal resource allocation.
- Facilitate and support investigator-initiated clinical trials, offering guidance, infrastructure, and resources to enhance the quality and impact of independent research efforts.

III. Translational Research Support

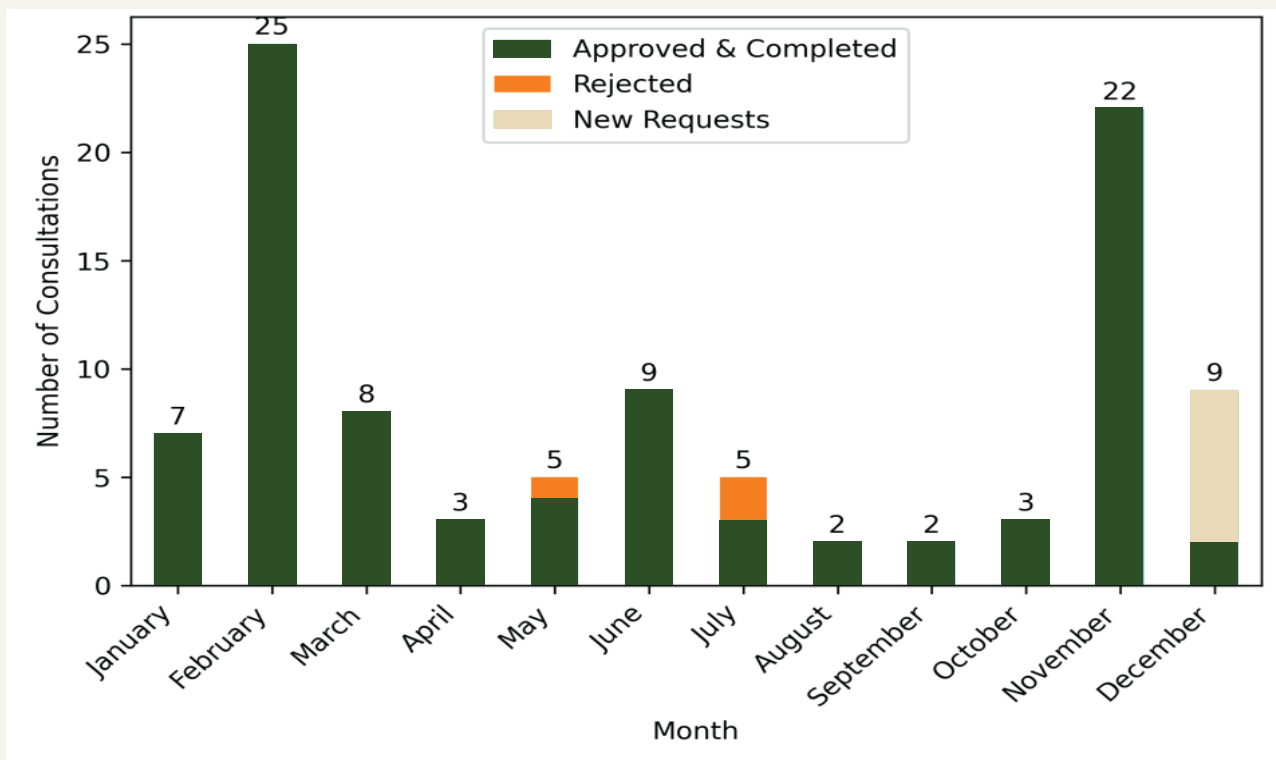
- Offer comprehensive environmental support and state-of-the-art laboratory facilities to facilitate the successful conduct of translational research.
- Strengthen translational research skills by providing targeted training courses and workshops designed to enhance expertise and practical knowledge in this field.
- Provide essential services for the management of biological specimens, including efficient collection, processing, and long-term storage through a dedicated biobank.

IV. Automated One-to-One Research Consultation

- Provides personalized, expert guidance to researchers across all stages of the research process. This service offers support in developing research concepts, designing studies, writing proposals, selecting appropriate methodologies, conducting statistical analyses, and preparing manuscripts, empowering researchers to efficiently navigate the pathway from project conception to successful publication.
- The One-to-One Research Consultation Service continued to provide essential individualized research support throughout 2025, demonstrating steady utilization and strong completion outcomes. A total of 92 consultation requests were approved and completed, with peak activity recorded in February (25 consultations) and November (22 consultations), reflecting periods of heightened research engagement.
- Overall, the service maintained a high completion rate and remained a key mechanism for strengthening research capacity and supporting institutional research objectives. Requests for the One-to-One Research Consultation Service may be submitted through the Research Center e-Services portal at:

<https://eservices.rc2.med.sa/Research/ResearchCenter/SitePages/Consultation.aspx>.

Monthly distribution of One-to-One Research Consultation Service requests



V. Research Financial Support (Intramural Research Fund-IRF)

■ Offers competitive financial support to researchers at King Fahad Medical City and R2, enabling them to conduct high-quality research by providing the necessary funding for their projects.

Social responsibility

As part of its social responsibility, the Research Center actively recruits fresh graduates as trainees and volunteers:



Trainees are selected in collaboration with Academic and Training Affairs from various institutions, providing opportunities for recent graduates to gain hands-on experience in research.



Volunteers are engaged through a partnership with Public Relations via the Health Volunteering Platform, offering individuals the chance to contribute to research initiatives and gain valuable exposure in the field.

Research Priorities

Mental Health

Cardiovascular Disease

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Diabetes mellitus

Cancer

Well-being and management of cancer patients

Antimicrobial resistance

Vaccines

Population priority: the elderly

Microbial genetics

Endemic diseases

Healthcare-associated infections

Healthcare policies impact

Mass gathering diseases

Emerging-remerging diseases

Healthcare financing

Access to healthcare services

Healthcare system integration

The 20th Research Center Annual Conference

The 20th Anniversary Research Center Annual Conference convenes leading minds, innovative thinkers, and pioneers in clinical and translational research. This milestone event showcases latest discoveries, fosters dynamic discussion, and sets the direction for the future of medical research. Physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals from King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh Second Health Cluster, and across the Kingdom will present and exchange breakthrough ideas and findings in translational clinical research.

Aligned with the Riyadh Second Health Cluster Research Center's mission to deliver value-based healthcare empowered by innovation and research, the conference features a panel discussion, oral presentations, and multiple poster sessions. These scientifically rich forums enable in-depth exploration of how fundamental science becomes a tangible clinical impact, with each discussion contributing to the evolving landscape of translational medicine.

This conference is a testament to the Research Center's enduring commitment to excellence, innovation, and research that produces measurable health outcomes. As we celebrate two decades of progress, we honor past achievements and reaffirm our vision to lead collaborative, high-quality research that will shape the future of healthcare. Our sincere thanks to the researchers, speakers, partners, and sponsors whose dedication drives this progress.

Keynote Speakers:



This year's conference hosted distinguished invited keynote speakers recognized as founders and establishers of research centers across the Kingdom for more than 20 years, who also brought exceptional expertise, insight, and inspiration to a diverse assembly of researchers, physicians, scientists, and professionals. Through panel discussions and presentations, they set the tone for the meeting, sparking engaging dialogue and offering valuable perspectives on contemporary challenges and opportunities across multiple fields.

Panel Discussion topic: National Research Priorities in Action: Strengthening Biotechnology and Clinical Trial Capacity in Saudi Arabia

Discussion Points

The Strategic Landscape and Enabling Environment

The Human Capital Cornerstone

Building the Engine: Capacity and Collaboration

Vision, Ethics, and Global Leadership

Keynote Speakers:

Honorable Keynote and invited speakers:



HRH Princess Dr. Haya Bint Khaled Bin Bandar Al Saud

HRH Princess Dr. Haya bint Khaled bin Bandar Al Saud is a distinguished scientist and strategic leader at the forefront of genomics and biotechnology in Saudi Arabia. Currently serving as a senior leader at the Hevolution Foundation, she has held pivotal roles including Director of the Saudi National Center for Genomics Technology and Director of the Saudi National Pre-Marital Screening Program. Her extensive advisory work spans the National Biotech Strategy Advisory Committee and the S20 Future of Health Taskforce for the G20. An expert in population genetics and preventative medicine, she holds a PhD in Genomics of Common Diseases from Imperial College London, a Master's from McGill University, and a Bachelor's from King Saud University.



Dr. Sultan AlSudairy

Dr. Sultan Al-Sudairy is widely recognized as a preeminent leader in Saudi Arabia's biomedical landscape, distinguished by his ability to bridge the gap between academic research, hospital administration, and national health strategy. Since assuming the role of Executive Director at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in 1996, he has been instrumental in evolving the Kingdom into a research-driven healthcare system. His leadership extends further as the Chief Executive Director of the King Salman Center for Disability Research and as a Professor at Alfaisal University's College of Medicine. His global perspective, informed by tenures at prestigious institutions like Children's Hospital Boston, has allowed him to integrate international scientific standards with Saudi Arabia's unique public health needs.

Beyond his administrative roles, his contributions have fundamentally shaped the nation's scientific infrastructure and public health policy. He is credited with founding the national newborn screening program, a vital initiative for the early detection of genetic and metabolic disorders, and has been a champion for inclusivity in the sciences by helping establish a national network of female Saudi scientists. Through his work in advancing biotechnology and supporting disability research, he has successfully aligned cutting-edge clinical science with large-scale health initiatives, solidifying his legacy as a transformative figure in both Saudi and international medical communities.



Prof. Muneera Alwhaibi

Professor and co-director of medication safety research chair. Proficient in handling Large healthcare data (Registry data, Claims Databases, electronic medical data, etc.) using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) and STATA to conduct predictive modeling and data visualization using Power BI. Skilled in developing impactful educational programs and initiatives for academic and professional growth development and scientific meetings. Expert in research, fundraising, leading and managing research projects with more than sixty publications, particularly on epidemiology, health outcomes, and cost analysis. Board member of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) and Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCHS).



Dr. Mohammed Zohair Al kawi

A board-certified neurologist by the American Board of Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology, with specialization in Vascular Neurology. He established the Neurology specialty in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in 1978, where he also played a pivotal role in training generations of physicians in this field. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles published in peer-reviewed medical journals on topics related to neuroscience and medical ethics, and has served on the editorial boards of local and international scientific journals. He is a Professor of Neurology at Alfaisal University.

He has chaired and served on multiple ethics and clinical research committees at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. He has been a member of the National Committee of Bioethics since its establishment in 2001, and a member of the National Health Ethics Committee at the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. He currently serves as Chair of the Brain Death Committee at the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation, and as Director of the Research Ethics Oversight Office since its establishment at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).



Dr. Saud Alzahrani

He is a Saudi emergency physician and inventor, currently serving as the Director of Occupational Health at the Saudi Red Crescent Authority. He holds two medical patents and focuses on developing practical, innovative solutions for emergency care and pre-hospital services.

He has received local and international awards in health innovation and is actively working on transforming medical innovations into products with sustainable humanitarian and economic impact.



Dr. Mohammed AlZahrani

He is a distinguished clinical pharmacist and academician specializing in the fields of Hematology and Oncology. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS) in Riyadh, where he leverages an extensive clinical background developed through high-level training in the United States. His professional journey includes serving as an Oncology Pharmacy Resident at the University of Arizona Cancer Center and a Clinical Instructor and Pharmacy Resident at the University of Illinois Chicago. Additionally, he has contributed to international research as a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Dr. Al Zahrani holds a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from both the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis and KSAU-HS, and he is further enhancing his expertise through a Master of Public Health focused on Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Certified in Pharmacy Immunization Delivery and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, he bridges the gap between complex clinical practice and academic instruction, dedicated to advancing oncology pharmacy and public health informatics within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Dr. Abdullah K. Alshememry

He is an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at King Saud University. He currently serves as the Vice Dean for Admission Affairs at the university's Deanship of Admission and Registration. Dr. Alshememry holds a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta, Canada, where he specialized in recombinant stimulus-responsive biomaterials for brain injury treatment. A certified Project Management Professional (PMP), he has held key leadership roles, including Director of the Nanobiotechnology Unit and Chairman of the Scientific Committee at the Center of Excellence in Biotechnology Research. His expertise is recognized nationally through his advisory role with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). Dr. Alshememry is an active researcher with numerous publications in high-impact journals, focusing on nanoparticle self-assembly and advanced drug delivery systems.



Dr. Ibrahim Alhoqail

He is a distinguished academic leader and a pioneer of modern medical education in Saudi Arabia.

Throughout his tenure at King Saud University and beyond, he has been a transformative figure, most notably for introducing the Kingdom's first Problem-Based Learning (PBL) curriculum and establishing the inaugural Medical Education Quality Unit. His leadership extends to significant institutional founding roles, including serving as the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at King Fahad Medical City and being appointed by Royal Order as the Vice Rector of Majmaah University, where he oversaw its fundamental establishment. A visionary strategist, he initiated the Saudi International Medical Education Conference (SIMEC) and chaired the creation of the Prince Sultan Faculty of Emergency Medicine, the first of its kind in the nation.

His expertise is sought at the highest levels, evidenced by his consultancies for the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu and the Ministry of Education, as well as his leadership of the Saudi Association of Health Administration under the patronage of King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

**Dr. Jehad Alghamdi**

He is a distinguished scientific leader and the Executive Director of Benefit and Risk Evaluation at the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). In this pivotal role, he leads the regulatory oversight of drugs, biologics, and advanced therapies, ensuring public health safety through rigorous clinical and non-clinical scientific reviews and strategic benefit-risk assessments. A cornerstone of the Saudi regulatory landscape, Dr. Alghamdi also plays a vital role in national bioethical governance, where he contributes to the ethical oversight of research involving living organisms and genetic material. His career is marked by a deep commitment to Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM), having shaped national strategies that translate complex scientific evidence into clinical guidelines and healthcare practice. With a robust background in biotechnology and executive management, he combines expertise in GCP and GLP standards with strategic planning to enhance healthcare quality, foster international stakeholder coordination, and promote the sustainability of national medical research frameworks.

**Dr. Abdulaziz Alhomod**

He is a physician executive and digital health expert based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, currently serves as the CEO Advisor and Chief Innovation Officer at Seha Virtual Hospital. In this role, he provided strategic guidance for national virtual care initiatives and played a pivotal role in introducing the national digital health regulatory sandbox. As the former Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Alhomod led the design and launch of Seha Virtual Hospital, earning international accreditation for virtual care. He practices emergency medicine at King Fahad Medical City and teaches at King Saud University's school of Business.

He has an extensive educational background, including a Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics and American Board certifications in Clinical Informatics and Emergency Medicine. In addition to his consulting experience in Saudi Arabia and the U.S., he has also served on the G20 Health Working Groups and various other prestigious committees.

Conference Important Numbers

Abstract submission

A total of 209 abstracts were received from over 30 different health and educational institutions across the Kingdom (fig below). The Research Center at R2 serves different scientific and clinical interests, resulting in various specialties and projects that cover over 50 scientific and healthcare topics (fig below). This diversity of topics attracted over 300 attendees with different professional expertise. Below are the numbers that reflect that.

Oral Presentations

A total of 28 oral presentations were delivered during the conference program, categorized under 9 different sessions (see detailed program below). The oral presentation sessions constituted a core component of the conference, providing a formal platform for researchers to present their studies, methodologies, and key findings to a broad and specialized audience. The presentations reflected a high standard of scientific rigor and professional excellence, and each session was followed by constructive discussions that promoted knowledge exchange and potential research collaboration.

The presented topics spanned a wide range of disciplines, including clinical research, biomedical sciences, scientific materials, physics, patented devices to improve patient care, and artificial intelligence, all unified by a shared focus on advancing clinical and healthcare research. Following a structured and professional evaluation process, five presentations were selected for awards in recognition of their outstanding quality and scientific merit.

Day 1 Wednesday, 21 st January, 2026 Conference Scientific program			
Time		Topic	Speaker
From	To		
7:30	8:30	Registration	
Session 1: Insights in Early Disease Identification			Chairperson: Dr. Bandar AIOsaimi
8:30	8:45	How useful are the biochemical tests in guiding the diagnostic work up of infantile cholestasis?	Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Hussaini
8:45	9:00	Clinical and Molecular Characterization of Hepatic Glycogen Storage Disease in Saudi Arabia	Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Hussaini
9:00	9:15	Early Detection of Diabetic Foot Abnormalities Using Deep Learning on Infrared Thermography Images	Ms. Fai Al-Dubasi
Session 2: Data-Driven Advances in Patient Care			Chairperson: Dr. Nahla Mobark
9:15	9:45	Methodological Advances in Extracting, Harmonizing, and Validating High-Fidelity Real-World Evidence from EHR Systems	Invited Speaker Dr. Abdulaziz Alhomod
9:45	10:00	Prevalence of Antibiotic Use in End-of-life Patient of Palliative Care	Dr. Abdullah Alsuhaib
10:00	10:15	Predictors and health impacts of Ramadan intermittent fasting among patients with sickle cells disease	Dr. Maryam Alshams
10:15	10:30	Coffee Break Poster Viewing	
Conference Opening Ceremony			
10:30	11:45	Panel Discussion: National Research Priorities in Action: Strengthening Biotechnology and Clinical Trial Capacity in Saudi Arabia	Moderator: Dr. Saleh Al Rajhi Keynote Panel guests: HRH Princess Dr. Haya AlSaud Dr. Sultan AlSudairi Dr. Mohammed AlKawi
11:45	12:00	Exhibition/ Poster Viewing Tour	
12:00	13:00	Prayer and lunch Break	
Session 3: Research Progress and Holistic Trends in Modern Clinical Care			Chairperson: Dr Bazzah Almubarak
13:00	13:30	Kingdom Research directions in the last 20 Years	Invited Speaker Dr. Jehad Alghamdi
13:45	14:00	The Lived Experiences, Perceived Challenges, and Coping Strategies of Male Patients Using Intermittent Catheterization Post Spinal Cord Injury: A Phenomenological Study	Mr. Yacoub Abuzied
14:00	14:15	Motor and Autonomic Health with Neuromodulation	Dr. Abdullah Alrashidi
14:15	14:30	Coffee Break Poster Viewing	
Session 4: Translational and Real-World Evidence in Oncology Research			Chairperson: Dr. Sajed Durrani
14:30	14:45	Reduced 6-Mercaptopurine Tolerability in Saudi Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Is Not Explained by Common TPMT or NUDT15 Risk Alleles	Dr. Walid Ballourah
12:45	15:00	Real-World Survival Outcomes of First-Line Therapies in Patients with Metastatic Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma: A Retrospective Analysis from Two Centers in Saudi Arabia	Ms. Maria Alsulami
15:00	15:15	Selective lysis of acute myeloid leukemia cells by CD34/CD3 bispecific antibody through the activation of $\gamma\delta$ T-cells	Dr. Faisal Alagrafi
END OF DAY ONE			

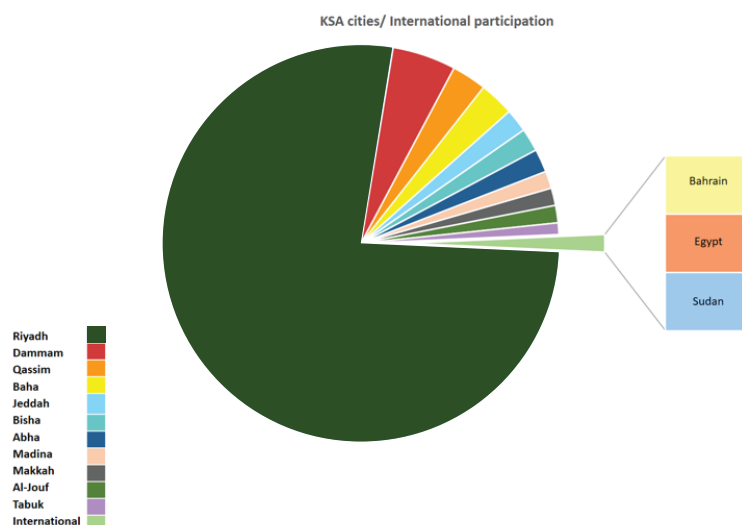
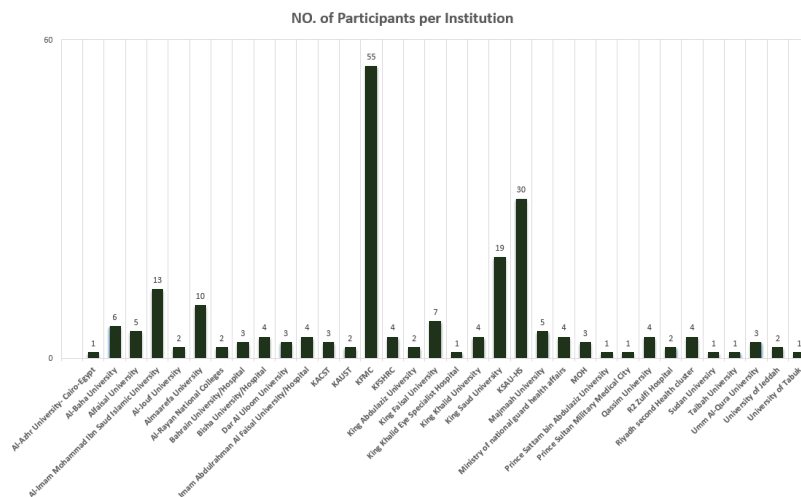
Day 2Thursday, 22 nd January, 2026 Conference Scientific program			
Time		Topic	Speaker
From	To		
8:00	9:00	Registration	
Session 5: Device Innovation in Action: Smart Tools - Better Patient Care			Chairperson: Dr. Moath Al Saqaaby
9:00	9:15	Kattara, eye drop assistant delivery tool	Dr. Layla Al Jasem
9:15	9:30	Innovative Device for Shoulder Dislocation Treatment and Fracture Stabilization	Invited Speaker Dr. Saud Al Zahrani
9:30	9:45	A goat experimental epistaxis model: Hemostatic effect of the stop nosebleeds device	Mrs. Amani K. Abu-Shaheen
Session 6: Genomics and Immune Pathways in Complex Diseases			Chairperson: Dr. Abdulall Perzada
9:45	10:00	Redox-Responsive PEO b PCL-Based Block Copolymers for Synergistic Drug Delivery and Bioimaging in Cancer Cells	Ms. Shahad Alotaibi
10:00	10:15	Transcriptomic profile of the immune genes, oncogenes, and tumor suppressor genes in HPV associated Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia 3 (CIN 3) and Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma (CSCC): Comparable expressions indicative of invasive potential	Dr. Maaweia Elaeed Awadalla
10:15	10:30	Computational Identification of RNF114 nsSNPs with Potential Roles in Psoriasis and Immune Dysregulation	Ms. Ghalia Aldoseri
10:30	10:45	Comparative meta-transcriptomic analysis of nasal and anal microbiota in Respiratory Syncytial Virus mono and co-infected children.	Dr. Iman Dandachi
10:45	11:00	Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination	Dr. Bandar Alosaimi
11:00	11:15	Coffee Break and Poster Viewing	
Session 7: Integrating PROMs and Digital Tools in Clinical Decision-Making			Chairperson: Dr. Darah Aldisi
11:15	11:45	Real-Time PROM Feedback and Clinical Decision Support (CDS) in Primary Care and Objective Clinical Outcomes	Invited Speaker Prof. Muneera Alwhaibi
11:45	12:00	Women's Age as a Determinant of Pregnancy Outcomes in ICSI Treatment: A Retrospective Cohort Study	Dr. Lama Alshwairikh
12:00	13:00	Prayer and lunch Break	
Session 8: Clinical Insights in Cardiovascular Risk and Outcomes			Chairperson: Dr. Imad Brema and Dr. Khalid AlMatham
13:00	13:20	KFMC Experiences in Advancing Clinical Trials: Strategies for Building and Sustaining Eligible Clinical Trials.	Dr. Sharafaldeen Bin Nafeesah
13:20	13:35	Prevalence and Characteristics of Heart Failure Patients with a Family History of Sudden Cardiac Death at Young Age	Dr. Mudafi Alkhdhr
13:35	13:50	Competing etiologies and outcomes after breakthrough ischemic stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation on oral anticoagulation: Results from the ASPERA-R study	Dr. Khawla AlHatlany
13:50	14:05	Impact of the Daily Temperature Variability on the Diagnosis of ST-elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI): Real-World Data	Dr. Fawaz Alqaht
14:05	14:30	Utilizing Data capturing tool for Digital and Mobile Data Capture	Invited Speaker Dr. Mohammed AlZahrani
14:30	14:45	The Correlation between Liver Iron Concentration in Hemochromatosis Patients and Multiple Scoring Systems Including: MELD and FIB-4 Scores in KAMC, NGH, Riyadh City, KSA	Dr. Jenan Alshammari
14:45	15:00	Iron therapy to optimize efficacy and cost of Iron Deficiency Anemia, A Dialysis Center Experience	Dr. Ali Altayyar
15:00	15:10	Coffee Break	
Session 9: Molecular Profiling in Rare and Chronic Diseases			Chairperson: Dr. Eissa Faqeeh
15:10	15:25	A Novel In-Silico Characterization Approach of Ig58-Ig59 Domains Mutant: An Obscurin	Ms Esraa Aldkheil
15:25	15:40	Association Between ABO Blood Group and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Pregnant Women, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Ms. Maria Alrafi
15:40	15:55	Evaluating Variations in Inpatient Sickle Cell Disease Care and Their Influence on Readmission Outcomes: A Multicenter Study from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Ms. Raghad Joujou
15:55		Awards and Closing Remarks	

Poster Presentations

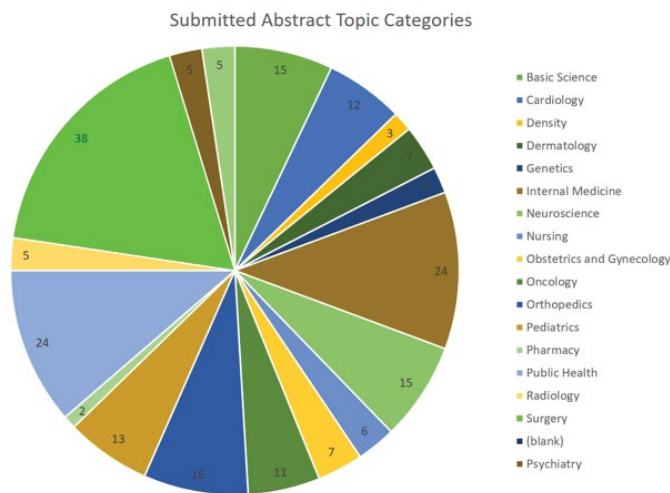
Accepted posters were displayed throughout the two days of the conference on interactive digital screens. The poster sessions served as an effective platform for researchers to visually present their work and engage in focused, one-on-one discussions with conference participants. These sessions covered a broad spectrum of research topics, enabling attendees to explore emerging trends, innovative methodologies, and novel approaches across multiple disciplines.

The interactive format of the poster sessions was highly valued, as it encouraged meaningful scientific dialogue and fostered professional networking. Following a structured and professional evaluation conducted by the designated conference jury panel, five poster presentations were selected for awards in recognition of their scientific excellence and impact.

This year's conference received a great interest locally and internationally. We accepted participants from almost 30 national institutes across KSA, in addition to participants from Bahrain, Egypt, and Sudan, as shown in the figures below .



Participants shared their research projects from over 15 different scientific and clinical major specialties, as shown in the figure below.



Research Center Annual Conference Awards

The 20th Research Center Annual Conference marked a significant milestone, successfully convening a distinguished group of researchers, clinicians, and professionals from diverse disciplines. The conference provided a robust scientific platform for knowledge exchange, intellectual engagement, and strategic collaboration. Through its comprehensive program, including seminars, oral presentations, and poster sessions, the conference highlighted recent advancements and emerging trends across multiple research domains.

In alignment with its mission to advance research excellence and foster collaboration, the conference recognized outstanding scientific contributions through several award categories. The following researchers were honored in recognition of their exceptional work and meaningful contributions to the success of the conference:

Table 1: Poster winners (Names arranged in alphabetical order)

Researcher Name	Title
Ms. Halah Al-Rawi	Distinct Redox Gene Signatures and Immunosuppressive Microenvironment in HBV/HCV-Non-Associated Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Mr. Haitham Alkadi	Glycated albumin pro-oncogenic activities in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) cell lines HepG2 and HuH7 reveal upregulation of EpCAM and Galectin-3 in HCC tissues from type 2 diabetic patients.
Ms. Hajar Alshehri	Profiling the Tumor Immune Microenvironment ofHPV-Associated Base of Tongue Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Ms. Nada Al Shaer	Synaptic Remodeling and Network Recovery Following Seizure-Like Activity: Insights from a Cannabidiol Drug-Screening Model Using Microelectrode Arrays
Ms. Shahad Alotaibi	A 2,1,3-Benzothiadiazole-Based Fluorescent Macrocycle for Detecting Lysosomal Microenvironment Dynamics

Table 2: Oral presentation winners (Names arranged in alphabetical order)

Researcher Name	Title
Dr. Abdulall Perzada	Reduced 6-Mercaptopurine Tolerability in Saudi Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Is Not Explained by Common TPMT or NUDT15 Risk Alleles.
Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Hussaini	Clinical and Molecular Characterization of Hepatic Glycogen Storage Disease in Saudi Arabia
Dr. Bandar Alosaimi	Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination
Dr. Hani Alabbad	Effects and Safety of Focused-Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy on Treating Knee Osteoarthritis-Related Bone Marrow Lesions
Dr. Lama Alshwairikh	Women's Age as a Determinant of Pregnancy Outcomes in ICSI Treatment: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Additionally, the Conference committee honored the best researchers affiliated with KFMC for their highly significant high-impact-factor publications in the last 20 years.

Researcher Name	Title	Citation	Impact Factor	Year
Dr. Imad M Tleyjeh	Global, regional, and national age-sex specific all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013	The Lancet. 2015;385(9963):117–71.	88.5	2015
Dr. Eissa Ali Faqehi	Characterization of Greater Middle Eastern genetic variation for enhanced disease gene discovery	Nature Genetics. 2016 Sep;48(9):1071–6.	29.5	2016
Dr. Saleh Fahad Al-Dhahri	Health in times of uncertainty in the eastern Mediterranean region, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013	Lancet Glob Health. 2016 Oct;4(10):e704–13. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(16)30168-1. Epub 2016 Aug 25. PMID: 27568068; PMCID: PMC6660972.	18.5	2016
Dr. Jawad Ahmed Bajwa	Parkinson's disease in the MENASA countries	The Lancet Neurology. 2020 Apr 1;19(4):293–4.	45.5	2020
Dr. Riyadh Al-Lehebi	Respiratory disease and Ramadan.	The Lancet Respiratory Medicine. 2020 May 1;8(5):449–50.	32.8	2020
Dr. Mohammed Alsheef	Effectiveness of therapeutic heparin versus prophylactic heparin on death, mechanical ventilation, or intensive care unit admission in moderately ill patients with COVID-19 admitted to hospital: RAPID randomised clinical trial.	bmj. 2021 Oct 14;375.	93.5	2021
Dr. Mohammed A. AlShehri	Human MCT51-dependent translation of JAK2 is essential for IFN-γ immunity to mycobacteria.	Cell. 2023 Nov 9;186(23):5114–34.	42.5	2023

Researcher Name	Title	Citation	Impact Factor	Year
Dr. Abdulrahman Y. Alturki,	Effectiveness of lumbar cerebrospinal fluid drain among patients with aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage: a randomized clinical trial	JAMA Neurol. 2023 [Internet]. 1792	21.3	2023
Dr. Moath S Alsaqaaby	Sex, race, and BMI in clinical trials of medications for obesity over the past three decades: a systematic review.	The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology. 2024 Jun 1;12(6):414-21.	41.8	2024
Dr. Nasreen F. Alfaris	Orforglipron, an Oral Small-Molecule GLP-1 Receptor Agonist for Obesity Treatment	N Engl J Med. 2025 Sep 16. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2511774. Online ahead of print.	78.5	2025
Dr. Nasreen F Alfaris	Definition and diagnostic criteria of clinical obesity.	The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology. 2025 Mar 1;13(3):221-62.	41.8	2025
Dr. Saleh Alsulami	Social and environmental determinants of health inequities in childhood asthma.	The Lancet Respiratory Medicine. 2025 Mar 1;13(3):197-9.	32.8	2025
Dr. Mohammed Almaani	Adjunctive Intermittent Pneumatic Compression for Venous Thromboprophylaxis.	N Engl J Med. 2019 Apr 4;380(14):1305-1315. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1816150. Epub 2019 Feb 18. PMID: 30779530.	78.5	2019

Conference committee's members

Dr. Adnan Al Maghlouth- President of the conference

Organizing Committee

Dr. Leen Abu Safieh: Chairperson

Members

- Dr. Mohammed Jazzar
- Mrs. Ebtihal Alsolme
- Ms. Munirah Albishi
- Ms. Fatima Alansari

Scientific Committee

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Dr. Leen Abu Safieh – committee chair | • Dr. Ahmed Alsulaimani |
| • Mr. Saad Alamri –co-chair | • Dr. Sharafaldeem Bin-Nafeesah |
| • Dr. Mohammed Al Motairi –co-chair | • Dr. Mohammed Alzahrani |
| • Dr. Abdullah Alshehri | |

Conference Photo Gallery

Images from the opening Ceremony



Images from the discussion panel



Random Images from the Oral Presentations



Random Images from Poster sessions, conference discussions and networking



Closing Ceremony Group Picture



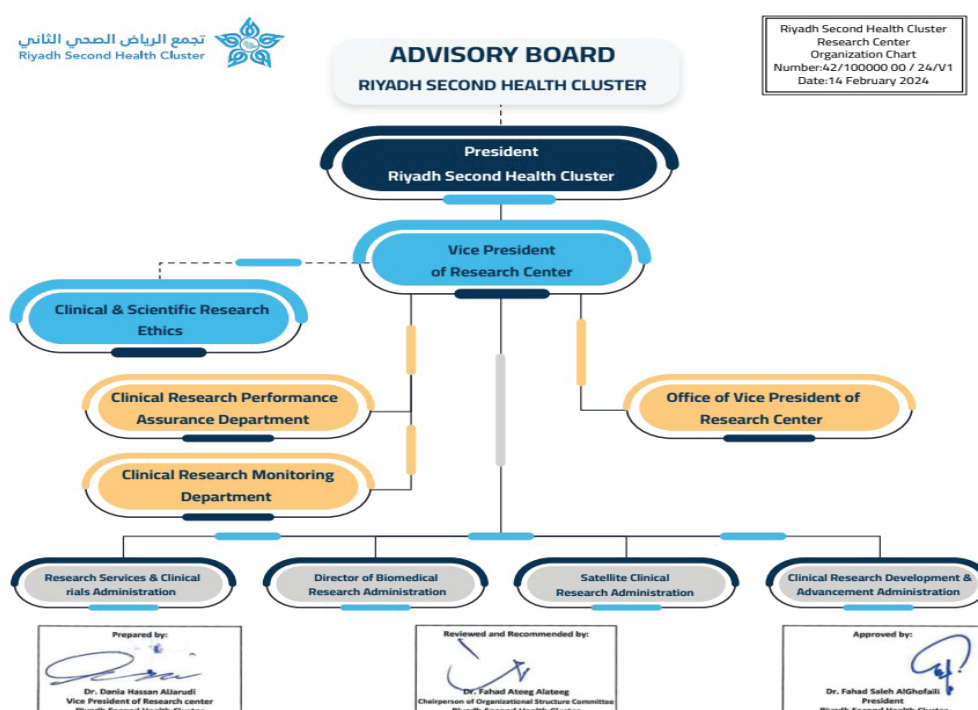
Research center governance

The Research Center operates under a robust governance framework designed to ensure strategic alignment, accountability, and excellence in all research activities. This framework ensures transparency in decision-making, effective resource allocation, and compliance with institutional, national, and international guidelines. By fostering a culture of integrity, collaboration, and continuous improvement, the Center's governance model supports high-quality research, drives innovation, and safeguards the interests of researchers, patients, and stakeholders alike. Governance structures include the following:

Organizational Chart	Central Research Committee and Sub-committees
Research Program	Human Research Subject Protection Program
Administrations Manuals	Corporate Policies and Procedures
Research Ethics Guidelines	Quality Improvement and Risk Management

Organizational Chart

The Research Center's organizational chart serves as a strategic tool to illustrate the center's leadership structure, functional units, and reporting relationships, providing clarity on roles, responsibilities, and accountability across all departments. It enhances communication and collaboration by clearly identifying lines of authority and points of contact, while supporting governance and oversight. The chart also guides resource allocation, workforce planning, and operational efficiency, ensuring alignment between the organizational structure and the Center's strategic objectives.



Research Program

The Riyadh Second Health Cluster Research Program is designed to advance the Cluster's strategic mission of delivering high-quality, evidence-based, and patient-centered care by fostering a robust research ecosystem across all R2 hospitals and centers. Its purpose is to support and enable high-impact biomedical, clinical, and population health research through comprehensive services, including research mentorship, technical and administrative support, funding facilitation, and access to state-of-the-art facilities. The program emphasizes scientific rigor, ethical integrity, and compliance with international standards, ensuring the protection of research participants while generating reliable evidence to inform clinical practice, health policy, and the emerging field of personalized medicine. By building research capacity, cultivating talent, and promoting innovation, the program seeks to enhance patient outcomes, contribute to national health priorities, and position R2 as a leading center for transformative healthcare research.

Human Research Subject Protection Program

The Human Research Subject Protection Program (HRSP) ensures that all research conducted under the auspices of the Riyadh Second Health Cluster is performed in a manner that safeguards the rights, safety, dignity, and well-being of research participants. The program provides a comprehensive governance and oversight framework that aligns with national regulations and internationally recognized ethical standards, including Good Clinical Practice and the principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. Through independent ethical review, ongoing monitoring, education, and compliance assurance, the HRSP promotes transparency, accountability, and responsible research conduct while enabling high-quality scientific inquiry. This program is fundamental to maintaining public trust, protecting participants, and ensuring that research activities contribute safely and ethically to improved healthcare outcomes and organizational excellence.

Research Ethics Guidelines

Research ethics is a foundational pillar of all research activities within the Riyadh Second Health Cluster, ensuring that scientific advancement is pursued with integrity, accountability, and respect for human dignity. Guided by national regulations and internationally recognized ethical frameworks, the Cluster upholds the principles of respect for persons, beneficence, justice, and transparency across the entire research lifecycle. Through strong governance, independent ethical review, robust informed consent processes, protection of privacy and confidentiality, and proactive management of conflicts of interest and research misconduct, R2 ensures that research is conducted responsibly and in the public interest. This commitment to ethical excellence safeguards research participants, strengthens public trust, and reinforces the Cluster's role as a leader in high-quality, socially responsible healthcare research.

Committees, Sub-committees

The KFMC and R2 Central Research Committees provide unified leadership and oversight of research activities across KFMC and R2 by maintaining effective communication between the Research Center and all hospitals, centers, and departments; fostering a cohesive research culture through regular sharing of priorities, progress, and outcomes; and strategically steering research activities to ensure alignment with institutional goals and national health priorities. The Committee identifies and consolidates research priorities across facilities and departments to guide planning and resource allocation, monitors staff engagement and performance in research to ensure quality and accountability, and formally reports research performance, priorities, and key developments to the Joint Executive Council to support informed strategic decision-making.

Committees and TFOs

- Children's Specialized Hospital Research Committee
- Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Committee
- Family Medicine Research Committee
- Infection Control Administration Research Committee
- Main Hospital Research Committee
- Medical Ancillary Services Research Committee / Respiratory Care Research Committee
- Medical Imaging Administration Research Committee
- National Neuroscience Institute Research Committee
- OEMC Research Committee
- Pathology & Clinical Laboratory Medicine Research Committee
- Pharmacy Research Committee
- King Salman Heart Center Research Committee
- Rehabilitation Hospital Research Committee
- Women's Specialized Hospital Research Committee
- Emergency Medicine Administration Research Committee
- Anesthesiology Department
- Critical Care Services Administration CCSA Research Committee
- Dentistry Department of Research Committee
- Nursing Affairs Research Committee
- CRESENT research committee
- Executive Administration of Clinical Care Excellence Research
- Fellows and Residents

- Interventional Radiology Department
- Prince Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Hospital
- Al Yamamah Hospital
- Dental Academy
- Dental Center
- Primary Health Care Center
- Al Zulfi General Hospital
- King Khaled Hospital, Majma'ah
- Al Artawiyah General Hospital
- Rumah General Hospital
- Tamir General Hospital
- Al Ghaat General Hospital
- Hawtat Sudair Hospital
- King Salman Center for Kidney Diseases

List of Memberships

European Network for Academic Integrity	Virology Research Group
American society of human genetics	Anatomy Research Group
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology	Oncology Research Group
Biophysical Society	Biomedical Research Group

The Translational Research and Precision Medicine Advisory Committee serves as a strategic advisory body that bridges basic, biomedical, and clinical research to accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into tangible clinical, population health, and policy impact. The Committee guides the transformation of high-quality research into innovative preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic solutions through proof-of-concept development, evidence synthesis, and real-world application. By advancing personalized medicine, genomics, and multi-omics approaches, fostering national and international collaboration, optimizing use of institutional research resources, and supporting education, funding, and regulatory engagement, the Committee strengthens R2's capacity to improve patient outcomes, inform health systems, and position the Cluster as a leader in translational research and precision medicine.

The Research Center Quality Improvement Committee plays a pivotal role in enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the Research Center. The committee oversees the implementation of the center's quality improvement plan, monitors key performance indicators, and ensures that research services are delivered efficiently, safely, and in alignment with best practices. The committee identifies opportunities for improvement, prioritizes initiatives based on risk, volume, and cost, and provides guidance on the effective execution of projects. It fosters a culture of continuous improvement, sustainability, and innovation, actively supporting the development of automated research management systems. Reporting quarterly to the Quality and Patient Safety Council, the committee comprises senior leaders from research administration, clinical research, and quality assurance, ensuring cross-functional oversight and alignment with strategic objectives to achieve research excellence.

The Intramural Research Fund (IRF) Committee is responsible for evaluating Research Fund Applications (RFAs) and allocating internal research funding to support innovative, high-impact projects aligned with the priorities of the Riyadh Second Health Cluster. The committee rigorously reviews applications for scientific merit, methodological soundness, innovation, and the research team's capabilities, ensuring compliance with funding regulations, including budget allocations for personnel, equipment, and study costs. Members are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to maintain integrity and transparency in decision-making. Additionally, the committee engages Subject Matter Experts as needed and implements a unified system to document, operate, and monitor all IRF activities. Reporting annually to the Research Central Committee, the IRF Committee ensures that internal research funding is allocated strategically to drive research excellence and maximize impact.

The Publication Incentives Committee is established to promote and recognize high-quality research output within the organization. Its purpose is to evaluate and allocate incentives for publications that demonstrate scientific excellence, innovation, and alignment with institutional research priorities, thereby encouraging researchers to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and enhance the organization's research reputation.

Administrations Manuals

The Research Center Administration Manuals serve as the foundational governance and operational reference that enables the Research Center to effectively support the Riyadh Second Health Cluster's strategic vision, mission, and core values. Its purpose is to standardize administrative, regulatory, and operational processes related to Research Center Administrations. By clearly defining roles, authorities, workflows, and accountability mechanisms, the manual supports consistent, compliant, and efficient management of research activities, strengthens integration across hospitals and centers, mitigates risk, and ensures that research operations contribute directly to high-quality patient-centered care, organizational excellence, and long-term system sustainability.

Corporate Policies and Procedures (CPPs)

The Research Center Corporate Policies and Procedures provide the formal governance framework that regulates how research activities are conducted, managed, and overseen across the organization. Their purpose is to establish clear, standardized, and transparent rules that ensure research operations are ethical, compliant, and aligned with institutional strategy, national regulations, and international best practices. These policies and procedures define authorities, responsibilities, and decision-making processes; promote consistency and accountability across hospitals and centers; mitigate operational and regulatory risks; and support high-quality, efficient, and sustainable research that advances patient care, innovation, and organizational excellence.

KFMC CPPs:

■ Coverage of Publication and Editing Charges (CPP No. 1432-174)

Purpose: supports article processing and editing fees for publications in journals indexed in the following databases: JCR, Medline, PubMed, EMBASE, SCOPUS, and open-access journals.

■ Sponsor-Initiated Research (CPP No. 1432-31)

Purpose: outlines the requirements for industry-sponsored research, including laboratory studies, clinical trials, device evaluation, and observational studies. This policy applies to both investigator-initiated and sponsor-initiated research.

■ KFMC Authorship (CPP No. 1432-160)

Purpose: defines the mechanism of publication authorship that is followed by KFMC as per international regulations.

■ Outsourcing Research Services - الإسناد الخارجي لخدمات الأبحاث (CPP No. 1435-25)

Purpose: streamlines the process of outsourcing biostatistics, and scientific writing and editing services, to cover shortages of skills or expertise in these fields.

■ Plagiarism in Clinical Research (CPP No. 1433-09)

Purpose: ensures compliance with national and international regulations concerning plagiarism and research intellectual property.

■ Research-Protected Time (CPP No. 1436-30)

Purpose: streamlines the process of protected time for eligible KFMC staff to conduct research.

KFMC CPPs:

■ IBN SINA research mentorship program incentives - سياسة حوافز برنامج الإرشاد البحثي لابن سينا (CPP No. 1438-16)

Purpose: describes the different stages of the mentorship program that aims to increase research capacity among KFMC junior staff.

■ Archiving Research Records for Intramural and Extramural Studies (CPP No. 1439-27)

Purpose: describes the process and procedures for archiving all research documents related to clinical research conducted at KFMC.

■ Biostatistics Services and Consultations (CPP No. 1439-23)

Purpose: provides regulations and procedures for the biostatistics services available to KFMC researchers.

■ Knowledge management within KFMC (CPP No. 1444-010)

Purpose: Develops an efficient health knowledge management system for the collection, dissemination, and utilization of knowledge for improving the quality of health service, information technology, training, and research.

■ Monitoring of ongoing intramural research projects (CPP No. 1439-26)

Purpose: ensures that the rights, safety, and well-being of human subjects enrolled in clinical research are protected, ensures the credibility and accuracy of research data, and ensures the study investigator's adherence to the research project work plan and timetable.

■ Use of Facilities of the Research Laboratories Department (CPP No. 1439-20)

Purpose: defines the regulatory approval process for performing clinical research in the research laboratories under the Biomedical Research Administration.

■ Research Clinic (CPP No. 1441-116)

Purpose: regulates, provides, and maintains high-quality research for investigators through the utilization of outpatient research clinics by eligible and qualified staff.

■ Biobanking biological samples- biorepository Department (CPP No. 1441-175)

Purpose: describes the procedures for the efficient and effective management of the lab team of the biobank department for specimens.

■ Research media coverage (CPP No. 1443-019)

Purpose: streamlines the process of choosing scientific research articles to be published in newspapers, social media, television, and radio interviews.

R2 System-Wide Policies and Procedures

To effectively disseminate the research regulations among R2 staff and adopt a unified approach to the roles and responsibilities of the Research Center.

- Biobanking Biological Samples (SPP No. HQ.RD.24.05)
- Authorship Polict (SPP No. HQ.RD.23.01)
- سياسة مكافآت المنح البحثية و الدراسات (SPP No. HQ.RD.25.1481433-07)
- Research Protected Time (SPP No. HQ.RD.23.60)
- Biostatistical Services and Consultations (SPP No. HQRD2317)
- Use of Facilities of the Research Laboratories (SPP No. HQ.RD.23.02)

Quality Improvement and Risk Management

The Quality Improvement & Risk Management function in research ensures that all research activities are conducted safely, efficiently, and in compliance with regulatory and ethical standards. Its purpose is to identify, assess, and mitigate risks, monitor research quality indicators, and implement continuous improvement initiatives to enhance research integrity, optimize resource utilization, and support the delivery of high-quality, impactful research outcomes. The following are the quality projects that were conducted during 2025:

Projects	Methodology
Get Access, Get Involved: Digitalization of Research Lab Services	KAIZEN
Optimization of reporting research adverse events (AEs)	FOCUS-PDCA
Enhancing Research Participants Recruitment	FOCUS-PDCA
Establishing a digital dashboard for industry-sponsored clinical research	FOCUS-PDCA
Standardizing Research Participant Compensation Processes	FOCUS-PDCA
Improving Billing & Disbursing in industry-sponsored clinical research	FOCUS-PDCA
Innovating Healthcare: Exploring and Implementing New Technologies at KFMC	FOCUS-PDCA

Research Center Structure

The Research Center provides the necessary research support for investigators throughout the entire research pathway from research question generation to publication. The organizational charts for the Research Center help to streamline its functions and responsibilities.

The following offices and departments have to report to the Executive Director of the Research Center:

Office of the Vice President of the Research Center
Clinical and Scientific Research Ethics
Clinical Research Performance Assurance Department
Clinical Research Monitoring Department
Research Services and Clinical Trials Administration
Biomedical Research Administration
Satellite Clinical Research Administration
Clinical Research Development and Advanced Administration

Office of the Vice President of the Research Center

Administrative support

Core Services

The main responsibility of the office of the vice president of the research center is to look after administrative and managerial issues for the executive director and the entire Research Center. These include liaising between the research center and human capital administration and other administrations, supervising sectoral tasks, and looking after Tamheer trainees.

Vice President and Executive Director of Research Center Highlighted Publications

Aldarsooni M, Alfarah M, Albohammod F, **Al-Jaroudi D**. Effect of premature luteinizing hormone surge on pregnancy outcomes in intracytoplasmic sperm injection or in vitro fertilization cycles. *Frontiers in Medicine*. 2025 Mar 21; 11:1429033.

Abstract

Background: A premature surge in luteinizing hormone (LH) during ovarian stimulation cycles between 12 and 25% has been commonly reported. However, there is still a lack of consensus on whether a premature LH surge affects pregnancy outcomes. **Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the effect of premature LH surge on pregnancy rates in women with and without premature LH surge during intracytoplasmic sperm injection or stimulation of in vitro fertilization cycles at a tertiary hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted. Information related to 771 women who had IVF/ICSI cycles between January 2022 and December 2022 was reviewed. Patients were divided into two groups based on premature LH surge. **Results:** There was no significant difference in patients' characteristics. The live birth rates were significantly higher in women without a premature LH surge than in women with an LH surge (12.9% vs. 5.6%) ($p = 0.010$). With regard to the number of oocytes collected, M2, and fertilization rate, these were significantly higher in women without premature LH surge, with p -values of 0.001, 0.002, and 0.004, respectively. **Conclusion:** The study demonstrates significantly higher live birth rates in women without a premature LH surge.

Alzahrani FA, **Al-Jaroudi D**, Alsufyan HA, Alzahrani AA, Alshehri SA, Jalwi SS, Miskeen E. Experiences and Perspectives of Women Undergoing Oocyte Cryopreservation in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: A Mixed-Methods Study. *International Journal of Women's Health*. 2025 Dec 31:879-95.

Abstract

Objective: Women increasingly desire fertility at later ages, yet fertility rates decline with age. Oocyte cryopreservation offers support for women seeking pregnancy at advanced maternal ages. This mixed-methods study explored the experiences and perspectives of 100 women aged 18–47 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, who underwent oocyte cryopreservation for social and medical reasons. The research aims to understand the motivations, challenges, and satisfaction levels associated with oocyte cryopreservation within the context of Saudi Arabian society and culture. **Methods:** Using mixed methods, 100 subjects were enrolled in ten months. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 100 women who underwent oocyte cryopreservation at a private clinic. Fifteen women willing to undergo recorded interviews were interviewed for 11–to 25-minute sessions. The interviews were transcribed entirely and subjected to thematic content analysis. Quantitative data were analyzed on STATA BE Version 18. **Results:** 77 women (77%) froze their oocytes for social reasons, and the women understood the medical/non-medical rationale for freezing. Interestingly, women's reasons for oocyte cryopreservation were highly associated with satisfaction ($p=0.050$), with women stating social reasons were most satisfying. It can also be seen that factors such as the presence of complications during the oocyte cryopreservation process were tied to low satisfaction ($p=0.040$). Six thematic areas around oocyte cryopreservation are presented, including freezing concepts and aims, patient experience, challenges in service quality, communication and confidentiality, and proposals. **Conclusion:** This research has highlighted how the medical and socio-cultural aspects of women impacted the oocyte cryopreservation intersection. There is a need for improved culturally sensitive healthcare and educational services for better access and awareness. It is better to show that the public policy advocacy contributes to the unique impacts of oocyte cryopreservation on a woman's reproductive health, and why it is particularly concerning.

Alharbi D, Nadreen M, Albaiji A, **Al-Jaroudi D**. Live births after vaginal progesterone Cyclogest suppository versus Crinone gel for luteal phase support following cleavage and blastocyst cryopreserved embryo transfer (CET); a retrospective comparative study. JBRA Assisted Reproduction. 2025 Jan;29(1):110.

Abstract

Objective: To compare the clinical outcomes, including pregnancy rate, live birth rate, and miscarriage rate, between vaginal progesterone Cyclogest suppository and Crinone vaginal progesterone gel as LPS in frozen-thawed embryo transfer in Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) cycles. **Methods:** In this comparative retrospective chart review, 283 women who had frozen-thawed embryo transfer were assessed. The patients were divided into two groups based on the route of progesterone administration used as LPS. When the endometrial thickness reached $\geq 8\text{mm}$, vaginal progesterone Cyclogest 400 mg/twice daily suppository was administered in one group; in another group, vaginal progesterone Crinone 8% 90 mg daily was administered until a positive pregnancy test was confirmed. This was continued for 10-12 weeks after embryo transfer when fetal heart activity was detected by ultrasonography. **Results:** The patients' characteristics in the two groups were matched, and there was no significant difference. The biochemical and clinical pregnancy, miscarriage, and live birth rates were similar-4.7% vs. 2.7%, $p=0.464$; 26.1% vs. 23.3%, $p=0.638$; 13.3% vs. 9.6%, $p=0.410$; 15.6% vs. 16.4%, $p=0.872$, respectively; there was no statistically significant difference between the vaginal progesterone Cyclogest group and the Crinone progesterone group. **Conclusions:** Clinical pregnancy, biochemical pregnancy, miscarriage, and live birth rates were similar between the two groups. Moreover, vaginal progesterone Cyclogest and Crinone 8% gel are equally effective in providing support during the luteal phase for both blastocysts and cleavage-stage embryos in CET.

Office of the Vice President and Executive Director of the Research Center Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Dr. Dania AlJaroudi (daljaroudi@kfmc.med.sa) (dania@dohaim.com)	Vice President, Research Center/Executive Director, Research Center	Research	Infertility	Women's Health	Lifestyle medicine
Ms. Reem AlHakim (ralhakim@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Office of the Vice President/ Chairperson, Office of the Executive Director	Project Management	Management	Key performance indicators	Human resources
Alhanouf A. Alift (aalift@kfmc.med.sa)	Administrative Specialist	Coordination	Management	Change Management	
Monerah Alsaloum (malsaloum@kfmc.med.sa)	Administrator 1	Administrative support	Management		

Clinical and Scientific Research Ethics

The Clinical and Scientific Research Ethics Committee provides leadership in the protection of the rights, welfare, and well-being of human subjects involved in research conducted or supported by the R2 establishments.

The Committee was established to protect the rights, privacy, and welfare of human subjects participating in research performed at R2, guided by the National Committee of Biomedical Ethics and international regulations.

Core Services

Develop written policies and procedures for the submission and review process for all research proposals guided by the Belmont Report and national rules and regulations.

Review before initiating, modifying, or extending any research involving human subjects conducted at R2 premises, regardless of the source of funding of the study.

Approve, disapprove, or request modifications to research proposals based on principles that protect the rights, privacy, and welfare of research subjects.

Ensure integrity in research by addressing conflicts of interest, data ownership, and authorship issues.

Monitor ongoing research projects based on the submission of progress reports by the investigators, no less than once per year.

Observe study performance, examine the informed consent process, and audit the progress of any study under its jurisdiction.

Suspend, terminate, or impose restrictions on previously approved ongoing research projects if the protocol is violated.

Review, approve, disapprove, request modifications, and audit all financial aspects between R2 staff and industry funding sources.

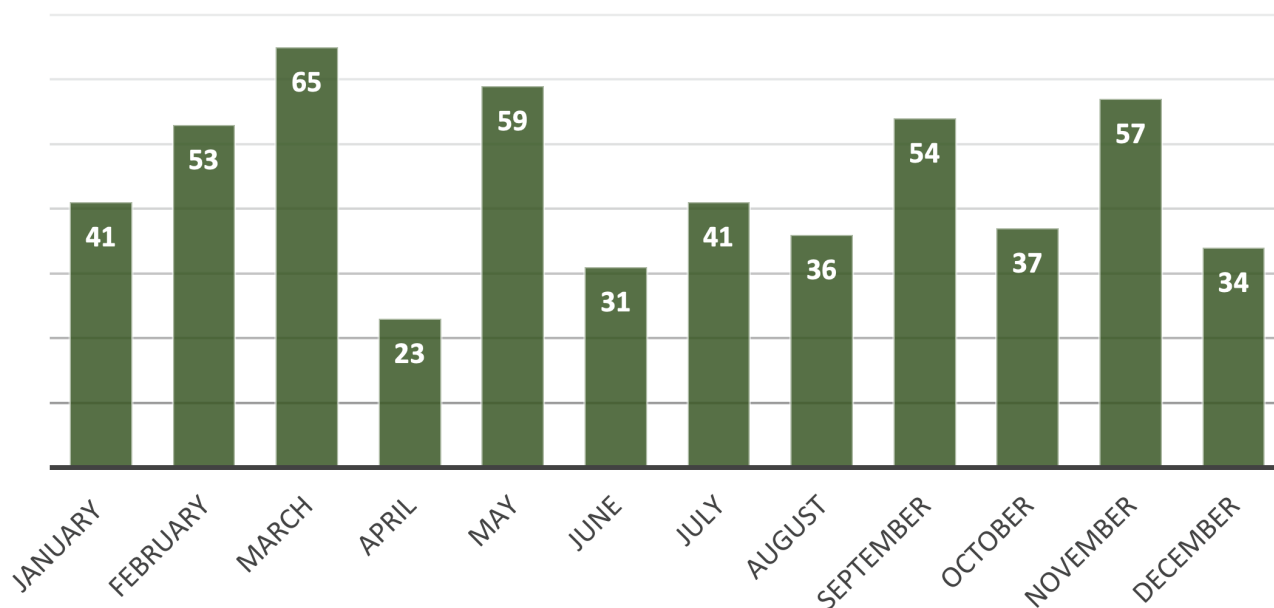
Notify the principal investigator in writing of the IRB decision.

Ensure that the scientific question being asked within a protocol is relevant and that the design of the protocol is appropriate to answer that question.

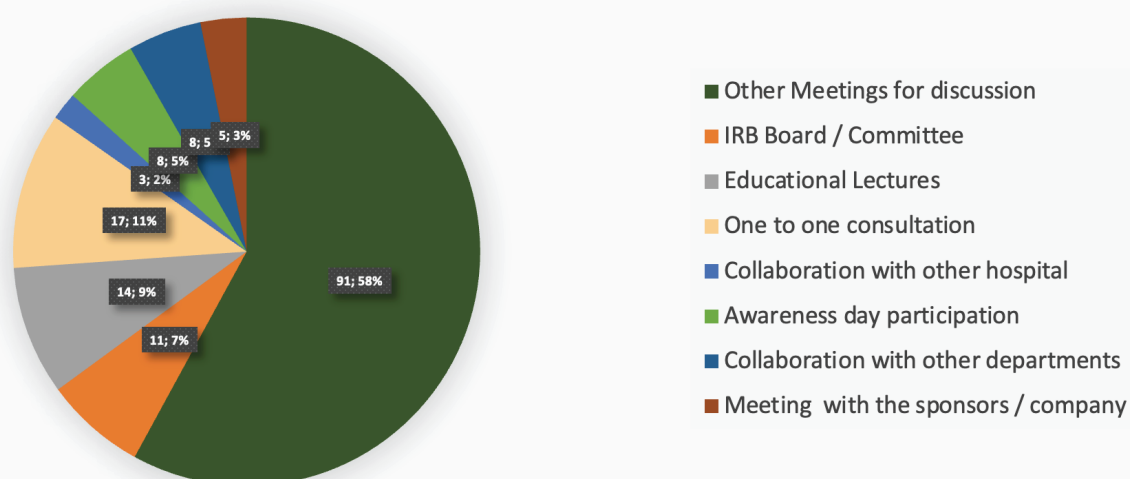
Achieved Performance Indicators

784 Research proposal submitted to IRB.

531 Research proposal approved by IRB.



Number of IRB-approved research proposals per month



IRB Activities, Consultations and Collaborations

Clinical and Scientific Research Ethics Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Dr. Hussam Sakkijha (hsakkijha@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairman, Institutional Review Board	Intensive care units	Pulmonary	Sleep	
Dr. May Mohammed Al-Madaney (malmadaney@kfmc.med.sa)	Vice-Chairman, Institutional Review Board	Biomedical Ethics and Legal Frameworks	Research Ethics Governance and IRB Leadership	Human Subjects Protection and Participant Rights	AI Ethics and Governance in Biomedical Research
Ms. Belinda Ortega (Ortegabcortega@kfmc.med.sa)	Medical Secretary II	Medical	Clinical research	Administrative support	Institutional review board

Clinical Research Monitoring Department

The Clinical Research Monitoring Department (CRMD) was established in 2017 to ensure that clinical research is conducted in compliance with the approved study protocols, amendments, good clinical practice (GCP) guidelines, and applicable regulations. RMD provides support to R2 staff for high compliance with best research conduct standards.

Core Services

- Monitor investigator-initiated clinical trials.
- Monitor industry-sponsored clinical research.
- Manage and ensure compliance with Human Research Protection standards of JCI.
- Manage the Research Center Quality Improvement Committee.
- Ensure that the rights and well-being of human subjects are protected.
- Ensure that the reported trial data are accurate, complete, and verifiable from source documents.
- Monitor each funded research project by R2 twice (upon submission of progress and final reports).
- Manage the Ibn-Sina Research Mentorship program to enhance research productivity and allow experienced researchers to mentor junior staff who have no research experience.
- Provide a wide range of research education courses and workshops.
- To provide training workshops on GCP guidelines for R2 researchers.
- Provide research consultations for R2 staff.

Achieved Performance Indicators

• 42 Industry-sponsored studies were monitored.	• 5 GCP guidelines workshops were provided.
• 50 IRF.	• 275 R2 staff certified with GCP guidelines.
• Funded studies were monitored.	• More than 50 research education hours.

Clinical Research Monitoring Department Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords		
Dr. Hussam Sakkiha (hsakkiha@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Research Ethics Department	Intensive care unit	Pulmonary	Sleep

Clinical Research Performance Assurance Department

This department has been recently established to improve the Research Center's daily operations, including human capital, finance, purchasing, research and development (R&D), and quality activities to ensure smooth, efficient, well-coordinated, and productive practices of the Research Center's administrations.

Core Services

Enhance research operations geared towards operational excellence to improve work quality, productivity, and efficiency in support of R2's mission.

Ensure the implementation of the research strategic initiatives and operational projects.

Provide operational advice and support pertinent to enhancing operational work performances and effective and efficient delivery of high-quality operations.

Support better management reporting and workflow between Research Center directors and other R2 entities.

Manage the quality improvement committee and initiative.

Plan and execute quality performance projects across Research Center's departments.

Promote the implementation and adherence to policies, processes, and operating procedures to others within KFMC.

Highlighted Publications

AlFayyad I, Yaqub M, AlTannir M. Insights into the Knowledge and Barriers of Oncofertility Among Oncology Nurses in Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Cancer Education*. 2025 Aug 3:1-9.

Abstract

This study aimed to assess the knowledge level and identify barriers related to counseling patients with newly diagnosed cancer regarding fertility preservation (FP) issues among oncology nurses. A cross-sectional study was conducted using a convenience sample of nurses caring for patients with cancer at a tertiary hospital in Saudi Arabia. Validated questionnaires were used to assess nurses' knowledge and to determine barriers to counseling patients about FP issues. A total of 157 nurses completed the questionnaire with a mean age of 35.34 ± 6.77 years, and the majority were females 138 (87.9%). Approximately 92.4% of the nurses did not attend educational sessions on FP. The mean knowledge was 12.86 ± 5.88 , and the highest level of knowledge was in the domain of the causes of fertility impairment. Moreover, nurses reported higher mean scores in the barrier domain (45.44 ± 6.32) of confidence (12.96 ± 1.76) and self-awareness (15.03 ± 2.69). Female and non-Muslim nurses were more likely to have better knowledge. Oncology nurses reported having unsatisfactory knowledge of FP and experiencing several barriers to providing fertility information. We recommend that oncology nurses receive training regarding FP to adequately and confidently counsel these patients.

Andijani A, Aldosari T, **AlFayyad I**, Aloraini Z, Alabdulkarem S. The clinical practice of family medicine physicians in diagnosing and managing lateral ankle sprain. *Saudi Journal of Sports Medicine*. 2025 Sep 1;25(3):105-12.

Abstract

Background: Lateral ankle sprain (LAS) is the most common sports injury seen in family medicine clinics and often occurs during sports activity. Despite its frequency, few studies have examined how family medicine physicians approach LAS. **Objective:** This study aims to evaluate how family medicine physicians diagnose and manage LAS in their practice. **Methods:** An electronic cross-sectional questionnaire survey was conducted from March 2024 to July 2024 in the Riyadh Second Health Cluster, Saudi Arabia. A total of 165 responses were obtained (response rate: 61.1%) through convenience sampling. Data were analyzed in R (version 4.3) using descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests, and thematic analysis for open-ended responses.

Results: More than half of the participants (59.4%, n = 98) did not perform plain radiography for LAS diagnosis, although almost all (96.4%, n = 159) considered the Ottawa ankle rules (OAR). Splinting was the most common immobilization method, used in 73.5% of cases (n = 86). Overall, 70.9% (n = 117) immobilized the ankle, 72.7% (n = 120) recommended rehabilitation, and 69.1% (n = 114) advised postimmobilization support. A significant difference in immobilization duration was found among residents, senior registrars, and consultants (P = 0.007), whereas consultants recommend more extended periods. Regarding return-to-sport criteria, 17.6% (n = 29) reported having no specific criteria. **Conclusion:** This study reflects the current diagnostic and management practices of family medicine physicians, demonstrating high adherence to the OAR, frequent use of immobilization and rehabilitation, and variation in immobilization duration. These findings highlight the need for continuous education and guideline dissemination to promote more standardized care.

Al-Hussaini A, Alrashidi J, Miqdady M, Bitar R, **AlFayyad I**. Adherence to clinical guidelines for the evaluation and management of eosinophilic esophagitis among gastroenterologists in the Arab countries. *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. 2025 Apr 10; 13:1521266.

Abstract

Background: The practice patterns of eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) remain poorly characterized. Few studies investigated the variability of clinical patterns among gastroenterologists, mainly in the United States. **Objectives:** We assessed the practice patterns of gastroenterologists in the Arab countries regarding the diagnosis and management of EoE, and their concordance with the European 2017 guidelines and the Proceedings of the AGREE Conference published in 2018. **Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional, self-administered, online survey of practicing gastroenterologists in the Arab countries (April to December 2022). The survey consisted of 23 questions and was designed to assess the respondents' practice characteristics, knowledge, and practice on diagnosis and treatment of EoE. **Results:** A total of 190 participants responded to the survey (118 pediatric gastroenterologists and 72 adult gastroenterologists). Thirty-six percent and 31% saw ≥ 6 new patients with EoE annually, 55% were 'very familiar' with the most recent EoE guidelines, and 49% attended ≥ 3 E-E-related educational activities during the 3 years before the survey. The majority of the respondents (72%) did not require a trial of a proton-pump inhibitor (PPI) before making the diagnosis of EoE, and 66% obtain biopsies from multiple esophageal levels. While 90% of the respondents considered eosinophil-predominant inflammation on esophageal biopsies necessary for the diagnosis of EoE, only 27% felt that symptoms of esophageal dysfunction are necessary for the diagnosis, and only half of the participants considered exclusion of other etiologies of esophageal eosinophilia necessary for the diagnosis of EoE.

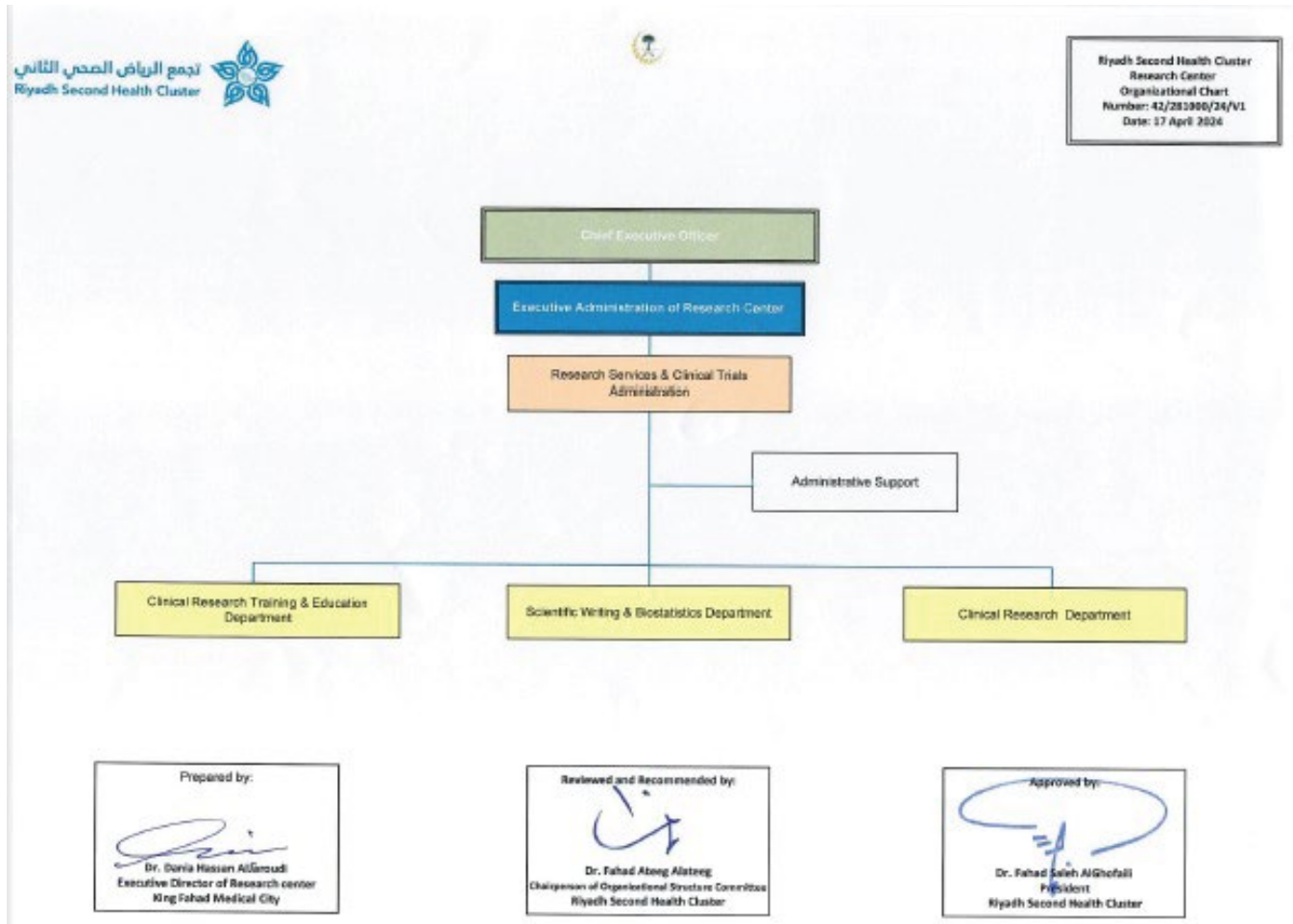
For first-line treatment, only 16% used PPI monotherapy, 12.6% topical steroids, and 63.5% treat with a variable combination of PPIs, topical steroids, and dietary elimination. Sixty percent would repeat upper endoscopy to determine histologic improvement, and 72% use maintenance therapy in responders. Compared to pediatric gastroenterologists, significantly fewer adult gastroenterologists reported taking biopsies from the proximal and distal esophagus (34% vs. 66%) and gastric and duodenal biopsies (67% vs. 90%) when EoE was suspected ($P < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** There is significant variability in adherence to EoE guidelines among gastroenterologists in the Arab countries. Our results highlight areas of need for continuous education and form the basis for assessing implementation efforts in the future.

Clinical Research Performance Assurance Department Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Mr. Issam Alfayyad (ialfayyad@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Research Operations Department	Clinical research	Research, education and training	AI Use in Biomedical Research	Bioethics
Dr. May Mohammed Al-Madaney (malmadaney@kfmc.med.sa)	Vice-Chairman, Institutional Review Board	Biomedical Ethics and Legal Frameworks	Research Ethics Governance and IRB Leadership	Human Subjects Protection and Participant Rights	AI Ethics and Governance in Biomedical Research

Research Services and Clinical Trials Administration

Organizational Chart



This administration provides research support services, enabling researchers to conduct high-caliber research through the following departments:

Scientific Writing and Biostatistics Department

Clinical Research Department

Clinical Research Training and Education Department

Scientific Writing and Biostatistics Departments

Our efforts in the Scientific Writing and Biostatistics Departments were expanded to create a strong research environment. Providing timely and efficient services that include scientific editing, rewriting, proofreading, statistical analysis, sample size calculation, consultations, and training was our utmost priority to ensure that it is a reliable department in which R2 researchers put their trust.

Core Services

- * Publishing guidance to assist authors in turning their research manuscript into a published article through either the internal team or with the aid of outsourced scientific editing and writing services.
- * Helping to identify the relevant journal for publication and submission guidelines.
- * Guiding authors on how to respond to journal reviewers' comments.
- * Preparing the R2-Research Center Annual Report.
- * Reimbursing the scientific writing/editing and publication coverage charges.
- * Assist researchers in designing their studies and experiments.
- * Sample size and power calculation.
- * Grant proposal preparation and review.
- * Randomization, data management, and data entry and analysis.
- * Provide consultation for the type of study application and statistical methods suitable for the study design and groups.
- * Structure Graphs and tables generation.
- * Conduct beginners and advanced statistical courses with practical application to the SPSS program.

Scientific Writing Department Automated Services:

Protocol and manuscript writing/editing services

Assists authors in transforming their research manuscripts into published articles through multiple consultation sessions of scientific editing and writing services.

Financial manuscript/publication charges services

The scientific writing department covers editing service fees and publication coverage for R2 staff as per the R2 policies.

Journal credibility and selection

Assists and provide guidance to researches and authors in determining and choosing a reputable journal based on the field of the manuscript.

Biostatistics services

The department provides statistical analysis services, sample size calculation, consultations, and training to R2 staff.

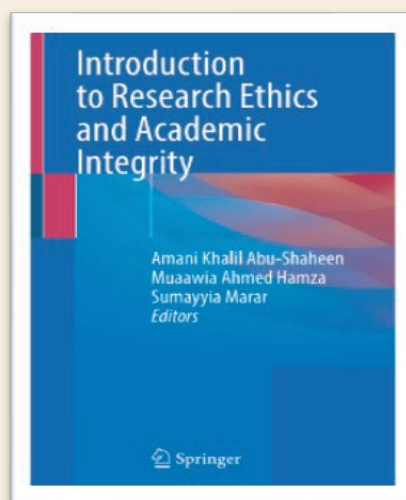
General Inquiry

The scientific writing and biostatistics department responds to general questions from authors about scientific writing and other research inquiries.

Achieved Performance Indicators

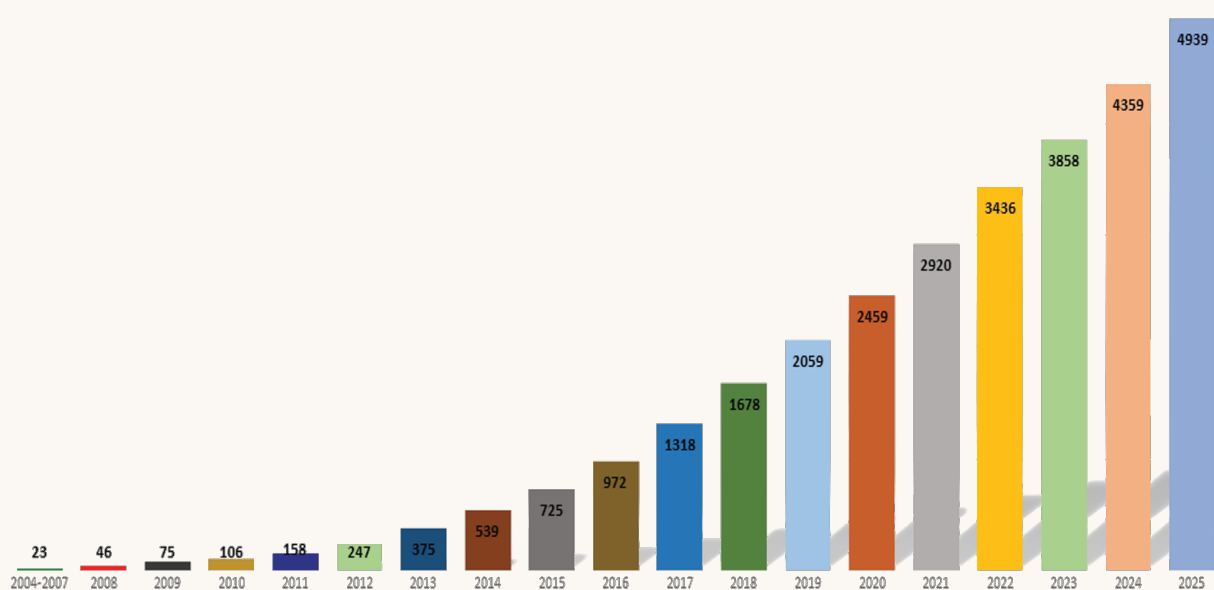
- 108 Editing and writing services.
- 24 Educational outreach lectures.
- 12 Scientific writing and biostatistics educational activities.
- 13 Publications by SWD staff.
- 840 Journal selection and credibility services
- 289 One-to-one consultations.
- 113 Served fellows and residents.
- 195 Studies served for biostatistics.
- 405 Statistical services.
- 58 Sample size calculations.
- 32 Statistical analyses provided for IRF projects.

Book publications



Published a Book titled: Introduction to Research Ethics and Academic Integrity by Springer publisher.

Cumulative Number of Publications 2004–2025



Ongoing Projects

Exploring the Therapeutic Potential of Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*) Extract for Mouth Ulcers: A Mouse Model Study.

Effectiveness and Safety of Stop Nosebleeds Device in Patients with Epistaxis: A Randomized, Open-Label-Controlled Trial.

Supervising Students

We supervised six public health intern students, providing them with structured research training and continuous mentorship.

Under the guidance of our experienced staff, the interns were supported in developing essential research skills, gaining practical experience in study design, data collection and analysis, and enhancing their academic and professional competencies.

Award

Our project titled: **A goat experimental epistaxis model: Hemostatic effect of stop nosebleeds device** was selected among 20 of 170 national submissions to represent Saudi Arabia at the 50th International Geneva Inventions Exhibition 2025, earning a silver medal.



Training and Educational Research Department

The department is responsible for the educational principles of research foundations among R2 staff through continuous training and educational activities.

Core Services

Running continuous updated educational programs.

Organize research education and training courses.

Develop and provide relevant training programs for research activities compliance with good science, relevant regulations, and updated guidelines.

Provide outreach theoretical and practical research training lectures and courses to different hospitals, centers, residency training programs, and administrations.

Achieved Performance Indicators

35 Educational calendar activities.

665 Attendees of the research courses.

10 Workshops.

Conducted a research summer course for 29 medical students.

105 hours for outreach educational activities outside R2.

6 Research training course for residents.

10 Research awareness days.

Annual Scheduled Activities

A calendar of activities, including lectures and workshops on different topics, was conducted and attracted many attendees.

Annually scheduled research educational activities for 2022 were as follows:

Educational Activities

1	Research Compliance and Safety Reporting
2	Family Medicine Residency Research Course
3	Pediatric Residency Basic Research Course for R2 and R3 Residents
4	Biosafety and Biosecurity in Research Laboratories
5	Research Laboratories Awareness Day
6	Informed Consent in Clinical Trials
7	Research Course for Pediatric Emergency Fellows
8	C2 Biomedical Research Awareness Day
9	Pediatric Residency Advanced Research Course for R3 Residents
10	Research Center Awareness Day
11	Fundamentals of Clinical Trials Course
12	Biorepository Awareness Day
13	DNA & RNA Extraction and Handling for Research Purposes
14	Fellow's Research Day
15	Pediatric Residency Basic Research Course for R2 Residents
16	Research methodology and statistics course

17	Writing Successful Research Proposals and a Research Manuscript for Health Care Providers
18	Dermatology Residency Research Course (Basic)
19	Proteomics in Medicine, Cell Biology, and Clinical Research
20	Pediatric Residency Advanced Research Course for R3 Residents
21	Clinical Research Summer Course
22	Biostatistics and SPSS Package
23	Research methodology and statistics course
24	Clinical Research Course for pharmacists (Second Health Cluster)
25	Basic Research Course for Nurses
26	Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
27	PCR and Sequencing from Theory to Bench
28	Drug Delivery and Targeted Therapy
29	Palliative Care Research Day
30	Research Compliance and Safety Reporting
31	Clinical Trials Awareness Day
32	Bio-banking Essentials
33	Clinical Trial Management Course
34	Informed Consent in Clinical Trials
35	Writing Successful Research Proposals and a Research Manuscript for Health Care Providers
36	KFMC Annual Research Symposium
37	KFMC Annual Research Symposium

How to Write a Successful Research Proposal?

The goal of this 3-hour workshop is to systematically teach the process by which a conceptual idea for a clinical research project is converted into a research proposal or grant application. A detailed description of the anatomy of a proposal is given, as well as tips on how to write a successful grant proposal. Particular emphasis on budget calculation and reviewers' considerations is given. This workshop is useful for all those who are interested in building skills in protocol development.

How to Write Research Manuscript?

The purpose of this workshop is to educate investigators about the overall organization of a manuscript, and the structure and function of each of the components. The workshop describes the research path, starting with the development of a good scientific question, through a well-structured proposal, to the manuscript itself. Participants learn about the journey of manuscript submission and the peer review process and received tips and guidance on how to respond to reviewers' comments. This workshop aims to encourage investigators to produce a complete and polished manuscript that is suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Biostatistics and SPSS package in the clinical, laboratory, and health setting

The use of biostatistics is essential in understanding evidence-based medicine and modern medical approaches. It is also pivotal in clinical, non-clinical, and quality control research in the healthcare sector. The objective of this workshop is to learn the concepts of biostatistics and the basic statistical techniques to healthcare professionals through the utilization of the commonly used statistical package i.e. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

Clinical Research Training Course (CRTC) for Healthcare Providers

This course contains four lectures and three workshops spread over two consecutive half-days. It focuses on the different study designs used in clinical research, with an emphasis on the advantages and disadvantages of each, as well as basic epidemiological measurements. Basics in biostatistics cover all the relevant topics.

How to do a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Training

Systematic review & meta-analysis is important in the decision-making process.

The objective of this course is to define the elements of systematic review protocol writing and to describe the systematic review process by employing RevMan software for pooling out the results of the included studies

DNA and RNA extraction and purification

This activity is intended to take the participants on a journey into the molecular biology world. It was designed to address different topics that cover the subject matter and link the theories to the experiments. By the end of the workshop, the participants were able to plan and execute any experiment implying the use of DNA or RNA.

Protein Purification: Strategies and Techniques

This a rerun of a course that was held twice before, and the turnout showed that there is a huge demand for such activity. From the recommendations of the last run this year the course is expanded to three days. The theoretical part of the workshop will cover the recent advances in the protein biochemistry world. By the end of the workshop, the participant will be able to purify and measure the activity of any individual protein.

Biosafety and Biosecurity in Research Laboratories

This course provides an overview of the critical aspects of biosafety, biosecurity, and biocontainment and aims to increase behavioral compliance with biosafety procedures. Participants learn how to assess risks for biohazards in the laboratory setting and the strategies to appropriately manage these risks.

Other Educational Activities

Clinical Research Coordinator Program (CRC)

The CRC program is established due to the massive shortage of Saudi citizens working in the research field. This project will cover the actual need at our research center and other departments where there is a big demand for CRC graduates. Additionally, it is established to meet Riyadh's second health cluster and MOH requirements.

The clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) program provides foundational and advanced role-based training for clinical research professionals. The one-year program covers information directly connected to clinical research, Good Clinical Practice (GCP), epidemiology, clinical trials, and statistical analysis. This would prepare those prospective individuals with the proper qualification to be CRC.

This program was designed for competent Saudi national graduates who are resilient and able to cope with challenges. The focus was on practical issues to allow research coordinator graduates to cover cluster two demands. It is expected that the graduates will work as clinical research coordinators.

This project will be updated annually with a comprehensive education on how to utilize the most recent technologies in research conduction.

About the CRC Program

The program was initially planned to accept a maximum of 30 candidates. The candidates are considered as “clinical research students” having full access as a Clinical Research Coordinator III. They are officially qualified as Clinical Research Coordinator III after they successfully pass the course in all modules and have completed fully their research projects.

Each candidate is expected to complete at least one clinical study in cooperation with the main researcher and work on at least one research project independently as a principal investigator of the study.

Objectives of the CRC program

To fill the massive shortage in R2 with Saudi citizens capable of working independently in a research institution.

To prepare and qualify Clinical Research Coordinators to work inside and outside the organization.

To take the lead in conducting clinical research in Saudi Arabia through comprehensive and up-to-date research education and clinical training.

Teach the foundation of research that would be included within curriculum guidelines.

Clinical Research Coordinator Program (CRC)

There are over a dozen modules taught in the CRC course including clinical trials, epidemiology, evidence-based medicine, etc. before the start of the main modules, students are taught intensive English language and data management modules to bring the students from different educational levels to roughly an equal level in terms of their English capabilities and computer skills. The students also study medical terminology, which is covered in the English module. Below is an illustration of the modules taught in the CRC course along with the start and end date of each module:

Intensive medical and scientific terminology English course.	Bioinformatics.
Introduction to CRC program and modules format.	Experimental and lab.
Clinical epidemiology.	Scientific and Medical Writing.
Study design.	Evidence-based medicine.
Research Bioethics.	Data Management & Biostatistics I and II.
Pharmacology.	Primary care.
Clinical trials.	Research Project finalization Manuscript presentation.

CRC Attendees 2019 – 2025

2024-2025	2022-2023	2020-2021	2019-2020
3 Students	8 Students	10 Students	17 Students

Research Methodology Course for Pediatric Residents

The course aims to improve the awareness and understanding of young trainees in basic research principles.

This course contains different sessions and provides an overview of how to plan and conduct a research project.

Major topics included identifying research questions, techniques of literature search, basic principles of research methods, types of study designs, measures of disease frequency and association, questionnaire development, ethical issues involved in human subject research, and data and bibliography management.

Research Summer Course

The Clinical Research Summer Course aimed to build the research capacity among future healthcare workers by enhancing their research critical thinking and scientific writing skills to increase research productivity. The teaching methodology of this event was a mixture of virtual presentations, hands-on training, and mentoring during the different stages of the research pathway. This course was intended for interns, medical students, dental students and allied healthcare students.

Annual Research Conference

The annual research symposium's goal is to bring together, a multi-disciplinary group of physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals from R2, and all over the kingdom to present and exchange breakthrough ideas and findings relating to translational clinical research. As part of R2's mission; to provide value-based healthcare services empowered by innovation and research, thus, the theme of the 2022 annual symposium was "Towards Translational Impact on Clinical Practices". Hence, the symposium focused on the translational potential of research presented in this symposium that can be translated into clinical practices at R2 and worldwide.

Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) 2025-2026

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) approved our centre to execute this program. This program preparing clinicians to lead state-of-the-art clinical research to align with the national-level strategic plan and Vision 2030 of Saudi Arabia.

Overview

The primary objective of the CIP is to prepare clinicians to become primary investigators and leaders in cutting-edge basic, translational, and clinical research upon completion of the program. By equipping clinicians with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes, the CIP aims to foster a new generation of healthcare professionals who will foster national and multinational research, drive innovation, and contribute to the advancement and vision of healthcare in Saudi Arabia. Aligned with the Vision 2030 goals, the establishment of the CIP demonstrates Saudi Arabia's dedication to transforming its healthcare system and becoming a global leader in research and health advancements. By investing in the development of highly skilled clinician investigators, the SCFHS aims to enhance the quality of patient care, promote evidence-based and value-based practice, and strengthen the overall healthcare system for a vibrant society. Through this program, expertise will be gained in conducting rigorous basic, translational, and clinical research, utilizing cutting-edge methodologies, and analysing data and real-world evidence effectively.

CIP 2-years program

1st half of the 1st year of Training Program (24 weeks)

Trainees demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of research methodologies and principles.

Trainees begin developing foundational skills in research data collection and analysis.

Trainees decide on their research project, allocate mentors, and start their research proposal.

Trainees actively participate in research projects, conducting literature reviews.

Trainees develop their own research proposal or protocol and submit for IRB approval.

2nd half of the 1st year of Training Program (24 weeks)

Trainees possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitude to conduct research.

Trainees possess advanced knowledge and expertise in their chosen research field.

Trainees independently design and execute research projects, adhering to ethical guidelines.

Trainees demonstrate proficiency in data entry and data management.

Trainees possess the ability to appraise studies and identify study limitations.

Trainees demonstrate appropriate communication skills with their mentors, instructors, co-investigators, and collaborators.

1st half of the 2nd year of Training Program (24 weeks)

Trainees have a comprehensive understanding of research methodologies and their applications.

Trainees contribute significantly to the development and implementation of research projects.

Trainee's master proficiency in verbal and written communication skills.

Trainees demonstrate proficiency in research data analysis and interpretation.

Trainees demonstrate mastery of research methodologies and their integration into clinical practice.

Trainees lead and mentor research teams, guiding junior colleagues in research activities.

Trainees publish research findings in peer-reviewed, high-impact journals and research collaborations.

Trainees contribute substantially to the advancement of knowledge in their research field through the dissemination of their research at conferences nationally and internationally.

Clinical Research Department (CRD)

The primary aim of the Clinical Research Department (CRD) is to conduct research projects, that conform to the highest standards for the protection of human research subjects, offering world-class clinical solutions and accelerating the delivery of innovative treatments to improve the health and wellness of people everywhere. Additionally, this department streamlines the cycle time of clinical trials.

Core Services

Clinical Trial Management:

End-to-end coordination of multicenter international clinical trials, from feasibility to close-out, across multiple specialties.

Regulatory & Governance Support:

Oversight of clinical trial agreements, ethics and governance alignment, and institutional compliance.

Participant-Centered Research Operations:

Implementation and management of direct patient payment processes for trial participants, enhancing transparency and patient experience.

Multidisciplinary Study Support:

Provision of laboratory, pharmacy, nursing, and public health expertise to support high-quality protocol execution and data integrity.

Institutional Research Enablement:

Acting as a catalyst for clinical research activity at KFMC by facilitating investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored trials.

Achieved Performance Indicators

Clinical Trial Portfolio Growth:

2024	7 clinical trials	2025	39 clinical trials
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Increase:

▲ 457.14% growth in active clinical trial agreements.

Revenue Impact:

Proportional increase in research-related revenue, positioning the department as a key financial contributor to institutional research objectives.

Workforce Expansion:

Clinical research coordinators increased from 2 to 11, reflecting strong demand, institutional confidence, and the department's growing operational capacity.

National Governance Milestone:

First department in Saudi Arabia to implement direct patient payment governance for clinical trial participants, setting a national benchmark for ethical and participant-focused research.

Ongoing Projects

Project 1 – Patient Research Engagement & Support System (PRESS)

PRESS is a standardized, ethical support system that removes financial and access barriers so more diverse patients can safely and fairly participate in research.

It strengthens trust and patient-centered engagement through clear policies, transparent communication, and measurable improvements in participation, satisfaction, and equity.

Project 2 – Patient and PI Awareness in Clinical Trials

Project 2 aims to increase awareness and engagement in clinical trials for both patients and principal investigators (PIs).

For patients: education and support through digital screens, videos/brochures, mobile education units, partnerships with advocacy groups, trial-finder tools, navigation hotlines/chats, and a public Clinical Trial Day.

For PIs: development of a certification program, targeted workshops, a clinical trials intranet section, departmental education plans, regular recognition of high-performing investigators, a trial guide booklet, and a centralized recruitment database.

Project 3 – Automation

This project builds a digital, AI-enabled system to enhance the submission, review, and management of clinical trials, replacing paper and email with a unified electronic platform.

It accelerates procedures, enhances coordination among researchers and departments, and improves accuracy, transparency, and service quality while reducing time, effort, and operational costs.

Participation of the Administration in the Incepita-Hail Hackathon 2025



Highlighted Publications

Abu-Shaheen A, Aljanobui SS, Almohanna FH, Ayyash M, Marar S, Matic G, Hazazi M, Batalla J, Awadalla M, Hamza MA. A goat experimental epistaxis model: Hemostatic effect of stop nosebleeds device. PLoS One. 2025 Jun 10;20(6): e0324727.

Abstract

To stop epistaxis, a Saudi medical invention called “Stop Nosebleeds” with a patent was created. It is a silicone-based, adjustable device that is applied externally to the bridge of the nose and speeds up clotting by decreasing the temperature and the compressing effect of the device on the nose. This study aims to examine the efficacy of the device in attaining hemostasis in goats with anterior nasal bleeding. An animal experimental nasal-bleeding model was conducted on ten goats in collaboration between King Fahad Medical City and King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The left nostril was used as interventional wounds and the right nostril was used as control. Control wounds were treated with manual compression for 20 minutes. Interventional wounds were treated with the Stop Nosebleeds device. The second group of animals was heparinized and 2 wounds were created in each animal, one of which was being treated with the Stop Nosebleeds device, while the other was being treated with manual compression. The mean bleeding duration in the experimental group (both heparinized and non-heparinized goats) was 45.5 seconds (SD=8.2), compared to 206.0 seconds (SD=75.7) in the control group ($U=0.00$, $p<0.001$). The device stopped bleeding in 52.0 seconds and 39.0 seconds in the heparinized and non-heparinized experimental groups. While, the manual compression of epistaxis stopped bleeding in 252.5 seconds (SD=84.7) and 159.2 seconds (SD=15.7) in the heparinized and non-heparinized control groups, respectively. The device shows promise for clinical application, however, further research with larger sample sizes and human clinical trials are needed to validate its efficacy and safety. Additionally, the use of a goat model presents limitations in directly translating these results to human clinical practice, and these differences should be careful.

Mushtaq S, Tak MM, Hamid S, **Wani TA**, Bhat WA, Wagay ZA, Hussain SK, TakMM HS, WaniTA B, WagayZA H. Exploring Dissociative Symptoms, Self-harm, and Somatisation in Kashmiri Children: Insights from a Hospital-Based Analysis. Indian Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics.:40

Abstract

Background: Children and Adolescents in conflict-affected regions like Kashmir face heightened mental health risks, including dissociative symptoms, somatisation, and deliberate self-harm (DSH), often driven by trauma, academic stress, and social challenges. There is limited clinical data on adolescent mental health in Kashmir. This study investigates key psychological presentations and their sociodemographic associations in a hospital setting.

Objectives: 1. To assess the prevalence and predictors of dissociation, self-harm, and somatisation in Kashmiri children. 2. Identify the frequency of dissociation, self-harm, and somatic complaints. 3. Examine associations with socio-demographic factors. 4. Determine predictors of dissociative symptoms

Methodology: A hospital-based cross-sectional study was conducted with 167 children. Data were analyzed using SPSS v27. Age comparisons were made using the Mann–Whitney U test, while associations with categorical variables were assessed using Fisher’s Exact test. Predictors of dissociation were identified through backward stepwise logistic regression.

Results: The sample consisted of 89.8% females with a mean age of 14.1 years. Dissociative symptoms were observed in 29.9% of participants, somatic complaints in 49.1%, and self-harm/suicidal behaviors in 21.6%. The most common method of self-harm was organophosphate poisoning (20.4%). Psychological symptoms, particularly dissociation and panic attacks, were significantly associated with self-harm. Logistic regression showed that adolescents in 9th–12th standard were 3.48 times more likely to exhibit dissociative symptoms compared to those in lower grades ($p=0.003$). Children whose parents were in skilled/professional jobs were less likely to report dissociation ($OR=0.3$, $p=0.034$). The presence of somatic complaints and self-harm behaviors significantly predicted dissociative symptoms (both $p<0.001$).

Conclusion: Dissociation and self-harm are prevalent among Kashmiri children, especially in secondary school girls. School-based screening and context-sensitive interventions are urgently needed.

Sajid Khan Durrani, FRCP UK, Saeed ur Rehman, Humariya Heena, **Tariq Wani**, Azhar Malik, Yousef Alobaisi, Sheikh Zafar Ali, Yasir A Ahmed, Clinical Characteristics and Prognosis of Hipec (Hyperthermicintraperitoneal Chemotherapy) plus surgery in different Histological types of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer, Journal of Posthumanism, 2025 Volume: 5, No: 7,

Abstract

Background: Ovarian Cancer also is known as the silent killer is the fifth most common cancer in females worldwide carrying a high mortality rate. In this study, we looked at clinical characteristics and outcomes of different stages and histopathological subtypes of epithelial ovarian cancer in 85 patients, following standard treatment with surgery and chemotherapy.

Methods: Patients newly diagnosed with EOC between 2014 to 2017 who were treated with TAHBSO (150 TAHBSO in total with 15 HIPEC) were identified from a medical record-maintained database. Surgery consisted of total hysterectomy, bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, and total/partial omentectomy or HIPEC. The same chemotherapy was given adjuvant post-surgery as per standard guidelines.

Results: The median age at the time of diagnosis for patients with Serous tumors was 55 years. Majority i.e., 94.1% of patients were high-grade serous type. The recurrence rate was 75 % for stage 4 patients who had surgery within 42 days of chemotherapy as opposed to 36.6 % of patients treated at an interval of greater than 42 days. This difference was not statistically significant despite slightly worse progression for patients who had a delay in surgery.

Conclusions: Our study revealed a non –significant increased risk of recurrence with delaying chemotherapy for greater than 42 days for stage 4 disease while the delay in chemotherapy in stage 3c and lower ovarian cancer did not show any adverse outcome. We have identified the advanced stage of presentation of ovarian cancer being a more relevant factor for recurrence.

Justin Arockiaraj, Aliya Ibrahim Alawaji, Talal Saleh Alkuhaimi, Marahib Saud Alshahrani, Ivan James Prithishkumar, **Tariq Ahmad Wani**, Salem Bauones, Walid Ismail Attia, Khaled N. Almusrea, Morphometric analysis of lumbar pedicles in the Saudi Arabian population, A CT-based study on 1500 vertebrae, 2025 Journal of Craniovertebral Junction and Spine,

Abstract

Background: Knowledge of the lumbar pedicle anatomy is vital for preoperative surgical planning of pedicle screw fixation procedures in orthopedic surgery. The morphology of lumbar vertebrae has both genetic and ethnic variations. **Study Design:** Retrospective cohort study. **Objective:** The objective of the study was to estimate morphometric characteristics of the lumbar vertebrae relevant for pedicle screw placements in the Saudi population and compare it with CT-based studies in other population groups. **Methods:** CT scans of 300 Saudi patients (M = 150; F = 150) were reviewed. The dimensions of the lumbar pedicle, pedicle axis angle, and chord length (CL) of the L1–L5 vertebrae were measured by two investigators. The Mann–Whitney test was used to compare the genders. **Results:** There was no inter-observer bias. There was no difference between the sides. Transverse pedicle diameter (TPD) increased from L1 to L5 with mean values of 5.76–13.62 mm, respectively. The longest CL was at L3 with a mean of 50.92 mm. The length of the pedicle decreased from L1 to L5 with mean values of 16.01–9.93 mm, respectively. The height of the pedicle (PH) showed a similar trend with a decrease from 9.75 to 8.3 mm. The pedicle axis angle trajectory followed a gradual medial angulation pattern of 12.68°–28.23° from L1 to L5. **Conclusions:** The TPD, CL, and PH showed statistically significant differences among the genders. Statistical significance was also noted among pedicle parameters compared with other population groups.

T.M. Shange; Co-Authors, P. Mupambwa and **T. Wani**, Navigating Cultural Boundaries: A Comparative Analysis of Islamic and Anglo-American Nursing Administration in Saudi Arabia, International Journal of Management Perspectives, <https://ijmp.regent.ac.za>, April 11, 2025

Abstract

This study underscores the critical role of cultural integration in leadership and administrative efficiency within multinational healthcare environments. The findings emphasise that differing perceptions of governance models and work values between Islamic and Anglo-American administrative styles can impact decision-making, team cohesion and operational effectiveness.

By identifying these divergences, the research provides actionable insights for healthcare management, advocating for a hybrid administrative model that merges the ethical, community-oriented aspects of Islamic leadership with the structured, efficiency-driven approach of Anglo-American management. The study's recommendations, cultural competency training, collaborative decision-making and culturally adaptive conflict resolution, offer practical strategies for managers navigating diverse workplaces. These interventions are essential for fostering an inclusive leadership environment that enhances communication, reduces cultural friction and improves overall staff engagement. Moreover, the research contributes to strategic human resource planning by highlighting the necessity of culturally responsive leadership training, ensuring that nurse leaders are equipped to manage a diverse workforce effectively. By integrating culturally adaptive administrative practices, healthcare organisations can enhance productivity, employee satisfaction and patient care outcomes, ultimately aligning with broader organisational objectives and national workforce diversification goals under Saudi Vision 2030.

Al-Hussaini AA, **Bashir MS**. How useful are the biochemical tests in guiding the diagnostic workup of infantile cholestasis?. *Saudi Journal of Gastroenterology*. 2025 Nov 1;31(6):373–82.

Abstract

Background: The objective of our study was to determine whether biochemical tests, frequently requested at first presentation of infants with cholestasis, have a role in focusing investigations toward certain disease entities. **Methods:** All infants with cholestasis (2008 to 2020) were identified and reviewed for final diagnosis and serum levels of alanine aminotransferase (ALT), gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT), lactate, cholesterol, ferritin, alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), total bile acids (TBAs), and hypoglycemia at first presentation. **Results:** ALT levels were normal in all infants with Dubin–Johnson syndrome. A normal TBA (0–10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) in an infant with normal-GGT cholestasis was consistent with bile acids synthesis disorders (BASDs). There was a dichotomy pattern of “high-GGT cholestasis” [associated with biliary obstruction, Alagille syndrome, ciliopathies, mitochondrial hepatopathies] and “low GGT cholestasis”, [associated with mutations in ATP8B1, ABCB11, TJP2, USP53, LSR, MYO5B, VIP AS39, NR1H4, BASD, galactosemia, gestational alloimmune liver disease (GALD), and endocrine causes]. Plasma lactate level was significantly elevated in infants with mitochondrial hepatopathies and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) [median 5.8 mmol/L and 7.7 mmol/L, respectively; $P < 0.001$]. The highest ferritin concentrations were in infants with HLH and GALD [medians 4883 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 2098 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively; $P < 0.001$]. The most marked elevation of AFP was consistent in all infants with mitochondrial hepatopathies, tyrosinemia, and GALD (median: 99637 ng/mL, 40000 ng/mL; 22566 ng/mL) as compared to causes of biliary obstruction (median: 3662 ng/mL). Hypoglycemia with preserved liver synthetic function was associated with metabolic or endocrine disorders. **Conclusion:** Although none of these biochemical tests is diagnostic in itself, they can be actionable red flags to triage infants with cholestasis toward the most appropriate specific investigations.

Bashir MS. Using Text-Matching Software to Deter Plagiarism: The Do's and Don'ts. In *Introduction to Research Ethics and Academic Integrity* 2025 Oct 1 (pp. 47-60). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Abstract

Plagiarism, the act of using someone else's work or ideas without proper acknowledgment, is a significant issue across academic, professional, and creative fields. Although a straightforward concept, plagiarism is defined and handled distinctively in different institutions. It has different manifestations, including direct plagiarism (copying text verbatim without citation), self-plagiarism (reusing one's previous work without disclosure), mosaic plagiarism (rephrasing someone else's work while retaining their ideas), and accidental plagiarism (unintentional failure to cite sources correctly) (Crowder et al. 2013). Plagiarism has wide-ranging repercussions and can damage reputations, lead to legal penalties, and diminish the credibility of academic and professional institutions. Even the renowned William Shakespeare has faced allegations of plagiarism. Using anti-plagiarism software, LaFayette College professor June Schlueter and independent scholar Dennis McCarthy discovered notable similarities between sections of Shakespeare's plays *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Henry VI*, and *Richard III* and an obscure 1576 unpublished manuscript titled *A Brief Discourse of Rebellion* by little-known writer George North (Walchover 2012).

Bashir MS. Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Biochemical Significance, Deficiency Implications, and Strategies for Health Optimization.

Abstract

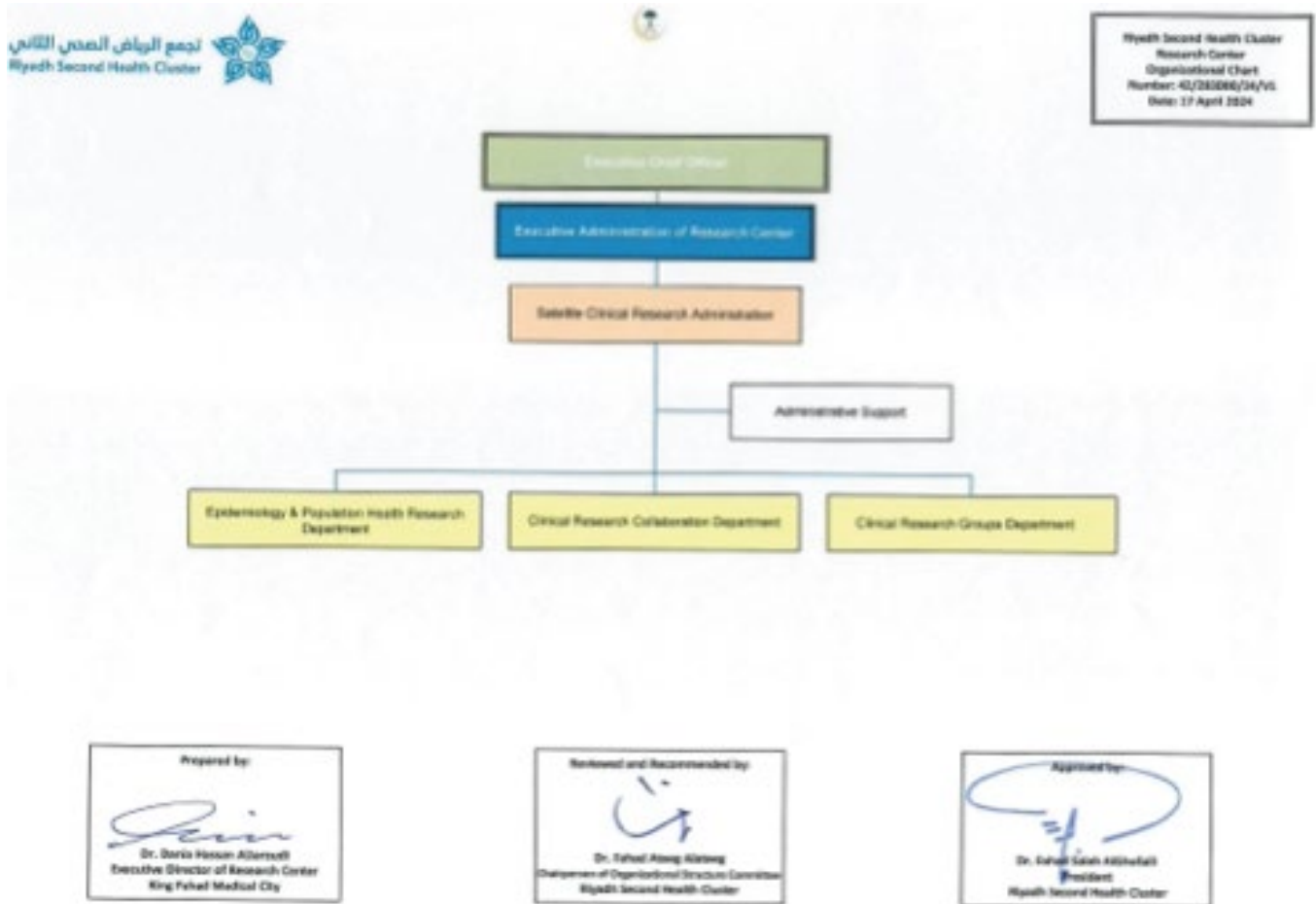
Omega-3 fatty acids are primary nutrients critical for numerous physiological functions of the human body, and their deficiency leads to notable health challenges that affect multiple demographics. The proposed chapter explores the biochemical significance of Omega-3 fatty acids, which includes their role in cell membrane integrity, their anti-inflammatory properties that help in disease management, and their contribution to neurological functions. Moreover, this chapter addresses the causes of Omega-3 deficiency, which include insufficient dietary intake, poor absorption of nutrients, and a sedentary lifestyle. The health disorders associated with Omega-3 deficiency are far-reaching and include neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, vision problems, and metabolic issues. The author accentuates the need to develop efficient strategies for preventing and managing Omega-3 deficiency using a well-rounded approach, combining dietary guidelines and public health efforts, providing practical recommendations to improve general health and reduce the overall prevalence of associated diseases.

Research Services and Clinical Trials Administration Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Dr. Adnan Ali S. AlMaghlouth (aalmaghlouth@kfmc.med.sa)	Director of Research Services Administration (KFMC/ R2)	Clinical trials	Observational research	Drug discovery policies, clinical practice guidelines	Periodontology oral implantology
Ms. Amani K. Abu Shaheen (aabushaheen@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Scientific Writing and Biostatistics Department	Epidemiology	Clinical research	Validity and reliability	Study design
Mr. Tariq Ahmed Wani (tawani@kfmc.med.sa)	Biostatistics Specialist I	Study design	Sample size determination	Statistics analysis plan	Data analysis
Mr. Mohammed Salman Bashir (mbashir@kfmc.med.sa)	Biostatistics Specialist I	Biostatistics	Clinical research	Survival analysis	
Ms. Shahed AlOtaiby (sotaiby@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist I	Biomedical	Clinical research	Drug delivery	
Dr. Ahmad M. Saleh (asaleh@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Training & Education	Research	Infertility	Women's Health	
Ms. Maram AlShammari (msaalshammari@kfmc.med.sa)	Administrative Specialist I	Administrative support	Education	Courses and workshops	
Dr. Sharafaldeen Bin Nafisah (sbinnafisah@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Clinical Research Department	Emergency Medicine EMS and Disaster	Biostatistics	Interventional and non-interventional studies	
Mr. Yosra AlJubran (yaljubran@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Public health	Health Informatics	Clinical trials	Project management
Ms. Hadel Alsaran (halsaran@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Lab	Clinical trials	Biomedical	
Ragdah Talal Kabli (rkabli@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Pharmacy	Clinical trials	Health Informatics	

Satellite Clinical Research Administration

Organizational Chart



The Satellite Research Administration was created to enhance research capacity by developing and supporting research groups, units, and departments within R2 hospitals, centers, and administrations.

The administration consists of the following departments:

- Clinical Research Groups Department
- Clinical Research Collaboration Department
- Epidemiology and Public Health Research Department

Clinical Research Groups Department

Create clinical research groups from R2 hospitals and centers' researchers to provide an infrastructure for R2 researchers to brainstorm, share, advance, and produce ideas on research projects.

Core Facilities

The Research Group facilitates research work by supporting researchers throughout all stages of the research process. The department promotes collaboration among internal teams and external partners to strengthen research quality and impact. It ensures that research activities remain on track by monitoring progress, timelines, and compliance with institutional and ethical standards. Through coordination, guidance, and follow-up, the Research Group contributes to efficient research delivery and supports the organization's strategic research objectives

Clinical Research Groups provided very advanced study in functional MRI and scanned 64 patients for pre-surgical planning for brain tumors and epilepsy patients.

Achieved Performance Indicators

- | Three IRFs were submitted
- | Seven IRBs approved
- | Ten published papers
- | One submitted papers
- | Four TFOs
- | Six consultations in Neuroscience research
- | Six proposals were submitted to RDIA
- | Neuroscience Research Day
- | 10 Residents/fellows were trained
- | Trained 30 undergraduate students
- | Five workshops
- | Twelve lectures were conducted in the NNI MRI suit
- | One Ph.D. student
- | Three master students
- | Abstract submitted to Biophysical Society conference
- | Presentation CHOC conference at the University of California Irvine
- | Talk in SNIH for research visibility and impact
- | Provide 80 brain scans for neuroimaging studies to KFMC researchers
- | Assist KFMC researchers with functional MRI post-processing (80 subjects)

Agreement and Collaborations with national and international institutions:

Liverpool University	KAIMRC
New York University	Al-Qassim University
King Saud University	

Ongoing projects

Gray matter volume and cognitive performance during normal aging.

Neurophysiological and motor behavioral effects of combining transcranial direct current stimulation (IDCS) and modified constraint-induced movement therapy (mCIMT) on upper limb function recovery in patients with stroke.

Investigating the efficacy of combining virtual reality-based mirror therapy and transcranial direct stimulation to improve upper limb recovery in patients with stroke.

The correlation between cognitive function and functional brain MRI in ADHD's patients.

Nurses' Knowledge and Attitude of Pediatric Post-Operative Pain Management Practice.

Committees and TFOs

Adult hematology / BMT research team	Use of Iron Therapy to Reduce Packed Red Blood Cell Transfusion in Hemodialysis patients: Referral Center Experience.
IONM research team	To increase research publication numbers and to facilitate scientific writing in clinical review department and enhance its content.

Patents

The Research group is responsible for facilitating patent- related processes, including coordination and communication with relevant authorities. Patent ownership and final approvals are managed in accordance with institutional policies.

Epidemiology and Public Health Department

The Epidemiology and Public Health Department (EPHD) mission is leading research, analytics, and professional networking that improves health and well-being through multidisciplinary epidemiologic and public health studies, across the spectrum of public health, clinical practice, and population health to generate evidence-based scientific data, leading to positive changes in policy and practice across clinical, public, and population health of important priority to a stakeholder in Saudi Arabia. More, bringing together policymaking, clinical practice, public, and population health management, through research, and research networking using epidemiology, statistics, economics, qualitative methods, and clinical science, by applying newly gained knowledge to reduce disease burden and cost, improve access to care, and outcome. Next, aid in transformation progress through critical data-driven decision-making (operational, financial, supply chain). Thus, supporting strategy progress, transformation, accountable care organizations, financial sustainability, operational progress, risk and challenges mitigation through funding, leadership support, human capital, and overall growth.

Core Services

Lead practice-based national research.

Maintain population health management-based disease registries.

Epidemiology, public, and population outreach education conferencing and lecturing.

Supervise and train research volunteers at the research center.

Provide research methodology consultation for the family medicine department and others.

National lead on lifestyle medicine therapeutic intervention research.

National lead on Chronic disease interventional studies.

National lead on chronic disease mapping.

Professional academic writing and textbook authoring training.

Collaborative research in CAM, nutrition, and Saudi Arabia determinants of illness and wellness.

Achieved Performance Indicators

12 Research awareness activities about services provided by EPHD staff.

8 Epidemiological studies initiated by EPHD staff.

Initiated research groups.

Kuwait Family Medicine Conference-Kuwait, speaker.

Agreement and Collaborations

The department has numerous research collaborations with various institutions and universities throughout Saudi Arabia, listed below:



Riyadh



- * Primary healthcare centers of the First Health Cluster.
- * Primary healthcare centers, and the family medicine department of R2.
- * Primary healthcare centers of the Third Health Cluster.
- * Saudi Health Council.
- * Al-Faisal University College of medicine.
- * Weqayah: Public health authority.
- * King Saud University Family medicine department.
- * National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.
- * Assistant Deputy Minister for Primary Health Care.

Jeddah



- * Samir Abbas Hospital.
- * King Fahad Specialized Hospital.
- * King Abdulaziz University.

AlQssim



* Sulaiman AlRajhi University.

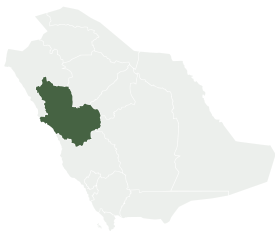
* Endocrine and Diabetes Center.

* King Fahd Specialist Hospital, Burayah.

* King Saud hospital, Unayzah.

* The Salam Veterinary Hospital, Buraydah.

Madinah



* Taibah University.

* Directorate of Health Affairs.

* Madinah health cluster.

Hail



* Hail health cluster.

* Hail University.

* German Saudi Hospital.

* Directorate of Health Affairs.

Jazan Tabuk



Jazan

* Jazan University.

Tabuk

* Tabuk university.

Ongoing projects

High blood pressure mapping in Saudi Arabia, a pilot study.

Diabetes type II mapping in Saudi Arabia, a pilot study.

Pre-diabetes mapping in Saudi Arabia, a pilot study.

Hyperlipidemia mapping in Saudi Arabia, a pilot study.

Overweight and obesity mapping in Saudi Arabia.

Intensive lifestyle intervention in diabetes type II in Saudi Arabia.

Intensive lifestyle intervention in pre-diabetes in Saudi Arabia.

Intensive lifestyle intervention in hyperlipidemia in Saudi Arabia.

Intensive lifestyle intervention in obesity in Saudi Arabia.

Intensive lifestyle intervention in high blood pressure type II in Saudi Arabia.

Conferences

Global Lifestyle Medicine Alliance, representing KSA lifestyle medicine, Global Lifestyle Medicine Leadership Forum Itinerary Doha, representing Saudi Arabia lifestyle Management-Qatar.

The sixth Saudi global conference for occupational safety & Health, Speaker-Saudi Arabia.

2nd Kuwait International Family Medicine Conference-Kuwait, speaker.

The Saudi Arabia International Conference on Lifestyle Medicine, conference/ organizing and scientific committee's Chairman-Saudi Arabia.

3rd International Lifestyle Medicine Conference-Korea, speaker.

20th International Symposium on Atherosclerosis-Oman, speaker.

Cluster-2, KFMC Research Center 19th annual research conference scientific committee chairman and moderator

Lifestyle Medicine Fellowship.

Cluster-2 PHC research collaboration negotiations initiation.

Clinical Research Collaboration Department

The department supports multidisciplinary collaborations including collaboration between national and international academic and governmental institutions.

Core Facilities

To provide a link between centers and hospitals at R2 and Research Centre services.

To encourage researchers at R2 to use the Research Centre services, manuscript writing, and statistics service and encourage researchers to apply for funding from the Research Centre.

Achieved Performance Indicators

National and international collaboration with hospitals and health institutions	8
Number of provided support to external researchers	46
Number of Research Day Activities at R2	13
Number of CRC meetings per year	4
Number of RC meeting per year	58
Number of awareness activities/educational activities by Collaboration Department staff	16

Agreement and Collaborations

MOU	Research Collaboration Department	Taif University	National	Establish a structured collaboration that enhances research opportunities and data accessibility
Agreement	Dr. Basulaiman	King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center	National	PI initiated studies between KFMC affiliated staff and King Faisal Specialist Hospital researcher
Agreement	Dr. Alotaibi	King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center	National	PI initiated studies between KFMC affiliated staff and King Faisal specialist hospital researcher
Visit	Research Center	ROCHe	National	Facilitated the visit to start phase II and III trials
Visit	Research Center	Al-Asema Education center	National	Facilitated student visit
Visit	Research Center	Biomedical Engendering college at PNU	National	Facilitated student visit
Outreach	Research Center	Publication symposium and Exhibitions at King Saud University	National	Patriciated with awareness booth

Outreach Research Activities

Representing the Research Center at the Publication exhibition at King Saud University.

The Research Collaboration department participated in many events to boost the research awareness in among R2 and the community:

- 4 orientation session to residents and fellows.

- 4 research basics education programs to:

Children Specialized hospital

King Salman Heart Hospital

Home Healthcare administration

Internal medicine

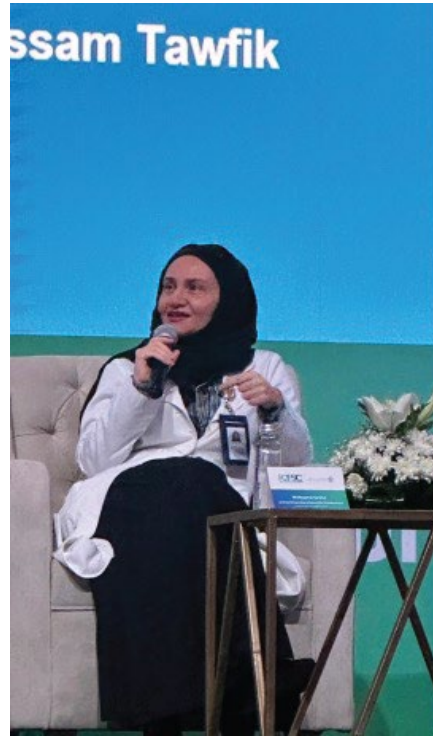
4 research educational courses to specialization programs at R2.



Ongoing projects

- Supporting external researchers at R2.
- Granting fund for Research Days
- Research Awareness sessions
- Research Orientation to residents and fellows.

Research Days



Pharmacy Research Day



5TH ANNUAL PHARMACY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
IN RIYADH SECOND HEALTH CLUSTER

R2PSC

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

**From Concept to Clinical Trial:
Increasing Capacity of
Pharmaceutical Sponsored Clinical
Trials**

Dr. Dania AlJaroudi

Executive Director of the Research center at King Fahad Medical City,
R.E.I. Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Consultant OBGYN



10:40 - 11:00



29 Sep, 2025



Main Auditorium - Executive Building



5



Dental Academy Research Day



Research Days



OMEC Research Day



Almajmaa Research Day



Research Days



Lab Research Day



Rehab Research Day



Research Days

King Salman Cardiac Center Research Day



Women Specialized Hospital Research Day



Highlighted Publications

Alsomali N, Alrafiah AR, **AlsharIf R**, ALTowaijri G, Pushparaj PN. Dysregulation of serum cytokine profile in Saudi Arabian multiple sclerosis patients: A case-control study. Brain Research Bulletin. 2025 Dec 1; 233:111596.

Abstract

Background: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disorder that disables young adults, primarily due to inflammation causing brain damage. **Objectives:** This case-control study aimed to characterize the serum cytokine profile and its correlations with the expanded disability status scale (EDSS) in Saudi MS patients. **Methods:** Serum levels of inflammatory cytokines (INF- γ , sCD40L, IL-8, TNF- α , IL-6, IL-12P70, IL-1 β , IL-5) and anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL-10, IL-4, IL-13, IL-1Ra, IL-2) in 80 MS Saudi patients and 80 matched healthy controls were measured. **Results:** The study found significant dysregulation of cytokine levels in MS patients, with elevated levels of INF- γ , sCD40L, IL-8, TNF- α , IL-6, IL-12P70, IL-1 β , IL-5, IL-13, IL-4, IL-1Ra, and IL-2, and a significant decrease in IL-10 compared to controls. Male MS patients had higher serum concentrations of INF- γ , IL-8, IL-6, IL-13, and IL-1 β , and lower IL-10 levels compared to females. Treated MS patients had higher sCD40L levels and lower levels of IL-8, IL-12P70, IL-13, IL-1Ra, and IL-5 compared to untreated patients. No significant correlation was found between cytokines and EDSS. **Conclusion:** MS patients exhibit considerable dysregulation in cytokine levels, aiding in understanding the clinical course of MS. Higher cytokine levels were observed in males versus females.

Lalithabai S. D, AIDhoon M, **AlJishi H**, Influence of sociodemographic factors on the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of patients with cardiac disease.

Abstract

Background: Understanding health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and the factors that affect it is essential for improving patient-centered care and management. However, limited knowledge exists on how a comprehensive set of sociodemographic factors influences HRQoL in patients with cardiac disease. This study aimed to determine the influence of sociodemographic factors on the HRQoL of patients with cardiac disease in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Methods: This cross-sectional study recruited 101 adult patients with cardiac disease from the cardiac outpatient department of a tertiary healthcare setting between May 2024 and December 2024. Data were collected using the RAND 36-Item Health Survey (version 1.0).

Results: The general health score was found to be 60.2 ± 16.6 , suggesting a moderately positive perception of overall health, with a low standard deviation reflecting consistent results among the participants. The HRQoL of participants revealed low pain levels and moderate emotional and physical functioning. Although social functioning was comparatively high, fatigue was a concern. The working status of participants significantly predicted a better HRQoL, specifically physical, social, and general health. The mental health of males was better than that of females. Furthermore, age affected social and physical functioning, whereas diabetes affected emotional role constraints, and hypertension had a detrimental effect on HRQoL. **Conclusion:** This study demonstrated how sociodemographic characteristics significantly affect the HRQoL of patients with cardiac disease in a tertiary setting in Saudi Arabia. Although sex, age, and marital status also showed significant correlations, working status emerged as a key predictor of improvement in several HRQoL domains. Diabetes and hypertension have detrimental effects on HRQoL, highlighting the need for focused treatment. Even with statistically significant results, the small sample size calls for careful interpretation of the results and additional studies to prove generalizability and causality. These findings highlight the importance of incorporating sociodemographic factors into all-encompassing cardiac care to enhance patient well-being.

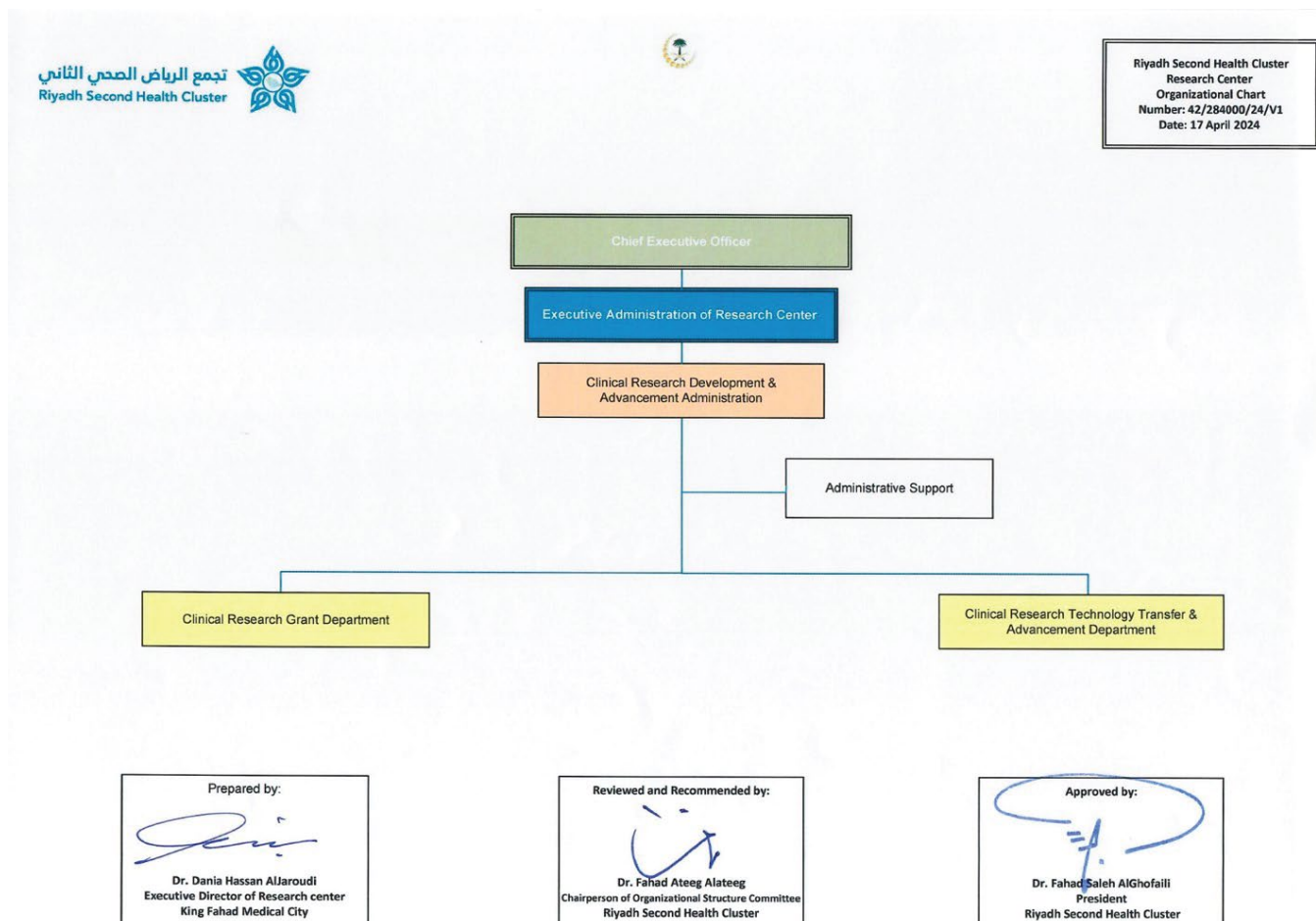
Satellite Research Administration Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords		
Dr. Adnan Al Watban (aalwatban@kfmc.med.sa)	Director, Satellite Research Administration (KFMC/ R2)	MRI	Neuroscience	Biomedical Physics
Dr. Habeeb Ali Saleh AlHabeeb (halhabeeb@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Research Collaboration Department	Clinical Trials	Research Services	Research Policies
Ms. Hala Aljashi (haljishi@kfmc.med.sa)	Head of Zone I Research Collaboration	Community intervention	Clinical Trials	Research Services

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords		
Dr. Najla Mohammed Bedaiwy (bedaiwyn@pmah.med.sa)	Head of Zone II Research Collaboration Prince Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Hospital	Scientific Research	Research Services	Research Policies
Dr. Emad Ahmed Alhelimi (ealhulaimi@moh.gov.sa)	Head of Zone III Research Collaboration. Alyamamah Hospital	Pediatrics MD	Research Services	Research Policies
Mr. Sultan Hamdan Alsakran (salsakran@moh.gov.sa)	Head of Zone IV Research Collaboration. Azulfi Hospital	Clinical Trials	Research Services	Research Policies
Dr. Abdulaziz Ibrahim Alsenani (AiAlsenani@moh.gov.sa/ aialsenani@kfmc.med.sa)	Head of Zone V Research Collaboration AlMajmaa Hospital	Clinical Trials	Research Services	Research Policies
Dr. Abdullah Alotaibi (amalotaibi@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson clinical research groups	Neuroimaging	MRI	Functional MRI
Ms. Roaa Alsharif (ralsharif@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical researcher II	Research	Nursing	Clinical Leadership

Clinical Research Development and Advancement Administration

Organizational Chart



The Clinical Research Development and Advancement Administration (CRDAA) within the Research Center at Riyadh's Second Health Cluster is responsible for the oversight and management of clinical research grants, ensuring effective allocation of resources to support both internal and external research projects. It ensures compliance with regulatory standards, optimizes the utilization of budgets, personnel, and infrastructure, and drives the successful execution of research initiatives. Additionally, the administration leads and facilitates the dissemination of clinical research findings, promotes knowledge-sharing, and supports the transfer of clinical research outcomes into healthcare application to further the impact of clinical research projects and improve healthcare at R2.

The administration consists of the following departments:

Clinical Research Grant Department

Clinical Research Technology Transfer and Advancement Department

Clinical Research Grant Management Department

The Clinical Grant Management Department (GMD) is responsible for providing financial support to R2 researchers to enhance research productivity.

Core Services

- Providing financial support to R2 researchers on a competitive basis, to facilitate the conduct of research and to enhance research productivity.
- Review all intramural funding applications through a standardized and efficient process of peer review.
- Broadcasting all upcoming internal and external grant opportunities within R2.
- Oversee the efficient and appropriate use of grant funds.
- Assist R2 researchers with extramural fund submission.
- Provide training workshops, one-to-one consultation on all aspects of the submission process, grant writing proposals, budgeting criteria, and updated policies.

Achieved Performance Indicators

1. Clinical Research Grant Policy Development and Approval

- Successfully revised, updated, and implemented the Clinical Research Grant Policy, ensuring alignment with institutional governance, financial regulations, and legal requirements.
- Strengthened the policy through close collaboration with Legal Affairs and Finance.

Impact:

Enhanced transparency, strengthened regulatory compliance, and standardized the management of clinical research funding across the organization.

Achieved Performance Indicators

2. Financial Impact and Research Fund Management

- Oversaw and monitored the clinical research grant lifecycle, resulting in the management and release of more than SAR 3 million in research funding.
- Improved clarity in grant tracking by clearly distinguishing Request for Fund Assessment (RFA) and Internal Research Fund (IRF) stages.

Impact:

Improved financial accountability, minimized administrative delays, and enhanced leadership visibility over research funding utilization.

3. Process Optimization and Kaizen Quality Improvement

- Led a Kaizen-based process improvement initiative targeting inefficiencies in the Clinical Research Grant workflow.
- Identified key challenges related to paper-based processes and limited staffing, and implemented mitigation strategies to optimize workflow and reduce cycle time.

Impact:

Improved operational efficiency and sustained grant processing performance despite resource constraints.

4. KPI Development and Performance Monitoring

- Designed and implemented Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Clinical Research Grant operations, including:
 - Number of submitted and approved grants
 - Processing and review cycle time
 - Funding release timelines
- Established a structured monitoring and evaluation framework to support continuous quality improvement.

Impact:

Enabled data-driven decision-making and strengthened executive reporting and accountability.

5. Education, Awareness and Capacity Building

- Delivered and coordinated seven educational and awareness sessions focused on :
 - Clinical Research Grant processes
 - IRF/RFA pathways
 - Research governance and compliance
- Actively supported clinicians and researchers in improving submission quality and compliance.

Impact:

Enhanced researcher awareness, improved quality of grant submissions, and strengthened institutional research culture.

6. External Reviewer Database Development and Continuity

- Established and maintained a structured External Reviewer List to support fair, transparent, and high-quality evaluation of Clinical Research Grant proposals.
- Conducted outreach and coordination with:
 - Academic institutions
 - Scientific societies
 - Senior and retired experts across multiple specialties
- Ensured continuity of reviewer availability despite challenges related to institutional email deactivation and limited formal databases for retired faculty.

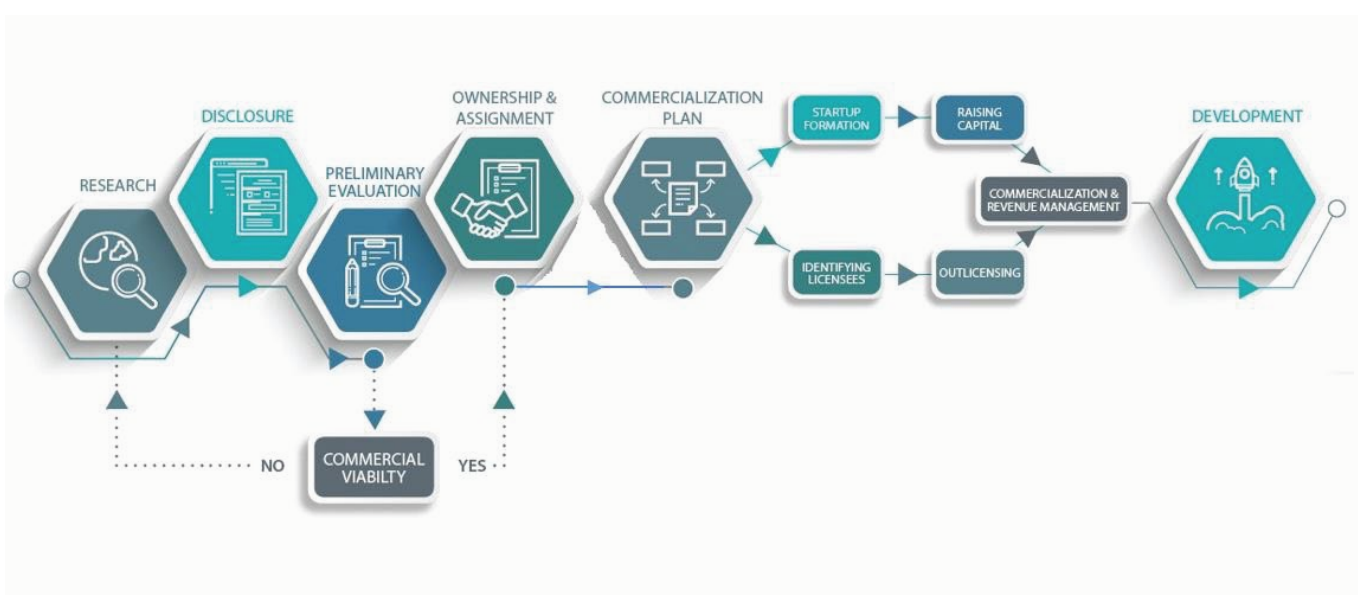
Impact:

Strengthened the objectivity, credibility, and scientific rigor of the Clinical Research Grant review process while ensuring sustainability of the external review mechanism.

Agreement and Collaborations

- GMD keeps updating the external review panel regularly.
- GMD contacted 90 external reviewers' experts and highly competent in their respective fields.
- GMD collaborates with 13 institutions for the peer-review process:
 - King Abdullah International Medical Research Centre.
 - King Saud Bin Abdul-Aziz University.
 - Taif University.
 - King Khalid University.
 - King Abdul-Aziz University.
 - Jazan University.
 - Prince Sultan Military Medical City.
 - Al-Faisal University.
 - King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.
 - King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre.
 - Ministry of the National Guard.
 - Al-Baha University.
 - Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University.

Clinical Research Technology Transfer and Advancement Department



The Clinical Research Technology Transfer and Advancement Department continues to play a strategic role in facilitating the translation of innovative research into clinical applications. The department focuses on identifying, evaluating, and advancing research-based technologies with the potential to improve patient care and healthcare delivery across KFMC and R2. Through structured technology transfer processes, collaboration, capacity-building, and strategic program development, the department ensures that new technologies are assessed, adopted, and advanced in alignment with institutional priorities.

Core Services

- Technology transfer management
- Technology evaluation and assessment
- Training and knowledge transfer support
- Implementation and integration support
- Continuous technology improvement and advancement
- Commercialization and strategic partnership development

Achieved Performance Indicators

During the current reporting period, the department has demonstrated measurable growth in both activity volume and scientific output. major accomplishments include:

Technology Adoption and Innovation Output

- 7 Total adopted technologies successfully advanced toward implementation.
- 4 new technology initiatives launched.
- 3 clinical research advancement initiatives initiated.

Scientific and Research Output

- 5 publications accepted in peer-reviewed journals.
- 5 additional manuscripts submitted for publication.
- 5 IRB submissions completed.

Technology and Research Dissemination

- 1 international oral conference presentation
- 2 local oral conference presentations

Awareness and Engagement

6 awareness activities delivered to support institutional research culture and innovation readiness.

Partnership Development

1 initiated collaboration with KACST

3 partnerships initiated with private healthcare sector entities (MENA, رعاية, دلة)

These achievements reflect increasing traction in translational innovation and sector engagement across academic, governmental, and private domains.

Strategic Project

The department led the development of the strategic initiative:

“Advancing Research Technology Transfer in Riyadh’s Second Health Cluster.”

This project aims to strengthen capability in innovation adoption, knowledge mobilization, and translational impact across the healthcare system.

Active Projects

The department continues to oversee and support the following strategic innovation projects:

1. Development of a Carbohydrate Counting and Bolus Calculator Application
2. NGS Analysis and Biobanking Informatics System
3. Replacement of Mechanical Systems with Laser-Based Methods in Eye Surgery
4. Dose Stream: Enhancing High-Alert Medication Dosing Accuracy
5. Grant Management System Development and Optimization

These initiatives support improved patient safety, digital transformation, precision medicine infrastructure, and operational excellence in clinical and research environments.

For new technology submissions, please apply using E-Form 181 titled
“Technology Transfer and Advancement Application.”

Highlighted Publications

Badriah A Alfaifi, Saleh **A AlKhaldi**, Majed D Alanazi, Wadi A Shuraim, Masoud A Aldossry, Hanan S Alzahrani, Fatoom A Alhaitei and Kholoud A Alhomoud. Epidemiology and Antibiotic Resistance of Klebsiella pneumoniae Infections in Saudi Long-Term Care Facility: A Comparison Study

Abstract

Background: Klebsiella pneumoniae is an opportunistic pathogen commonly found in the normal flora of the gastrointestinal tract. It can lead to severe healthcare-associated infections, particularly among immunocompromised individuals and those in long-term care settings. This study examined the epidemiology of K. pneumoniae infections and compared antibiotic resistance patterns (males vs. females) in long-term care hospital in Riyadh, SA. **Methods:** A retrospective cross-sectional study compared microbial culture data from 56 inpatients (29 males and 27 females) with confirmed K. pneumoniae infections. Data were collected on demographic characteristics, culture sites, and antibiotic susceptibility test results. Statistical analyses explored associations between patient characteristics and resistance patterns, focusing on carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing strains. **Results:** Around 51.8% of the K. pneumoniae isolates were resistant to carbapenems, and 35.7% were classified as ESBL producers. Patients with tracheostomies exhibited a higher prevalence of CRE infections (35.7%) compared to those without tracheostomies (16.1%, $p = 0.431$). Similarly, patients with bedsores showed a slightly higher prevalence of CRE infections (28.6%) than those without (23.2%, $p = 0.184$). Resistance levels against commonly used antibiotics were high for cotrimoxazole (64.3%), ciprofloxacin (33.9%), and gentamicin (39.3%). In contrast, imipenem and meropenem showed relatively higher susceptibility rates, with 50.0% and 37.5%, respectively. **Conclusion:** Significant prevalence of multidrug-resistant K. pneumoniae infections, with CRE and ESBL strains posing substantial challenges. These findings emphasize the need for improved infection control measures and robust antibiotic stewardship programs. Future studies should include molecular analyses and broader patient populations to understand resistance mechanisms further and inform treatment strategies

AlShammeri S, **AlKhaldi SA**, AlMutairi RT, AlZamil HA, AlJohani SM, AlJohani S, AlDakhil S. Therapeutic efficacy of two tear supplements in the management of dry eye disease in Saudi Arabia: The Twaig Mountain Eye Study II. Saudi Journal of Ophthalmology. 2025 Apr 1;39(2):206-11.

Abstract

Purpose: Comparison of the effectiveness between a lipid-based (Cationorm® [CTN]) and nonlipid-based (Artelac Advanced®, 0.2% sodium hyaluronate [SH]) tear supplements in the management of dry eye disease.

Methods: This was a randomized, single-masked study (0.2% SH vs. lipid-based eye drops) in two parallel groups over 4 weeks. n = 44 patients were evaluated. The outcome of the tear supplements on the ocular surface symptoms, tear meniscus height (TMH), noninvasive tear break-up time (NITBUT), lipid layer thickness (LLT), corneal and conjunctival redness, and strip meniscometry tube (SMTube) were measured after 4 weeks, compared to baseline. **Results:** Compared to the baseline, a lipid-based (CTN) eye drop achieved a significant reduction in symptoms (14.25 ± 12.70 vs. 38.60 ± 23.13 score, n = 22 patients) at 4 weeks; Artelac Advanced®, 0.2% SH and CTN showed an improvement in TMH, but it was statistically significant improved in CTN group in compared to 0.2% SH group. Statistical analysis showed improvement in NITBUT and corneal and conjunctival redness in both treatment groups. At 4 weeks, the LLT had further increased in Artelac Advanced®, 0.2% SH group. Both eye drops did not change the tear production measured by SMTube after 4 weeks. **Conclusion:** Both lipid-based (CTN) and nonlipid-based Artelac Advanced®, 0.2% SH eye drops effectively improved tear volume, tear film stability, and ocular surface health. In addition, lipid-based CTN significantly decreased dry eye symptoms compared to Artelac Advanced®, 0.2% SH.

Alfaifi BA, **AlKhaldi SA**, AlHomoud KA, Shuraim WA, AlHomoud K. Epidemiology and Antibiotic Resistance Patterns of Klebsiella pneumoniae Infections Among Female Patients of a Long-Term Care Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Cureus. 2025 Mar 4;17(3).

Abstract

Background: Klebsiella pneumoniae is a gram-negative bacterium naturally found in the gastrointestinal and oropharyngeal tracts but can become an opportunistic pathogen, causing severe healthcare-associated infections, especially in immunocompromised patients. This study aimed to investigate the epidemiology and antibiotic resistance patterns of K. pneumoniae infections among female patients in a long-term care hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. **Methods:** A cross-sectional retrospective study examined microbial cultures of 27 female patients with confirmed positive cultures of K. pneumoniae who were admitted to a long-term care hospital in Riyadh. Demographic information, in addition to culture sites and antibiotic susceptibility tests, was collected. The associations between patient characteristics and resistance patterns were investigated, focusing on the prevalence of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) and the production of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL). **Results:** A total of 51.9% (n = 14) of CRE K. pneumoniae isolates were reported, indicating substantial antibiotic resistance. Patients with bedsores exhibited a lower CRE infection proportion (18.5%) compared to those without bedsores (33.3%), with no statistically significant difference (p = 0.888). Older age (>50 years) demonstrated a higher CRE infection prevalence (29.6%) compared to younger patients (22.2%), with no statistical significance (p = 0.351). Further, all patients reported the widespread use of Foley catheters, and tracheostomy or hospital stay duration did not significantly correlate with resistance patterns. Notably, imipenem exhibited the highest susceptibility rate (66.7%), whereas cotrimoxazole (51.9%) and ampicillin (33.3%) demonstrated a high resistance.

Conclusion: This study highlights the increasing prevalence of CRE and ESBL-producing *K. pneumoniae* infections among female long-term care patients, underscoring the need for enhanced infection control strategies and antimicrobial stewardship programs to mitigate the spread of multidrug-resistant (MDR) pathogens. Targeted interventions, particularly for high-risk patients, are essential for reducing antimicrobial resistance in long-term care settings. Future research should include larger cohorts to further investigate gender-based differences in *K. pneumoniae* resistance patterns.

Awadalla M, AlRawi HZ, Henawi RA, Barnawi F, **Alkadi H**, Alyami A, Alsughayir A, Alsaif AS, Mubarak A, Alturaiki W, Alosaimi B. Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: One-year post vaccination. *Frontiers in Immunology*. 2025 Jan 22; 16:1526444.

Abstract

Introduction: The durability of Hybrid immunity induced by natural infection and/or COVID-19 vaccines and evidence supporting further booster vaccination are crucial factors for pandemic response, yet remain poorly understood. **Methods:** We measured the durability of immune response and neutralizing capacity of antibodies following Homologous/Heterologous vaccination by mRNA-based vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2) or (Moderna mRNA-1273) and viral vector-based vaccines (ChAdox1 nCoV-19-Oxford-AstraZeneca) in infected and non-infected patients. We also evaluated the long-lasting specific humoral IgG levels and T-cell immunity of the Memory CD8 cells. **Results:** We found that heterologous prime boosters led to significantly higher IgG antibody levels)9.09(than homologous boosters)5.236) one year after vaccination. We measured SARS-CoV-2 anti-S IgG antibodies and then assessed their neutralizing capacity to inhibit the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 wild-type strain and omicron B.1.1.529/BA.2 variants from binding to the ACE2 receptors. The heterologous regiment demonstrated superior ACE2-binding inhibition and consistently had higher mean ACE2-receptor binding inhibition across all dose regimens without the need for further doses. The CD8+ T cells producing IFN- γ to various COVID-19 vaccine dose regimens were evaluated. We found that robust T cell mediated immune responses were preserved and largely induced by a heterogeneous vaccination eliciting a significantly higher CD8+ T cells IFN- γ response in 100% of vaccinees regardless of previous natural infection. Indeed, the difference between infected and naïve groups was less pronounced suggesting a reduced infection-related response. **Conclusion:** Across three layers of evidence, this study showed that heterologous vaccination provides longer-lasting immunity than homologous doses, regardless of prior natural infection.

Alosaimi B, Awadalla M, Alturaiki W, Chen Z, Zhang Z, Zhu A, Rebh F, Alshukairi AN, Zhao J, **Alkadi HS**. A 10 Year Long-Lived Cellular and Humoral MERS-CoV Immunity Cross-Recognizing the Wild-Type and Variants of SARS-CoV-2: A Potential One-Way MERS-CoV Cross-Protection Toward a Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine. *Journal of Medical Virology*. 2025 Jan;97(1): e70071.

Abstract

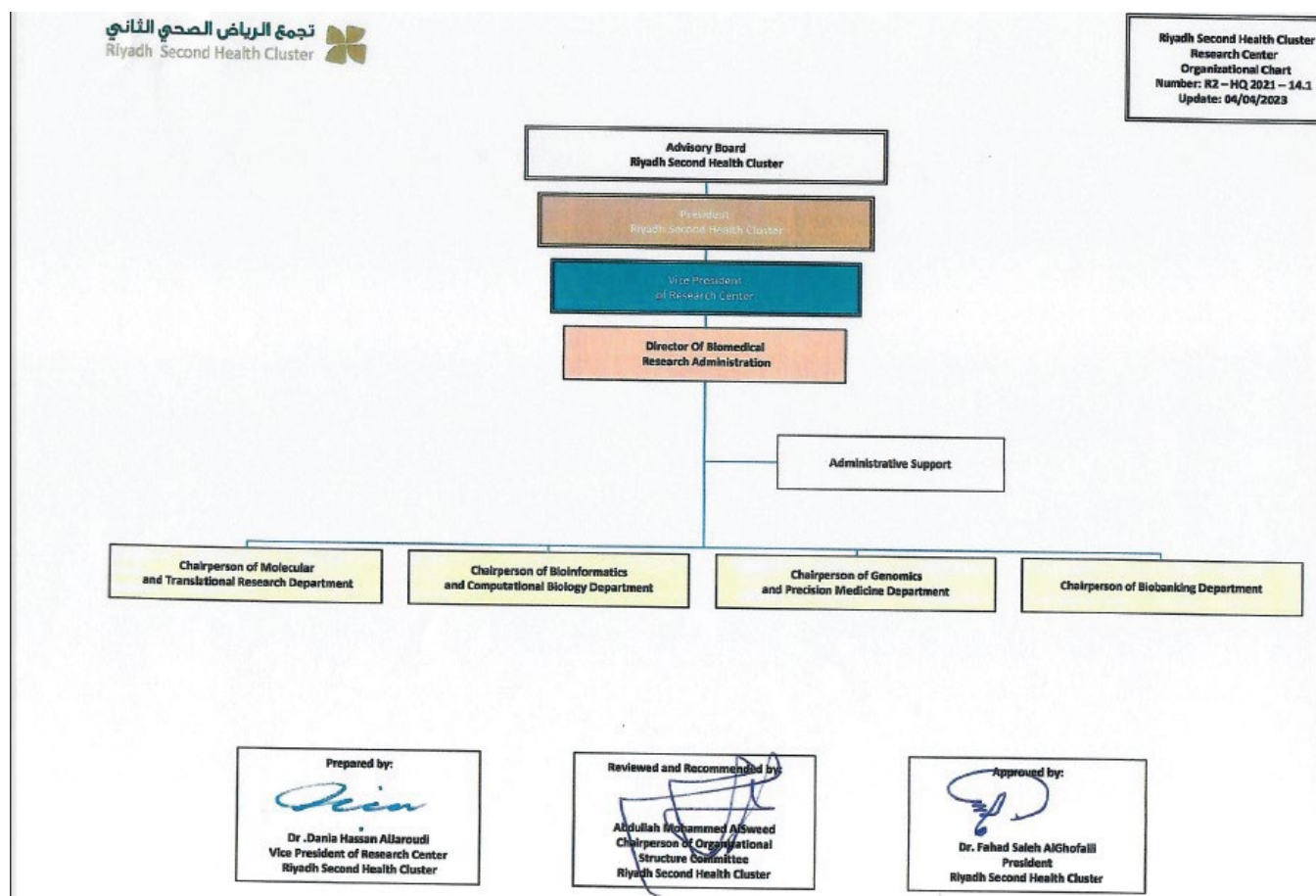
MERS is a respiratory disease caused by MERS-CoV. Multiple outbreaks have been reported, and the virus co-circulates with SARS-CoV-2. The long-term (> 6 years) cellular and humoral immune responses to MERS-CoV and their potential cross-reactivity to SARS-CoV-2 and its variants are unknown. We comprehensively investigated long-lasting MERS-CoV-specific cellular and humoral immunity, and its cross-reactivity against SARS-CoV-2 and its variants, in individuals recovered from MERS-CoV infection 1-10 years prior. Two cohorts of MERS-CoV survivors (31 unvaccinated, 38 COVID-19 vaccinated) were assessed for MERS-CoV IgG, memory CD4+/CD8+ T cells, and neutralizing antibodies against MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 variants. MERS-CoV IgG levels and T cell responses were higher in the 1-5 vs 6-10-year postinfection groups. Vaccinated MERS-CoV survivors had significantly elevated MERS-CoV IgG and neutralization compared to unvaccinated. Both groups demonstrated cross-reactive neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 variants. MERS-CoV survivors vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 had higher anti-MERS IgG, cellular immunity, and neutralization than unvaccinated survivors. MERS-CoV immune responses can persist for a decade. COVID-19 vaccination boosted humoral and cellular immunity in MERS-CoV survivors, suggesting the benefits of vaccination for this population. These findings have implications for pan-coronavirus vaccine development.

Clinical Research Development and Advancement Administration Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Dr. Ali A. AlFaiz (aalfaiz@kfmc.med.sa)	Director of Clinical Research Development and Advancement Administration	Bioinformatics	Data Science	Genomics	Governance
Dr. Noura AlBanyan (nalbanyan@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson of Clinical Research Grants Department	Parenteral nutrition	Pharmacy	Clinical pharmacy	Clinical research
Ms. Hanan Alfuraydi (halfuraydi@kfmc.med.sa)	Administrator I	Administrative support	Management		
Mr. Majed Ali AlKahtani (malkahtani@kfmc.med.sa)	Financial Specialist I	Administrative support	Management	Accountant	
Mr. Haithm Alkadi (halkadi@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson of Clinical Research Technology Transfer and Advancement Department	Cancer	Hepatitis	Microarray	Sequencing
Mr. Ali Hassan AlMahraqi (aalmahraqi@kfmc.med.sa)	Senior Administrative Specialist	Administrative support	Management	Accountant	Governance
Mr. Faisal AlSorive (falsorive@kfmc.med.sa)	Senior Finance Specialist	Administrative support	Management	Business Development	Governance
Dr. Saleh Alkhaldi (sabdalkhaldi@kfmc.med.sa)	Officer Planning and Development	Planning and Development	Scientific Methodology	Clinical Research	Governance

Biomedical Research Administration

Organizational Chart



This administration assists and supports R2 clinicians and scientists in developing and conducting innovative biomedical research initiatives.

The administration consists of the following departments:

Biobanking Department

Molecular and Translational Research Department

Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department

Genomics and Precision Medicine Department

Biobanking Department

The Biobanking Department is a major division of the Biomedical Research Administration. This department consists of two sections: Research Data Management (database management system), and Biological Specimen Banking (biobanking). The Research Data Management section provides essential support to medical research activities by assisting in data organization, documentation, and coordination efforts, within the scope of available resources. The section contributes to facilitating research database development and supports the structured use of clinical and research data to enhance the quality and integrity of research outputs.

The Biobanking section is a biospecimen management system that includes specimen processing, storage, and retrieval services. Biospecimen information is linked to the patient clinical information case report form, which is the hallmark of biobanking.



-80o C Freezer



Liquid Nitrogen tank



Biospecimen management system

Core Services

To improve the productivity and efficiency of the translational and clinical research conducted at R2 through the use of a unified platform (database) that integrates data within cohort studies or disease registries, including clinical, imaging, and genetic data, together with patient records.

To offer great potential to develop more effective diagnostics and therapeutics, identify public health risks, and gain new insights into health and diseases.

Providing R2 researchers with the needed storage space to store biological samples.

Impact of Biobanking on Preventive Public Health Strategies.

Governance, Ethics, and Quality Assurance

The Biobanking Department operates under a robust governance and quality framework to ensure ethical compliance, scientific integrity, and long-term sustainability of biospecimen resources. All biobanking activities are conducted in alignment with institutional policies, national regulations, and internationally recognized best practices for human biospecimen research.

Ethical oversight is maintained through the use of IRB-approved informed consent processes that clearly define specimen use, data linkage, storage duration, and secondary research utilization. This ensures transparency, participant protection, and responsible stewardship of biological materials.

Quality assurance is embedded across all operational stages, including specimen collection, processing, storage, and retrieval. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), labeling and tracking systems, temperature monitoring, and controlled access protocols are implemented to preserve biospecimen integrity and minimize risk. Regular documentation, staff training, and process standardization further support compliance, reproducibility, and audit readiness.

Through this governance and quality framework, the Biobanking Department ensures that biospecimens and associated data remain reliable, ethically sourced, and fit for high-impact translational and clinical research, reinforcing R2's commitment to research excellence and patient-centered innovation.

Achieved Performance Indicators

Infrastructure

Fresh Breast and Colorectal Tissues Biobank.

Developed an informed consent for Biobanking, approved by IRB.

Allocated room for Liquid Nitrogen (LN) and LN tanks.

2 Fridges, 2 Freezers with barcoded system for each freezer.

Developed standard operation procedure for LN

Labeling and tracking system.

More than 4 thousand biological samples available for R2 researchers at the biobank

4 Research Studies supporting the biobank department infrastructure

17 Awareness Activities and Consultation Services to R2 researchers

6 Scientific Research Published Studies.

8 Approved IRBs for BCB Initiated Research

3 research projects that support service line and models of care.

Educational and Research Activities

Key note speaker at the International Conference on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious disease at Paris, France.

CRC Program.

Princess Norah University Training Program Students.

King Saud University Training Program Students.

Advanced Pediatric Residency Course.

Supervision Master's and Ph.D. students.

Histology training.

Agreement and Collaborations

Qatar Biobank.

University of Liverpool.

Cambridge University.

Oxford University.

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

King Abdulaziz University.

United States-Food and Drug Authority.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

King Saud University.

Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University.

Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University.

Alyamamah Hospital.

ELI LILLY company.

Ongoing projects

GEN-O-HART: A Translational Study of Genetic and Epigenetic Markers of Occupational Stress-Induced Cardiovascular Risk Among Physicians in Saudi Arabia.

Development of an Exosome-Mediated EF-hGPC3In-Situ Cancer Vaccine for Precision Breast-Cancer Immunotherapy.

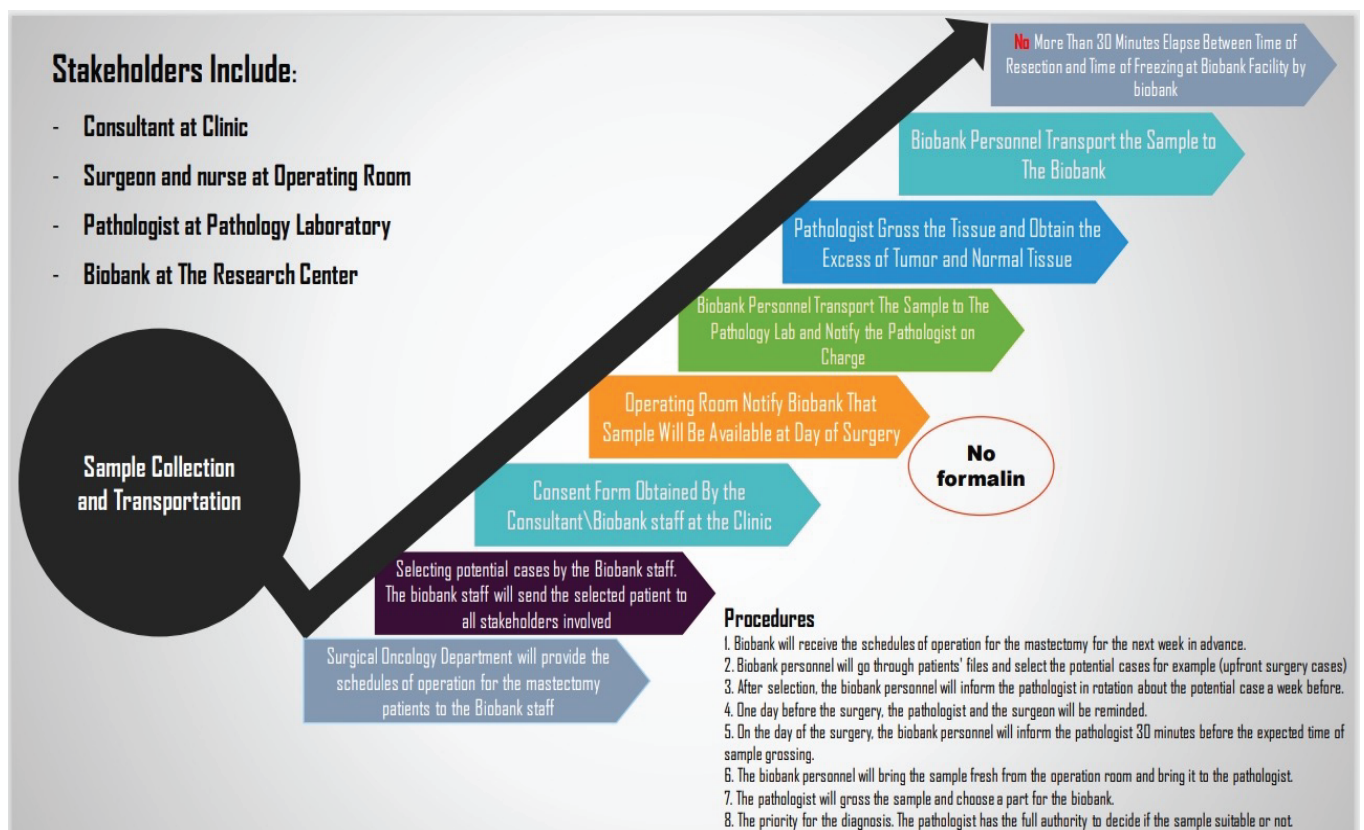
Exploring the genetic landscape of Osteosarcoma in Saudi patients, identifying a possible therapeutic target for the tumour.

Immune Checkpoint Gene Expression Differentiate Immune-Inflamed and Immune-Cold Tumors in HPV-Associated Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

MMTV virus detection, survival analysis, and prognostic relevance of six tumor genes in patients with breast cancer

Simple and Effective One-Pot Green Synthesis Method for Developing Antimicrobial Wound Dressing and Healing

Oncology roadmap for biobank sample collection



Molecular and Translational Research Department

The Molecular and Translational Research Department is one of the divisions under the Biomedical Research Administration that promotes and encourages R2 researchers to develop and conduct innovative biomedical research initiatives either in basic medical science or translational medical research.

There are three research laboratories located on the fourth floor of the Faculty of Medicine. These laboratories are fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment/instruments to provide an outstanding healthy and safe environment of support for researchers to conduct their research. The Molecular lab (MC4-020) is dedicated mainly to infectious disease research and is equipped with Genetic Sequencer, Flouro-Spectrophotometry, as well as Real-Time and conventional Polymerase Chain Reaction techniques.



The Biochemistry (MC4-018) and General lab (MC4-019) are equipped with cutting-edge technologies such as atomic absorption Spectroscopy, ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography, high-performance liquid chromatography, Analytical Flow Cytometry, Agilent Technologies Cary 60 UV-Vis, as well as Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) and protein purification equipment. Our laboratories are also equipped with all necessary and updated supplementary equipment such as; shaker incubator, refrigerated and unrefrigerated centrifuges, vortexes, cell counter, water bath and dry incubator, shakers ...etc. Our labs also house entirely isolated 2 cell culture facilities that are equipped to conduct any molecular and cell biology procedures.

Core facilities

To provide a wide range of experimental research services that would promote and prioritize research proposals of clear translational potential.

To translate innovative research outcomes into actionable healthcare interventions and clinical practices that will eventually improve public health and patient outcomes.

Achieved Performance Indicators

13 Published papers in medical journals.

6 translational studies funded by IRF and fully initiated by Biomedical Laboratory staff.

More than 30 ongoing translational research projects are being conducted at the research labs.

200 Trainees/Volunteers from different national institutions.

Organized 8 Outreach Activities including the 3rd Translational Research Summer Course.

الدورة الصيفية الرابعة للأبحاث الطبية التطبيقية

The 4th Translational Research Summer Workshop

(2-weeks Lectures & Hands-on Lab Training)



In numbers:

46 registered participants.

Generated 152,000 SAR

Sponsor contribution by Hayat Academy for Professional Dev.

14 speakers

15 lab demonstrators



Agreement and Collaborations

**OXFORD
UNIVERSITY**

Comparative system serology profiling of the humoral immune response between MERS-CoV infected and ChAdOx1 vaccinated individuals



**QATAR
UNIVERSITY**

Towards a pan-coronavirus vaccine: Exploring broadly neutralizing anti-coronavirus antibodies in MERS-Co-V following COVID-19 infection and vaccination



**WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

Comprehensive Mapping of Neutralizing Epitopes on the MERS-CoV Spike Protein: Implications for Pan-Merbecovirus Therapeutics and Vaccine Development



13 Journal publications in 2025

Theme	Title
Vaccine Development Research	Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.70071
	Design of a peptide-based vaccine against human respiratory syncytial virus using a reverse vaccinology approach https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2025.1546254
	A 10-Year Long-Lived Cellular and Humoral MERS-CoV Immunity Cross-Recognizing the Wild-Type and Variants of SARS-CoV-2: A Potential One-Way MERS-CoV Cross-Protection Toward a Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine DOI: 10.1002/jmv.70071
	Harnessing immunotherapeutic molecules and diagnostic biomarkers as human-derived adjuvants for MERS-CoV vaccine development https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2025.1538301
Biomarkers/ Diagnosis and Virus–Cancer Interactions	Exploring the interplay between EBV and autophagy-related gene expression patterns in nasopharyngeal carcinoma https://doi.org/10.3389/fonc.2025.1588921
	Profiling the Tumor Immune Microenvironment of HPV-Associated Base of Tongue Squamous Cell Carcinoma https://doi.org/10.2147/OTT.S505376
	Transcriptomic profile of immune genes, oncogenes, and tumor suppressor genes in HPV-associated CIN 3 and CSCC https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcr.2025.200327
	Crosstalk Between Immunity and Oncogenes Within the Tumor Microenvironment of HPV-Associated Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma https://doi.org/10.2147/OTT.S537872

13 Journal publications in 2025

Theme	Title
Biomarkers/ Diagnosis and Virus–Cancer Interactions	Spectrum of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) mutations and trends in hemoglobin levels among adult dengue patients in Thailand https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0332039
	Understanding Acute Hemolytic Anemia Severity Through Computational Analysis of G6PD Chatham Variant: Designing a New Activator as a Potential Drug https://mjfas.utm.my/index.php/mjfas/article/view/3876
Drug Discovery	Identification of natural product inhibitors as potential drug candidates for treating Alzheimer’s disease https://doi.org/10.1007/s13721-025-00543-z
Comparative Medicine, Experimental Models & Devices	A goat experimental epistaxis model: Hemostatic effect of stop nosebleeds device https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0324727
Research and Academic Integrity	Glendinning, I., Bjelobaba, S., Razi, S., Sivasubramaniam, S., Ribiero, L., Marar, S. D., Hamza, M. A., & Crockett, R. (2025). Is Peer Review Fit for Purpose? Enhancing Integrity and Professional Standards in Publications. Journal of Academic Writing, 15(S1), 1–15. https://doi.org/10.18552/joaw.v15iS1.1069

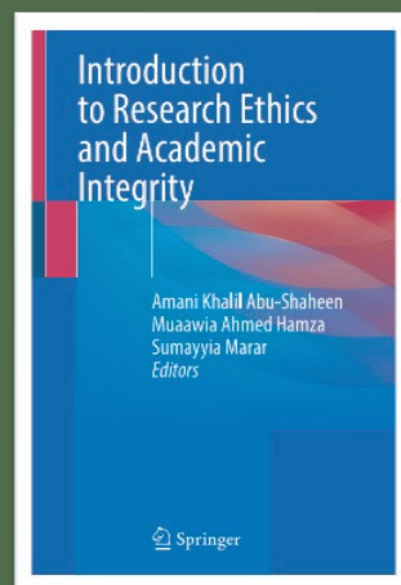
Book publications

Publishing a book by Springer

Members of the BMRA administration participated in the authorship of this book

Publishing a book Chapter

Glendinning, I., Das Sivasubramaniam, S., Hamza, M.A., Miri, S., Bjelobaba, S., Veríssimo, A.C. (2025). Developing Resources for Supporting Ethical Publishing and Dissemination Activities. In: Davis, M., B aptista, C. (eds) Ethics and Integrity in Education (Practice) . ECEIA 2023. Ethics and Integrity in Educational Contexts, vol 10. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-95686-7_5



New infrastructure

Expecting the arrival of new research lab platforms:

- o Flow Cytometer BD FACS Lyric
- o Freezer -86°C
- o Microscope Fluorescence
- o Sequencer MiSeq
- o Elispot / Fluorospot Reader

KAIZEN Project

Get Access, Get Involved: Digitalization of Research Lab Services

Access Anytime, Anywhere: Provide seamless digital lab access through the KFMC intranet.

Learn by Watching: Use QR-linked video tutorials to improve training and reduce equipment misuse.

Supervising

PhD and Master Students

Currently, we are supervising 2 exceptional Ph.D. students and one Master's student who are conducting cutting-edge research in disease mechanisms, host-pathogen interactions, vaccine development, antiviral strategies, molecular diagnostics and biomarkers, tumor microenvironment, and cancer immunity signaling pathways. These students receive scientific training, and mentorship from our experienced staff, and have access to state-of-the-art research facilities. Through close supervision and guidance, our goal is to develop their research skills, foster critical scientific thinking abilities, and expand their advanced knowledge. We aim to prepare them to become future scientists in the biomedical field and to make a positive impact on society.

Get Access Digital Lab Access Management

1. Standardized electronic request form
2. Automated approval workflows
3. Request tracking dashboard

Get Involved Video-Based Training

1. Video tutorials for instruments
2. QR codes linked to tutorials
3. Mandatory viewing before first use

E-Forms 179 Research Labs Form

Email	johndoe@kfmc.edu
Mobile Number	0000000000
Administration	Research
Department	Research
Project Details	
Project Title	JSD
Do you have a card?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Card number	00000000



Supervising PhD and Master Students

Hadel Alnajran

Development of Mucosal Adjuvant Vaccine using self-chemokines for Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection: Computational Immuno-Bioinformatics and Preclinical Evaluation of Efficacy, Immunogenicity and Safety in Vitro and Animal Model.



Manal Abdullah

Genetic Engineering of a Biosynthetic Lipopolysaccharide Brucella Vaccine Platform using Recombinant DNA Technology .



Saudi National Institute of Health (NIH) recognition

Outstanding research Award by SNIH

Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination. Published in Frontiers in immunology, 16, 1526444. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2025.1526444>



Approved external fund by SNIH

Developing a Human-Derived Immune Modulators as Innovative Mucosal Adjuvants for HRSV Peptide Vaccines: Comparative Analysis of Different Vaccination Strategies



Vaccine Biotechnology Initiative

The Vaccine Biotechnology Initiative focuses on the development of innovative viral vaccine candidates to combat infectious diseases. This initiative employs cutting-edge computational techniques for multi-epitope vaccine design, aiming to assess the immunogenicity, antigenicity, allergenicity, and toxicity of the proposed vaccine constructs. This initiative seeks to design an epitope-based peptide viral vaccine candidate, followed by comprehensive preclinical evaluations to ensure its efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity in animal models.



✓ **Moderately Low Effectiveness of the Influenza Quadrivalent Vaccine: Potential Mismatch between Circulating Strains and Vaccine Strains. Published in Vaccines 2023, 11, 1050.**
<https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines11061050>



✓ **Design of an Epitope-Based Peptide Viral Vaccine Candidate Using Reverse Vaccinology Approach; Preclinical evaluation of efficacy, immunogenicity and safety in animal model (IRF 022-006)**



✓ **Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination. Published in Frontiers in immunology, 16, 1526444.**
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2025.1526444>



Virology Journal Club

The Journal Club activity is one of the activities under the Virology and Vaccine Biotechnology Research Group. The group purpose is to connect R2 experts to conduct clinical and translational research on all aspects of infectious diseases research including viral immunology, vaccinology and viral oncology.

This activity was conducted 9 times during 2025. The speaker presents a published paper on viral host interaction, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, biotechnology and vaccine development, and molecular studies on virus evolution.

Conferences and external training

International conferences presentations

The Netherlands

World Vaccine Congress Europe 2025

Spain

International Conference on Life Science and Technology.

Egypt

9th International Conference: One Health Approach
To Emerging Viral Threats

Sweden

European Conference on Ethics and Integrity in
Academia 2025

Organized 8 Outreach Activities:



Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department

The need for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BCB) services increased over the past decade due to technological proliferation that generates biological data and the move toward carrying out translational research projects. The Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department's main function is to provide Bioinformatics and Computational Biology services through the Research Center for scientific research projects that are geared to improve healthcare services within R2. The main aim within the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology department is to expand its infrastructure to accommodate the needs of entities within the R2 about Computational Biology and Bioinformatics services. Furthermore, the BCB department is striving to commercialize its services to external entities as a revenue point for R2.

Core Services

Technology and data platform

- Provision of secure data management and storage solutions for large-scale biological datasets. Clinical Data analysis and support.

- Assistance in computational biological data analysis.

Consultation services:

- Bioinformatics and computational biology consultation on best approach and practices for the analysis of biologic genomics and proteomics, and pipelines optimization.

- Provision of scientific support to scientific researchers through methodology consultations and data analytics services.

- Guidance on regulatory compliance and ethical consideration for utilizing clinical and biomedical data in research.

Research infrastructure

- Supporting/Expanding computational infrastructure to accommodate future researchers within R2.

Research projects

- Produce high-value scientific research in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology.

Knowledge transfer and training

- BCB Knowledge transfer and dissemination to scientific researchers and the community to enhance scientific outlook and output.

Achieved Performance Indicators

- Complement the Research Center's educational activities with Bioinformatics and Computational Biology week in the CRC program.

- 4 Research Studies supporting the BCB department infrastructure.

- 3 Studies utilizing BCB infrastructure Services.

- 29 Consultation Services to R2 researchers.

- 13 Awareness Activities.

- 10 BCB Outreach/Promotional Activities.

- 3 BCB Scientific Research Published Studies.

- 5 Approved IRBs for BCB Initiated Research.

Agreement and Collaborations

- King Saud University Medical City.
- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center.
- Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics.
- Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University.
- University of Lausanne Switzerland.
- Northern Border University.
- Open Biological and Biomedical Ontologies (OBO) Foundry – European Bioinformatics Institute.
- Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University.
- King Abdulaziz University.

Ongoing projects

- * Obesity Diagnosis, Treatment, and Financial Impacts in Riyadh's Second Health Cluster Hospitals .
- * Leveraging Ontologies for Variant Classification and Decision Support System s.
- * Fine-Grained Healthcare Data Access Control and Cyber Threats Prevention Using Graph Databases .
- * Employing Text Mining Through Machine Learning in Healthcare Digital Transformation .
- * Comparative Effectiveness of Telemedicine vs. In-Person Diabetes Management in Saudi Arabia .
- * Data-driven approach to reducing diabetes-related compliance and hospitalization.

Genomic and Precision Medicine Research Department

Our distinctive genetic compositions bestow upon us unique attributes. These genetic disparities, when coupled with the influence of our environmental exposures, can significantly shape our responses to medical treatments and the progression of various disease states. Nevertheless, the alarming surge in the prevalence of diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disorders, pulmonary ailments, and metabolic imbalances within our nation underscores the urgent demand for cutting-edge research. This underscores the pressing need for advanced personalized medicine research. The Genomics and Precision Medicine Department is part of the Research Center at KFMC-R2 was established to serve patients, physicians, and all relevant medical and research community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Our research focus is in the field of cancer, microbiome, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, hereditary diseases, drug discovery and targeted therapeutics. We offer wide range of basic and advanced techniques in our labs all of which includes DNA/RNA extraction, PCR, cell culture, flow cytometry, western blotting, microarray SNP analysis, oncomine NGS, gene panel NGS and High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

Core facilities

- To create the foundation for personalized medicine in the kingdom to accelerate the pace of healthcare innovation
- To build a Saudi human genome database for disease prediction and prevention.
- To build infrastructure and capacity in the rapidly advancing field of genomics and precision medicine.
- To create a knowledge base of gene variants, both normal and disease-causing to build more effective therapeutic strategies.
- Apply integrated multi-omics research approach (Genomics, Transcriptomic, Proteomics, and Metabolomics) to accelerated cancer biomarkers discovery.

Achieved Performance Indicators

- Successfully submitted eight (IRB) applications for genomic and drug delivery studies.
- Five research projects are funded through the King Fahad Medical City (KFMC) and collaborative projects with various institutions, including King Saud University (KSU), Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University (PNU), and the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).
- More than 13 junior researchers and trainees, including residents and fellows, have been trained to date.
- Published six papers in high-impact factor journals, achieved through collaborations with various national and international partners.
- Developed approximately six research projects aimed at enhancing service lines and models of care.
- Actively participated in ten educational lectures, awareness activities, and workshops focused on genomics and drug discovery.
- The total number of research studies conducted through collaborations with national and international scientific institutions is 8. This includes partnerships with King Saud University (KSU), Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University (PNU), King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center, Albaha University, and Pfizer.

Ongoing projects

- Development of different anti Tyrosine Kinase Receptors for the treatment of different type of cancer.
- The use of a novel peptide to deliver cytotoxic molecules to tumor sites.
- Study the Effects of Fisetin on Gene Expression and DNA Methylation of Cancer-Related Genes in Different Colorectal Cancer Cell Lines
- The Role of hnRNP proteins in AML.
- The Genetic Landscape of Neuroblastoma in Saudi Arabia
- Solidified self-nanoemulsifying drug delivery system of cabozantinib malate for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Investigating the function and regulation of Genetic Suppressor Element 1 (GSE-1) with histone deacetylase I (HDAC1) in hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Emerging Health Threat from Multidrug-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* in the Riyadh Region, Saudi Arabia.

- Role of Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in the carcinogenesis of high-grade gliomas and Medulloblastoma as a therapeutic target.
- Multidrug-Resistant *Staphylococcus Capitis*: An Emerging Challenge in Clinical Settings Found in Adult Patients in Saudi Arabia.
- Prevalence of Medulloblastoma tumors adults VS children in Saudi Arabia.
- The concurrence of pituitary adenoma among MS patients at KFMC.
- Identification of S100A4 Binding Partners in AML.

Highlighted Publications

Alosaimi B, Awadalla M, Alturaiki W, Chen Z, Zhang Z, Zhu A, Rebh F, Alshukairi AN, Zhao J, Alkadi HS. A 10 Year Long-Lived Cellular and Humoral MERS-CoV Immunity Cross-Recognizing the Wild-Type and Variants of SARS-CoV-2: A Potential One-Way MERS-CoV Cross-Protection Toward a Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine. *J Med Virol.* 2025 Jan;97(1): e70071. doi: 10.1002/jmv.70071. PMID: 39822038; PMCID: PMC11740004.

Abstract

MERS is a respiratory disease caused by MERS-CoV. Multiple outbreaks have been reported, and the virus co-circulates with SARS-CoV-2. The long-term (> 6 years) cellular and humoral immune responses to MERS-CoV and their potential cross-reactivity to SARS-CoV-2 and its variants are unknown. We comprehensively investigated long-lasting MERS-CoV-specific cellular and humoral immunity, and its cross-reactivity against SARS-CoV-2 and its variants, in individuals recovered from MERS-CoV infection 1–10 years prior. Two cohorts of MERS-CoV survivors (31 unvaccinated, 38 COVID-19 vaccinated) were assessed for MERS-CoV IgG, memory CD4+/CD8+ T cells, and neutralizing antibodies against MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 variants. MERS-CoV IgG levels and T cell responses were higher in the 1–5 vs 6–10-year postinfection groups. Vaccinated MERS-CoV survivors had significantly elevated MERS-CoV IgG and neutralization compared to unvaccinated. Both groups demonstrated cross-reactive neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 variants. MERS-CoV survivors vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 had higher anti-MERS IgG, cellular immunity, and neutralization than unvaccinated survivors. MERS-CoV immune responses can persist for a decade. COVID-19 vaccination boosted humoral and cellular immunity in MERS-CoV survivors, suggesting the benefits of vaccination for this population. These findings have implications for pan-coronavirus vaccine development.

Awadalla M, AlRawi HZ, Henawi RA, Barnawi F, **Alkadi H**, Alyami A, Alsughayir A, Alsaif AS, Mubarak A, Alturaiki W, **Alosaimi B**. Humoral and cellular immune durability of different COVID-19 vaccine platforms following homologous/heterologous boosters: one-year post vaccination. *Front Immunol.* 2025 Jan 22; 16:1526444. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2025.1526444. PMID: 39911379; PMCID: PMC11794813.

Abstract

Introduction: The durability of Hybrid immunity induced by natural infection and/or COVID-19 vaccines and evidence supporting further booster vaccination are crucial factors for pandemic response, yet remain poorly understood. **Methods:** We measured the durability of immune response and neutralizing capacity of antibodies following Homologous/Heterologous vaccination by mRNA-based vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2) or (Moderna mRNA-1273) and viral vector-based vaccines (ChAdox1 nCoV-19-Oxford-AstraZeneca) in infected and non-infected patients. We also evaluated the long-lasting specific humoral IgG levels and T-cell immunity of the Memory CD8 cells. **Results:** We found that heterologous prime boosters led to significantly higher IgG antibody levels)9.09(than homologous boosters)5.236) one year after vaccination. We measured SARS-CoV-2 anti-S IgG antibodies and then assessed their neutralizing capacity to inhibit the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 wild-type strain and omicron B.1.1.529/BA.2 variants from binding to the ACE2 receptors. The heterologous regiment demonstrated superior ACE2-binding inhibition and consistently had higher mean ACE2-receptor binding inhibition across all dose regimens without the need for further doses. The CD8+ T cells producing IFN- γ to various COVID-19 vaccine dose regimens were evaluated. We found that robust T cell mediated immune responses were preserved and largely induced by a heterogeneous vaccination eliciting a significantly higher CD8+ T cells IFN- γ response in 100% of vaccinees regardless of previous natural infection. Indeed, the difference between infected and naïve groups was less pronounced suggesting a reduced infection-related response. **Discussion:** Across three layers of evidence, this study showed that heterologous vaccination provides longer-lasting immunity than homologous doses, regardless of prior natural infection.

Awadalla M, Al Rawi HZ, Alahmadi RM, Khojah OT, Al-Shouli ST, Almansour MI, **Alosaimi B**. Transcriptomic profile of the immune genes, oncogenes, and tumor suppressor genes in HPV associated Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia 3 (CIN 3) and Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma (CSCC): Comparable expressions indicative of invasive potential. *Tumour Virus Res.* 2025 Dec; 20:200327. doi: 10.1016/j.tvr.2025.200327. Epub 2025 Aug 5. PMID: 40752830; PMCID: PMC12354963.

Abstract

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, with a woman dying every 2 min. Despite the need to understand the tumor microenvironment (TME) transcriptome of cervical squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 3 (CIN 3), studies remain limited. This study compares the TME transcriptome of HPV-positive CSCC and CIN 3, analyzing 168 genes involved in tumor cell interactions with inflammatory and immune mediators, transcription, signal transduction, oncogenesis, tumor suppression, angiogenesis, and apoptosis. Co-expressed genes identified in HPV + CSCC and CIN 3 were analyzed using computational biology. Gene Ontology and KEGG enrichment identified relevant biological pathways and cancer hallmarks. Fifty-five co-expressed genes were linked to cancer pathways, inflammatory responses, cell migration, and development. KEGG enrichment highlighted viral protein interactions involving cytokines, IL-17 signaling, and chemokine receptor interactions. These genes were associated with cancer hallmark pathways, including angiogenesis, inflammation, proliferation, genomic instability, invasion, and metastasis. Their similar expression in CSCC and CIN 3 suggests a potential prognostic value and that CIN 3 progression may involve changes in gene expression. We propose the term “CSCC-like carcinoma,” indicating CIN 3's increased invasive potential at the molecular level.

Chamnanchanunt S, Jacob BAC, Thanachartwet V, Desakorn V, Singha-Art N, Sahassananda D, Chamchoy K, Louis NE, **Hamza MA**, Ab Latif N, Amran SI, Stephens HAF, Nguitragool W, Boonyuen U. Spectrum of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) mutations and trends in hemoglobin levels among adult dengue patients in Thailand. *PLoS One*. 2025 Sep 18;20(9): e0332039. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0332039. PMID: 40966243; PMCID: PMC12445492.

Abstract

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency is the most common enzymopathy in humans that may exacerbate clinical outcomes during viral infections such as dengue, particularly in regions where both conditions are endemic. This study aimed to characterize the spectrum of G6PD mutations and explore trends in hemoglobin levels among adult dengue patients in Thailand. Samples from 231 adult patients diagnosed with dengue were analyzed. G6PD deficiency was identified in 24 individuals (10.4%), while G6PD mutations were detected in 111 patients (48.1%). The most frequently observed mutations include a combination of synonymous and intronic mutations (c.1311C > T and c.1365-13T > C), compound mutation of G6PD Viangchan (c. 871G > A, c.1311C > T and c.1365-13T > C), and a deletion variant (c.486-34delT).

Additionally, a novel variant, c.1439T > C, was identified and named “G6PD Phaya Thai”. Patients carrying G6PD mutations exhibited different hemoglobin level trends compared to those without mutations. Specifically, while hemoglobin levels increased from the febrile to critical phase in patients without mutations, a significant decline was observed in mutation carriers. Median hemoglobin levels differed significantly between the two groups during both the febrile and critical phases ($p = 0.02$ and $p < 0.001$, respectively).zZZsuggested structural instability as a possible mechanism for the observed deficiency. These findings highlight the need for further investigation into the potential role of G6PD variants in dengue-related anemia. Routine G6PD screening and continuous hemoglobin monitoring may help identify individuals at risk of hemoglobin decline and guide supportive care strategies in dengue-endemic regions.

Biomedical Research Administration Expertise

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Dr. Muaawia Ahmed Hamza (mahahmed@kfmc.med.sa)	Director, Biomedical Research Administration	Protein biochemistry	Biomarkers	Enzyme activity	Academic integrity Medical Education
Dr. Bandar AIOsaimi (balosaimi@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Research Laboratory Department	Virology	Molecular Biology	Sequencing	Biotechnology
Dr. Maaweya Elaeed Hamed Awad Alla (mawadalla@kfmc.med.sa)	Senior Clinical Research Specialist	Virology	Immunology	Vaccinology	Molecular Biology
Mr. Haitham S. Alkadi (halkadi@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist I	Cancer	Hepatitis	Microarray	Sequencing
Dr. Nawal S. Alshammari (nalshammari@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Biobanking Department	Genetic oncology	Genetic oncology Neuro-oncology and bioinformatics	Translation medicine	
Dr. Emad Husni Omar Kutbi (ekutbi@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist I	Cancer	Leukemia	Biobank	
Dr. Leen AbuSafieh (lsafieh@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Consultant	Molecular Genetics	Inherited genetic disorders	Next Generation Sequencing NGS	Ocular Genomics

Name	Position	Specialization Area Keywords			
Mr. Saad AlAmri (Salamri@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Histology	Tissue	Biobank	
Dr. Mohammed AIDhugaim (maldugaim@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson of Genomic and precision medicine research department	Tumors Targeted Therapeutics	Drug Delivery Systems	Cellular and Molecular Medicine	Drug Discovery
Afnan Alsharm (aaalsharm@kfmc.med.sa)	Research specialist II	Biotechnology & Genome	DNA and RNA extraction and quantification, cell culture techniques.	Biomedical Science	Genomics
Ms. Ebtehal A. Alsolm (ealsolme@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Molecular genetics	Biomedical Science	NGS platform, NGS bioinformatics, Tissue culture	Personalized medicine
Dr. Ali A. AlFaiz (aalfaiz@kfmc.med.sa)	Chairperson, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Department	Bioinformatics	Next Generation Sequencing NGS Data analysis	Omics	High-Performance Computing (HPC)
Dr. Dalia Alghamdi (daaalghamdi@kfmc.med.sa)	Clinical Research Specialist	Bioinformatics	Genomic standards	Biobank knowledge engineering	Genomics data federation

Anesthesia

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